News from
SALEM COUNTY
Office of Public Information

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SALEM COUNTY TO HOST CRIME PREVENTION TRAINING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Salem, NJ)— Freeholder R. Benjamin Simmermon, Chair of the Health & Social Services Committee, today announced that the Board of Chosen Freeholders will be sponsoring a Crime Prevention Training Seminar for Senior Citizens of Salem County through the Office on Aging and in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police. The training will take place on May 2, 2006 at 11:00 AM at the YMCA of Salem County in Carneys Point. Sergeant Osborn of the New Jersey State Police will provide the training.

"Education is the key to prevention," said Freeholder Simmermon. "Unfortunately there are dangerous people in our county and we must make sure that our seniors are educated on how to deal with a violent attacker so that the situation does not needlessly escalate. Accordingly, we are developing a coordinated program of education to prevent our seniors from falling victim to these predators."

The training has a two-fold purpose centering on preventing attacks and responding to attacks. According to the US Bureau of Justice's 2004 National Crime Victimization Survey 2.1% of those above the age of 65 fall prey to violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, or assault. About 1 in 5 of personal crimes against the elderly were thefts.

"Salem County operates on a team mentality and this cooperative venture proves that when we work together we can truly help people," said Freeholder David Lindenmuth, Chair of the Public Safety Committee. "Our seniors deserve the right to enjoy their golden years feeling safe and while we are steadfast in making our neighborhoods safer, programs such as this will help if the scenario arises where our seniors fall victim to an attack."

"The Office on Aging exists to assist and protect seniors from the variety of predators out there whether it is scam artists or violent attackers," said Pam Pedrick, Executive Director of the Office on Aging. "It is very regrettable that there are people out there who will take advantage of our seniors, but it is a very real threat that we take very seriously. The Office on Aging, in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police, is holding this important event to educate our seniors on what to do in the event of an attack."

(MORE)

Those interested in attending this crime prevention training seminar or would like further information please contact the Salem County Office on Aging at (856) 339-8622 or (856) 451-1207 ext. 8622. Registration is necessary to attend.

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