

NEWS FROM SCDC

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henry B. Summer Co to Offer Important Seasonal Consumer Workshop

Newberry, SC.....The holidays are upon us and the staff of Henry B. Summer & Co. wants their neighbors to have a safe and stress-free season as they protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud. In cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs, Henry B. Summer & Co. is sponsoring a workshop for all Newberry-area consumers **December 9, 2008, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**, at *The Flying Pie*, 1506 Main Street in downtown Newberry.

The workshop will feature information on Identity Theft as well as tips on how to get through the holidays without becoming a victim of a scam or fraud and how to spend carefully. Hugh Crofoot, Outreach Coordinator for the SC Department of Consumer Affairs, will present an overview of Identity Theft as well as information on South Carolina's new *Financial Identity Fraud and Identity Theft Protection Act*, which goes into effect December 31, 2008. "South Carolinians are very fortunate that our General Assembly passed this Act," Crofoot said. "It is actually one of the strongest Identity Theft bills in the country and is very consumer-friendly." Still, that doesn't mean the scammers and con artists aren't working overtime trying to find new ways to defraud people. "It's always better to be armed with the facts and know exactly how to defend yourself," he said.

Mr. Crofoot also said that this time of year is when people are most vulnerable, especially when the economy is down. "Consumers need to be careful in how they respond to offers over the phone or the Internet," he said. "They need to budget and spend wisely during this season so they won't be hit with a lot of bills in early 2009."

The Summer/Department of Consumer Affairs workshop will address all these issues, and allow plenty of time for questions from attendees. While the workshop is open to the public, space is limited and is on a first-come-first-served basis. Please call Buffy Summer, 276-4246 X 16, to confirm your attendance or for more information.

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About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sccoconsumer.gov.
