



# ~After the Badge~



10025 Park Meadows Drive ~ Lone Tree ~ CO ~ 80124 ~ Editor: Barb Miller ~ Aug ~ 2017 ~ Number 71

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## ~ Regis CSI Conference ~

This year the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Regis CSI Conference will be Friday night November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> on the Regis campus (50th and Lowell Blvd).

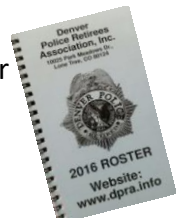
The topic is Youth Violence and the keynote speaker on Friday night is the lead investigator for the Sandy Hook shootings. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers beforehand, the speaker traditionally has been finished by 8:30-9 p.m.

Not only does this conference provide an insight into what is taking place in the criminal justice "world", but many are provided with an opportunity to purchase books and other literature.

Saturday the seminars are 8AM to noon and there are signups for the attendees. In the years past, there has not been a charge for the conference. However, this year there is a fee of \$30.00 for both days and I do not know how Regis will be collecting funds. Email Don Lindley for more information at [dlindley@regis.edu](mailto:dlindley@regis.edu)

## Message from the Board

- The August picnic at Prospect Park was, once again, a wonderful time with a great turnout. Good friends, good food, and good times were had by all. In addition, several retirees brought their classic cars. Make sure you check them out on the website!
- The year end is right around the corner, if you have any updates or corrections to your roster listing please be sure to notify us so we can get it in the upcoming Roster Booklet.
- DPRA's September dinner will be at Cinzetti's Restaurant...Italian food!
- If you are interested in a cruise with the DPD Retirees, drop us a note and let us know what type of cruise you would be interested in, where you would like to visit, length of time you prefer on a cruise, etc. Cruise lengths are usually anywhere from 7 days to 18 days.



~We are open for suggestions! ~



## Watch Out For Scams!

**By Lynne Mullen**

For most of us, the obvious scams urging us to part with our money and our personal information is simply an annoyance and we deal with these intrusions into our privacy by hanging up on callers, refusing to accept offers of assistance with home repairs and asking to be placed on a “no-call” list. For many other seniors, however, these unwanted contacts result in the loss of financial security, identity and sometimes the security of a home.

It has been reported that senior scam crime is becoming more and more prevalent and that these traps can net \$2.6 billion a year for the scamsters. One in five seniors are involved in these crimes.

The National Council on Aging reports that financial scams focused on senior citizens are becoming so common that they have become the crime of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One out of the approximately 10,000 people a day who turn 65 fall for scams which often are old schemes with a new name.

Seniors are often viewed as viable and vulnerable targets because they are usually more trusting and prosperous. Those who fall victim to a scam are sometimes reluctant to report their situations as they are too embarrassed or feel that they may be punished by the loss of their independence if their families discover they have been bilked out of money. Many of us are quite proud of our accomplishments in our lives and are fearful of appearing stupid to our families and friends. Older individuals who live alone and are socially isolated appear to be targeted more frequently.

The CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council reports that people 65 and older are the most targeted and that well-educated men 55 and older are surprisingly the group most likely to be victimized. Florida, the state for retirement for many older citizens, reports more per capita cases of fraud than any other state. Florida is an attractive

venue for drug criminals who easily transition into becoming successful scam artists. Michigan leads

the nation in complaints of identity theft of older people.

Throughout the country another group frequently targeted by scam experts are older people experiencing a severe stressful life change, primarily widowhood. Many scams target those who are shattered by suddenly being alone and are much more vulnerable to the experts who wish to exploit their loss.

The most common scams can be generally placed into five categories.

These include: IRS scams, phone and bank scams, health care scams, tech support scams, and unscrupulous contractor scams.

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The IRS has issued a list of the top scams of 2017, and it includes phone scams from criminals impersonating IRS agents. These crooks threaten taxpayers with police arrest and state that law enforcement personnel is “on the way right now”

unless the victim gives credit card information to pay for a bogus unfiled tax bill. Even though there has been increased awareness and publicity regarding this problem, the IRS has seen a surge in this type of scam which has proven to be quite lucrative for criminals.

