



June 12, 2015

2015 National Triad Conference in October: Save the Date!

Please mark your calendars! NATI will be holding a “Virtual Conference” all day on October 8th on critical new information for safer older adults and communities that can be accessed from computers and laptops! National leaders will present a series of webinars offered in 45 minute blocks, with a 15 minute break in between, as well as an hour lunch break at the noon hour. Hear about the latest technology and tricks used to scam older adults as well as new resources to combat crimes targeting older adults in your community.

About the training: This will be a one day virtual conference all day on October 8th on critical new information for safer older adults and communities that can be accessed from computers and laptops. National leaders will present a series of webinars offered in 45 minute blocks, with a 15 minute break in between, as well as an hour lunch break at the noon hour.

The tentative schedule (Eastern Time) is:

9:45 – 10:00am Introductions and instructions

10:00 – 10:45am Older Driver Initiatives

Presenter: Kim Lopez, Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office, OK

11:00 – 11:45am Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in Older Adults – Law Enforcement Response

Presenter: Trudy Gregorie, Justice Solutions, Washington, DC

11:45am – 12:45pm Lunch

1:00 – 1:45pm State Triad in Review – How does Yours Compare?

Presenter: Virginia Attorney General's Office

2:00 – 4:45pm Federal Trade Commission: A Whole New Set of Scams

Presenter: Jennifer Leach, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC

3:00 – 3:45pm Triad 101 - Member Retention and Funding Initiatives

Presenter: TBD

[Register online](#)

The cost is \$10.00 per person registering online, or if a group would like to register (such as local or state

Triad), the cost is \$100.00. Some state Triads are bringing their Triads together for the event and providing lunch.

One does NOT need to be a member of NATI to attend the conference, however, if you'd like information on NATI Membership, click here www.sheriffs.org/nati

Become a Member of the National Association of Triads!

As a NATI member, you gain access to essential tools and resources that will assist in reducing criminal victimization of older persons, improve the quality of life for older adults, educate and involve the community in implementing solutions. NATI membership also connects you to over 20,000 NATI and National Sheriffs' Association members, who become part of your network. Become a NATI Member! Download the National Sheriffs' Association membership application (and be sure to click the NATI Member box on page 2) and submit it via fax or U.S. Postal Service.

Mail to:

National Sheriffs' Association
Attn: & Checks payable to: NATI Membership
1450 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Fax to: 703.838.5349

DUES

NATI Member = \$20

NATI BENEFITS

- NATI Newswire
- Specialized training for older adults
- NATI handbook
- Resources guide
- Locate a Triad
- Sample NATI materials

Sheriff's Office Revives Program that Helps Protect Seniors from Scams

FLUVANNA COUNTY, Va (WVIR) -The Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office is reviving an effort to teach some of the most vulnerable people how to know a scam when they see one.

The TRIAD Crime Prevention program focuses on older Virginians, because the sheriff says they're most likely to be the victims of new criminal tactics.

The name TRIAD refers to the programs three founding groups; the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs and the National Sheriff's Association. Law enforcement's goal is to educate seniors about telephone scams, fraudulent letters in the mail, and more.

"You know it's one thing after another, and people are being very creative to scam people, and the seniors are less likely or less able at times to be able to check up on those things," said Fluvanna Co. Sheriff Eric Hess.

TRIAD first launched in 1988, but Fluvanna Co. had to stop the program in recent years due to limited resources.

Sheriff Hess says he's excited to revive the program, and he is hopeful that it will be more sustainable this time around thanks to the help of several volunteers.

Press Release from the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office

Palmyra, Va. - This year, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and Older Americans Month, the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office will re-introduce the TRIAD program to Fluvanna County. In Partnership with Virginia's Attorney General's Office, the Sheriff's Office will sponsor the TRIAD program, which is dedicated to develop, expand, and implement effective crime prevention and safety programs for older Virginians.

The term TRIAD references the three founding organizations that established the program in 1988: The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs (ICAP), and the National Sheriff's Association (NSA). The relationship was solidified when the three organizations signed a cooperative agreement. It is an alliance between senior citizens and law enforcement, and the goal is to share information about how seniors can avoid becoming victims of crime and enhance the safety and quality of their lives.

The Fluvanna Sheriff's Office had an active TRIAD in past years, and will re-organize the initiative utilizing its Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) volunteers. Fluvanna County Sheriff Eric B. Hess is currently meeting with officials from the Virginia Attorney General's Office to solidify the details of the partnership. Sheriff Hess said, "TRIAD encourages community partnerships, and that is a major focus of community policing. We look forward to developing new relationships and enhancing current partnerships with this initiative."

For more information about the Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office's TRIAD initiative, contact the Fluvanna County Sheriff's VIPS Coordinators, Ms. Sandra Patterson at pattersonfcsovips@gmail.com or Ms. Valerie Luevano atluevanofcsoVIPS@gmail.com.

