



NEWS RELEASE



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Seniors! Don't Hang Up!

Senior citizens in Mesa County have the chance to ask questions about the issues that matter most to them.

Mesa County seniors are about to have the opportunity to learn more about important issues such as identify theft, employment, and long-term care. They will be able to ask questions of local experts about all of those issues, and all they have to do is stay on the line!

The Mesa County GOLD Seniors Commission is hosting a telephone town hall meeting for interested senior citizens. The call will go out to all active, registered voters over the age of 65. If people want to participate, they simply need to answer the phone and follow the directions.

**When: Thursday, June 18th
3:00-4:00 p.m.**

Where: Your house. Your phone!

People who do not receive the call can also participate by calling this toll-free number: (877) 229-8493. When prompted, enter the PIN#: 14939.

This is a chance to **hear from the experts** about how to: prepare for your long term care needs; protect yourself from identify theft; learn about job skills training and employment opportunities; and how you can get back into the workforce if needed.

The teleforum is being administered on behalf of the Mesa County GOLD Senior Leadership Commission—a group of local seniors who volunteer their time to ensure that Mesa County is not only a great place to *grow up*, but also to *grow older*.

The Mesa County Seniors Initiative began in 2007 with a Senior Summit to examine the needs of aging populations in Mesa County, to identify gaps in services for seniors, and to make policy recommendations to the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Nearly twenty percent of the population in Mesa County is over the age of 60, which is significantly higher than the state average. Add to this the fact that Baby Boomers began turning 60 in 2006, and it is clear that Mesa County will experience a surge in the number of older residents in our communities. It is critical for Mesa County to prepare for this expected increase in our aging population. The goal of this initiative is to prepare for this changing demographic, and ensure that our community is ready to meet the needs of older adults and their families.

Frequently, planning for the needs of senior citizens focuses solely on health and human service issues. While those issues are important, planning for the needs of seniors must also include a full analysis of community impacts, including: public safety, community development, recreation and leisure, transportation, volunteerism and the economy. The upcoming teleforum will allow seniors to touch on many of these issues, ask questions, and provide input through polling questions.

To find out more about the Seniors Initiative, please [visit our website!](#)

“Mesa County—Creating a community of opportunities for all residents with a focus on the future.”