Another common scam regarding the IRS involves fake emails and websites focused on stealing personal information from taxpayers.

Phone and bank scams sometimes involve a caller posing as a grandchild in trouble and in need of money. The caller often has information regarding a victim's family which has been provided through social media accounts, and can be very convincing. This information can include where family members are vacationing and a caller may indicate that the grandchild is in jail in that location and needs immediate cash.

Other phone scams concern a senior's supposed need for an immediate warranty on an automobile. The scammers have researched those seniors who drive very little and have older cars whose repair warranties have expired. They convince the victim to share their odometer readings, their bank accounts, their credit cards and other personal information which they state is needed to create a new warranty. They describe the dire consequences of breaking down in an unfamiliar location and needing help that will never arrive unless they are covered by the new warranty.

Bank scams occur when an unscrupulous caller informs a bank customer that there is a problem with an account. A victim is asked to provide a social security number as well as a credit card number to "confirm identity". Every bit of personal information can be used to manipulate an account and there are reports of seniors losing much of their lifelong savings to such scams.

Health care scams often involve crooks posing as representatives of Medicare. Again, the focus is to gain as much personal information from the unsuspecting victim as possible. The scammers create new patient profiles and submit claims for Medicare in the victim's name. Health care is interrupted until the account is corrected.

Because drug costs have increased, some seniors who experience serious financial distress, have fallen for scams, often on the internet, involving cheaper drugs. These drugs may be counterfeit and very harmful to the users. Sometimes the drugs are never delivered, after payment has been made.

Computer tech scams are on the rise, as more and more seniors are becoming comfortable with using technology. A caller will pretend to be calling from Microsoft, Windows, McAfee or any other legitimate company. A victim may be told that the caller has identified a serious problem with his or her computer. They may ask for complete access to a computer to provide "computer support". The computer owner will be asked to divulge credit card information as well as other personal information. Victims may also be directed to a website where more personal information is required and where the criminals can gain access to all the information on a computer. These computer scams may also appear as a seemingly legitimate email, but they are always a scam.

Confusion may occur as many people who request tech support help are directed to a website where the help desk takes control of the computer of a customer in order to resolve technical issues. Remember, the real Microsoft is not watching each of the millions of computers in which their services are operating. Requests for help are initiated by customers.

Often, when criminals have gained access to your computer through a well-orchestrated scam, it will take an extended period of time to resolve your losses.

Although there are innumerable scams operating within our community, the last one to be examined here concerns home repairs. Following the recent

(Cont. on page 5)

*HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED  
WHAT AMERICANS ATTITUDE  
TOWARD THE POLICE IS?*  
CHECK OUT THE 11 KEY FACTS ON PAGE 6



Congratulations to the following members of the Denver Police Department who, after serving with exemplary dedication and pride, have been promoted to the rank of retirement!!!

We know you are looking forward to a well deserved and fulfilling retirement. We hope DPRA is included in your plans and you will join us at the DPRA dinners, the annual Laughlin trip and all the other fun activities throughout the year

### Welcome to the following retirees:

Det. Bryan Slay 1991 to 2017  
Sgt. Christopher McCarty 1989 to 2017  
PO Mark Miller 1987 to 2017  
PO Andrew Ramirez 1984 to 2017  
PO Gregory Innes 1990 to 2017  
PO Tammy Hurtado 1995 to 2017  
PO Andrew Axford 1987 to 2017  
Sgt. Daniel Steele 1999 to 2017  
Sgt. Pauline Bush 1986 to 2017  
Tech Timothy Pulford 1984 to 2017  
Det. Lee Simones 2001 to 2017  
PO John Adsit 2005 to 2017  
PO David Bernardini 1989 to 2017  
Sgt. Ronald Lopez 1981 to 2017  
PO Jeffrey Heberman 1993 to 2017  
Sgt. Brian Cramer 1980 to 2017  
Sgt. Larry Valencia 1989 to 2017  
PO Mark Shonk 1979 to 2017  
Sgt. Beth Basefsky 1980 to 2017  
Sgt. Bradley Johnson 1988 to 2017  
Sgt. Marek Rybkowski 1984 to 2017  
Det. Gary Teiken 1984 to 2017



