



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PCSO Launches Senior Citizen Awareness Network

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – With ever increasing numbers of retirees in Putnam County, there has been dramatic growth in the number of senior citizens in the area. Many of these individuals have no local family members to check on them. As a result, Sheriff Eddie Farris is pleased to announce that the Putnam County Sheriff's Office has launched the Senior Citizen Awareness Network (SCAN), a program that enlists the help of former law enforcement and health care professionals and other caring community volunteers who are willing to check on and assist homebound seniors who at-risk with no visible means of local support.

The program, which was launched with a series of volunteer meetings and training classes in late 2015, aims to spark greater awareness of senior citizens who are at-risk and ensure that someone is aware of who they are, where they are located and what their needs may be in case of severe weather and other incidents that may affect their wellbeing. Any medical issues will be referred to the senior's personal physician or an appropriate member of the medical community.

“Seniors who do not have family members or other caregivers close by are one of the most vulnerable and underserved segments of our community,” said Sheriff Eddie Farris. “We have an obligation to protect and serve all of our residents and with the help of an extraordinary group of dedicated volunteers, we will now be able to check on at-risk elderly and help them to access the services they need within our social services community.”

SCAN volunteers must fill out an application with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office, submit to Background, Driving History, and Criminal History Checks as well as fingerprinting. And, attend training classes on Identifying Elder Abuse, Crime Prevention Information, CPR and Basic First Aid, and State and Local Services that are available for Senior Citizens. Graduates of the program are then issued special Sheriff's Department ID's. The Department has set aside two specially marked vehicles for SCAN volunteers to use while performing their duties. Currently, there are approximately 10-15 volunteers who have completed the course.

“I am excited about the prospect of offering this service in Putnam County and hope that you will join us to ensure the health and ongoing welfare of our senior citizens,” added Sheriff Farris.

If you would like to add the name of a senior citizen to the SCAN database, please call the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at (931) 528-8484 and ask for Deputy Fred Parker or send an email to sheriffinfo@pcsotn.com with “SCAN” in the reference line. All submissions will be considered anonymous and confidential.

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Media contact:

Beth Nelson, PIO, sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

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