

WEAAD 2009
Brunswick's First Shred-A-Thon a Success
Brunswick, Georgia USA

For immediate release....As the models walked up on the stage, there were calls and whistles. After the crowd looked at their outfits, each model walked down the "runway" to more cheers and laughter. The emcee called out, "Come on ladies, let the officers know you appreciate them."

The models smiled, blushed and walked the length of Brunswick's Shrine Club auditorium. It was the first modeling assignment for most of the participants in the Fraud Fashion Show, a feature of the county's first Shred-A-Thon, part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observances on Monday, June 15. The fashion show gave attendants from the Brunswick and Darien Senior Centers a chance to learn the finer points of distinguishing bona fide members of law enforcement and other vital services from imposters.

Each of the "models" paused on stage to allow Rachel Green, of the Area Agency on Aging, to point out things for seniors to look for if approached at home or in the community by someone who claimed to be a police officer or utility company technician. Paint schemes of official vehicles, clothing types and identification were discussed.

"We always wear our badges over our hearts," Georgia State Patrolman Rodney Rozier reminded the audience.

The Shred-A-Thon focused on raising awareness of fraud and identity theft, particularly involving senior citizens. Tammy and Drew Bagby of Confidential Materials Management were on site with their company's high-powered mobile document shredding equipment, to assist local citizens in preventing identity theft by properly destroying private papers. With the struggling economy, Tammy Bagby stated, everyone needs to be more careful than ever to thwart "dumpster divers" and other criminals who can cause devastating economic damage.

"People often don't realize how much paper they might have saved that contains vital information," she pointed out. "Medical records and test results, insurance forms, banking and credit card statements are all prime targets for criminals. When it's time to clean out an attic, for instance, the temptation is just to throw the boxes in the trash. That's why we donated the use of our equipment today, to encourage people to make a clean start on good identity theft prevention, and get rid of their backlog of paper all at once. Our commercial grade shredders can destroy a box of documents in seconds that would take hours to complete with normal consumer-type machinery."

Visitors to the Shred-A-Thon brought over 1,000 pounds of paper to be shredded, baled and recycled. Donations from the public were collected for the benefit of the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers nutritionally balanced meals to seniors in Glynn County. The Shred-A-Thon was sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging, and by Coastal Alliance for the Protection of Elders, or CAPE, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of seniors in Glynn County.

For further information, please contact Monica Couch at the Area Agency on Aging at 912-262-2841.



Brunswick resident Earlene Lewis hands a box of private papers to CAPE member Charles White for shredding.

Mary Wynn, left, and Alice Brown, right, discuss crime prevention with Brunswick Police Department Captain David Trawick. The event was part of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.



Mary Turner and her niece Katy Brown, a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service, join seniors from the Brunswick Multi-Purpose Center to talk about fraud and identity theft prevention at Glynn County's first Shred-A-Thon.



Sonia Sowa, left, hands a bundle of documents to Drew Bagby of Confidential Materials Management of Brunswick at the Shred-A-Thon Monday, June 15.

Shredded personal papers, bearing sensitive information that would expose their owners to identity theft, fill the mobile shredding unit of Confidential Materials Management of Brunswick. The company donated the use of its on-site equipment for the first local Shred-A-Thon.