# Farewell for Now

It takes only a minute to say hello  
and forever to say goodbye



- **Sally Hannigan wife of Deceased Officer Jack Hannigan** passed away July 27, 2017.
- **Sandra Gay Zimmer wife of Mike Zimmer** passed away July 18, 2017.
- **Lou Vecchiarelli 64052** passed away July 6, 2017.
- **Rebekah Tschirpke wife of Gerry Tschirpke** passed away June 19, 2017.
- **Kenneth Cliff 64049** passed away May 31, 2017.
- **David M. Kinard 57014** passed away May 20, 2017.
- **Thomas H. Lehman 61055** passed away May 18, 2017.
- **Thomas D. Butler 57025** passed away May 13, 2017.
- **Sharon Scheer wife of Robert Sheer** passed away April 1, 2017.

devastating hail storm in the Denver area, scammers were in full force offering to repair roofs, house siding, automobiles, fences and replace destroyed landscaping.

Neighborhoods affected by the storm were crawling with contractors, both legitimate and those operating sophisticated scams. Normally, responding to an offer to repair supposed damage by someone randomly

knocking on one's door would result in a firm "no thank you". In the

aftermath of our recent storm, many legitimate and reputable repair

companies also solicited door to door. Those residents who checked references and licenses of contractors rarely were cheated out of hard-earned cash and were rewarded by receiving proper repairs. Unfortunately, many scamming individuals represented out-of-state repair services willing to provide customers with lower fees for their services. These businesses generally asked for partial payment prior to the work being started, and often the work was never begun nor completed. The money was placed into the hands of crooks whose only motivation for providing repair services was to cheat yet more unsuspecting customers.

Be aware that sometimes when strangers knock on your door and offer home repair services, they are casing your home to assess what is available and they will return to burglarize your home at a later time.

While criminals will always be in our midst, there are ways to protect oneself from devastating scams. Never do business with someone who makes an unsolicited phone call. Practice telling such callers that "I don't buy anything over the phone", or "I don't talk to solicitors". If you suspect that the caller is legitimate and you may be interested in the product for sale, ask for a written statement regarding the offer and have this mailed to you. A solicitor who pressures a potential customer to act immediately is providing a red flag as a warning of a scam.

Only criminals have  
a reason  
to hate the police!

Never provide up-front money for a promised service. Ask for references and contact those references as well as the Better Business Bureau for information regarding any repair contractor prior to agreeing to that service.

Report any scam that you encounter. No one will consider you "stupid" or "idiotic" as a result of your involvement. Keep in mind that the criminals who exploit older citizens understand very well the vulnerabilities of our generation and are extremely adept at exploiting those vulnerabilities and the values that we share as senior citizens.

We have all heard that anything that sounds too good to be true probably is. Pause before making a dubious purchase, give yourself time to check out an offer and do the research.



## The Widows' Voice

The Denver Police Widows' Association is a great group of ladies who meet once a month for lunch at various restaurants in the Denver-metro area. It is also a tremendous outreach program for new police widows and an ongoing support resource.

If you are a Denver Police Widow and would be interested in attending a luncheon, you are invited to attend your first luncheon free of charge. Then if you decide that you would like to join the DPWA, the annual dues are \$20, which includes a new member gift packet and all future mailings, such as the quarterly newsletters and annual membership roster. In addition, the cost of your lunch each month is entirely up to you, as meals are ordered from the restaurant menus. **Please contact Debi Libonati at 303-537-7890** with any questions regarding the Association. We hope that you will join us soon, and please know that you will be welcomed with open arms.

See the new Widows section on the DPRA web page.





## 11 Key Facts about Americans' Attitudes Toward the Police

EMILY EKINS

The Cato Institute has released *Policing in America*—an extensive national public opinion report that explores Americans' attitudes toward the police based on an original Cato Institute/YouGov national survey of 2,000 Americans. Here are eleven key facts about Americans' attitudes toward the police.

1. **There are stark racial and partisan divides in favorability toward police, but no group is anti-cop:** 68% of white Americans have a favorable view of the police, only 40% of African Americans and 59% of Hispanic Americans also have a favorable view. Republicans (81%) are 22 points more favorable toward the police than independents (59%) and Democrats (59%). Although some groups have less positive views of the police, findings weaken the ascertain that these groups are “anti-cop.” For instance 9 in 10 white, black, and Hispanic Americans oppose cutting police forces and 6 in 10 worry the police have very dangerous jobs. [\[1\]](#)
2. **54% say police using military equipment goes too far, while 46% say it's necessary for law enforcement purposes.** Majorities of whites (53%), Hispanics (51%), and blacks (58%) oppose police using military weapons and armored vehicles. Most Republicans (65%) believe police need to use military weapons, while 60% of both Democrats and independents believe police using such equipment goes too far.
3. **84% of Americans oppose civil asset forfeiture.** Americans oppose police seizing “a person’s money or property that is suspected to have been involved in a drug crime before the person is convicted.” When police departments seize people’s property, 76% say the local department should not keep the assets. Instead Americans think seized assets should go either to the state general fund (48%) or a state-level law enforcement fund (28%). A quarter (24%) say police departments should keep the property they seize.
4. **79% support outside law enforcement agencies conducting investigations of police misconduct,** while 21% prefer police departments handle such investigations internally. Strong majorities of Republicans (76%), independents (77%), and Democrats (83%) all agree that outside agencies should conduct such investigations.
5. **89% of Americans support police body cameras** and majorities are willing to raise taxes pay for them (51%) and let police look at the footage before making official statements (52%). Body cameras aren’t a zero-sum proposition: 74% think body cameras protect both officers and citizens equally.
6. **Only 30% say police should prioritize enforcing drug laws.** Instead, Americans want police to prioritize investigating violent crime (78%), protecting people from becoming crime victims (64%), and investigating property crime (58%). Americans across partisan and demographic groups share these top three priorities for law enforcement.
7. **Nearly half (49%) of Americans say “most” police officers think they are “above the law.”** African Americans (61%), Hispanics (61%), and Democrats (61%) are considerably more likely than whites (46%) and Republicans (36%) to say that most police officers think they are above the law. Instead, a majority of whites (54%) and Republicans (64%) say police don’t think they’re above the law.
8. **65% of Americans think police officers “commonly” racially profile Americans and 63% oppose it.** Majorities of whites (62%), Hispanics (62%), and blacks (77%) oppose police stopping “motorists and pedestrians of certain racial or ethnic backgrounds because the officer believes that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain types of crimes.” Republicans stand out with a slim majority (51%) in favor of racial profiling and 49% opposed. Black Republicans, however, disagree, with 65% who oppose racial profiling and 35% who support it.



9. **61% say there is a “war on police” in America.** Sixty-five percent (65%) of Americans worry that police officers have “very dangerous jobs,” and 58% feel officers too often must deal with recalcitrant citizens who don’t show enough respect. Although Republicans and Democrats both believe police have dangerous jobs, Republicans are more than 30 points more likely than Democrats to believe there is a “war on police” today (82% vs. 49%) and that Americans show insufficient respect to officers (77% vs. 45%).
10. **African Americans are nearly twice as likely as whites to report a police officer swearing at them.** About a quarter of African Americans (26%) and Hispanics (22%) report police using abusive language or profanity with them compared to 15% of whites. Nearly 4 in 10 African Americans (39%) and 27% of Hispanics report knowing someone physically mistreated by police, compared to 18% of whites.
11. **60% say it’s more important to protect the innocent than punish the guilty.** When asked which would be worse, 60% say it would be worse to imprison 20,000 innocent people, while 40% say it would be worse to have 20,000 guilty people who are free. Majorities of Republicans (55%), independents (60%), and Democrats (64%) all agree it’s worse to imprison innocent people. However, Donald Trump’s early core supporters stand out with a majority (52%) who say it’s actually worse to not punish the guilty. Other Republican voters disagree. For instance 65% of Ted Cruz’s early primary supporters say it’s worse to imprison the innocent

## 5 Best Foods for Your Eyes

By Patrick Sullivan

Everyone knows carrots promote eye health. They’re a good source of beta-carotene, which the body uses to make vitamin A. Having too little vitamin A can lead to night blindness. But your eyes need other nutrients to stay healthy, too. Add foods like red and yellow peppers, kale and lettuce to your shopping list for better [eye health](#).



### KALE AND SPINACH

**What they’ve got:** Lutein and zeaxanthin

**Why they’re important:** Lutein and zeaxanthin are antioxidants that are concentrated in the eyes. They help filter certain blue lights that can cause damage to vision. Lutein and zeaxanthin can also guard against both [cataracts](#) and age-related [macular degeneration](#) (AMD), two common causes of blindness.



**Other Sources:** Eggs, broccoli, pistachios, leeks

**What they’ve got:** Vitamin C

**Why it’s important:** Sailors used to eat oranges and drink lemon and lime juice to guard against scurvy, a disease that causes weakness, anemia and gum disease. Why citrus fruits? [Vitamin C](#). Another antioxidant, vitamin C in high doses can help prevent cataracts and AMD. While citrus fruits are good sources of vitamin C, the best source is red peppers, which provide about 158% of the recommended daily intake.



**Other sources:** Oranges, strawberries, broccoli, kiwis

### SALMON

**What it’s got:** Omega-3 fatty acids



*~After The Badge~*

**Why they're important:** Turn off the tearjerker movie-of-the-week—if you want to keep your eyes well-lubricated, eat salmon. Salmon and other fatty fish, like sardines, are packed with omega-3 fatty acids. A 2013 study found that people with dry eye syndrome—either not enough tears or not enough normal tears to lubricate the eyes—who took omega-3s had fewer symptoms after three months than people who took a placebo. Low amounts of omega-3s are also linked to retinopathy, damage to the blood vessels in lining of cells at the back of the eye.

**Other sources:** flaxseeds, walnuts, mackerel

## OYSTERS

**What they've got:** Zinc

**Why it's important:** Throw them on the grill, broil them in the oven or just slurp them straight out of the shell, oysters are a versatile dish that promote eye health. Oysters are chock full of [zinc](#), which the Age-Related Eye Disease Study found can slow the progression of AMD in high daily doses of 40 to 80 milligrams (mg). Oysters are the perfect source—one serving delivers more than 75 mg



**Other sources:** beef, lobster, pork

**Other Food Good for Your Eyes are:**  
Eggs, Almonds, Citrus and berries



## **"Code 7"** DENVER POLICE RETIREES ASSOCIATION

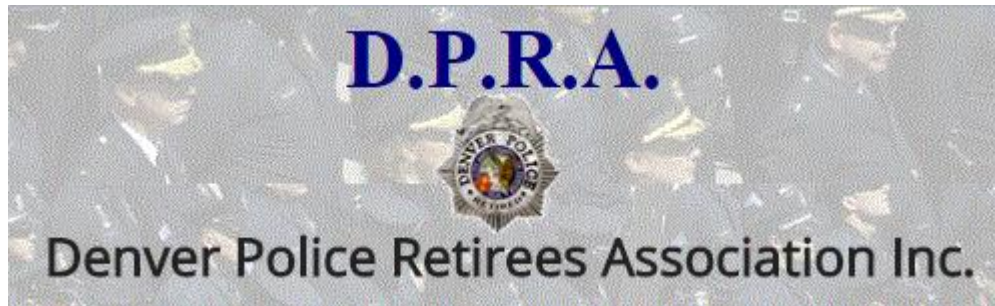
- September 20<sup>th</sup> - Dinner at Cinzetti's
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – Dinner at Empress Seafood Restaurant
- November - Dinner & Vote for DPRA Board Members – White Fence Farm
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party Potenza Lodge
- January – Happy New Year!

**\*\*Check the DPRA.info Web site for more information\*\***

**Police Station  
toilet stolen....  
Cops have nothing  
to go on.**

**A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'**





**DPRA**

**c/o**

**Rocky Mountain Law Enforcement Credit Union**

**10025 Park Meadows Drive**

**Lone Tree, CO 80124**

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