Senior's Day Fun and Safety Tips

The Happy Day's Band was rocking the stage and seniors did not take it sitting down. Some were dancing in the aisles, some stood at their seats twisting and swaying, some joined a line that meandered through the room, but all seemed to enjoy the free concert.

The event was TRIAD's 16th annual gathering held at Victory Tabernacle Church on Genito Road, and besides the professional band, talks on programs and safety for seniors were presented by Lynn Osborne, Chair, Chesterfield TRIAD, Mary Vail Ware, Director of Programs and Community Outreach, Office of the Attorney General, the honorable Mark Herring, Attorney General and law enforcement and fire officials and others.

TRIAD is a nationwide program with local chapters. Chesterfield TRIAD is a partnership among the county's Sheriff's Office, Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Office of the Senior Advocate and member organization agencies and the community who share TRIAD goals.

Seniors were treated to a continental breakfast, and throughout the church building vendors and displays were set up. Information for such subjects as avoiding scams, learning about insurance, health programs, activity programs, information on medicine use and safety and crime awareness were just a few of the available topics.

TRIAD is an integral part of community policing, with a focus on reducing unwarranted fear of crime and

improving the quality of life for older adults.

Older Americans are the most rapidly growing segment of the population, said Sheriff Karl Leonard. One in every eight Americans is already age 65 or older. Increased life expectancy is leading to new issues and problems for the criminal justice system. Nationwide, Leonard said, 95 percent of seniors live independently. Many of the volunteers who pitched in have served the county's seniors for years.

Tommy Sammons, 84, affectionately known as Uncle Sam for his special patriotic attire, has volunteered his services and appearances for the entire 16 years TRIAD has been hosted. Chuck Andelino, who is familiar with the public through his many years of involvement with Crimesolvers, has joyfully volunteered with TRIAD for its entire 16 years. Many others such as Mary Jones and others have and are faithfully offering their services for the seniors.

TRIAD meets once a month and the public is invited. For more information : Sheriff's Office (804) 717-6266.

Cleaning Up Without Getting Cleaned Out

I don't know about you, but I'm about ready to say "uncle" to Old Man Winter.

This year's record-breaking snowfalls, downed trees, roof collapses, mudslides, flooding and frozen pipes are leaving overwhelming clean-up and recovery in their wake. If you're thinking about hiring someone to help you dig out, keep these tips in mind:

- If someone promises immediate clean-up or demands payment up-front, be skeptical. It won't save time — or money — if you hire someone who lacks the skills, licenses, and insurance to legally do the work.
- Before you let anyone into your home or business, check them out with your state and local consumer protection officials. And, when they show up, check their ID.
- Do tree and debris removal contractors need to be licensed in your area? Find out from local officials — and if so, confirm that the contractor you're considering is up to date.
- Ask the contractor you're considering to show you a current license and certificate of insurance. If a contractor tells you some work is covered by your insurance, call your insurance company to confirm.
- Don't sign documents you don't understand. Ask someone you trust, like a family member, to read them with you. You can always ask the company what the fine print means, but it's what's in writing that matters — not what someone tells you.
- Negotiate a reasonable down payment in advance. Only pay in full when you're satisfied that the work is done — and done well.
- Pay with a credit card or check. If a contractor asks for a deposit or full payment in cash, stop. That's a warning sign that something's not right.
- Trust your gut. If you have any doubts about hiring someone or entering into a contract, take your business elsewhere.

For more tips to help you prepare for, deal with, and recover from a weather emergency, visit [Dealing with Weather Emergencies](#).

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the nation's consumer protection agency. The FTC works to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace.

Fashion Show Aims to Protect Seniors from Ruse Burglary Scams

Who's knocking? Look at what they're wearing before you open the door

When someone knocks at Dee Connors' door and she doesn't know who that person is she doesn't answer it, the Elgin senior resident said.

She's learned through years of volunteering with Senior Services, and through Elgin Township TRIAD, that not everyone who comes knocking has the best intentions, Connors added. TRIAD is a partnership between Senior Services, the Kane County Sheriff, and local law enforcement that works with area seniors on many issues specific to those residents.

On Thursday, TRIAD held "Who is Knocking at Your Door" at the Centre of Elgin. The event included a "fashion show" of police officers, city workers, utility representatives and delivery personnel. If residents know what these workers should be wearing, they are less likely to let in scammers, said Cherie Aschenbrenner, the Elgin Police Department's senior liaison officer.

In the past few months, Elgin police have seen several instances of ruse burglaries. In those cases, one partner knocks on the door and claims they are from the city of Elgin water department, and that they need to look at the senior's kitchen sink or water pressure. While the senior is distracted in another part of the house, the other partner enters and burglarizes the home, often going for jewelry or cash.

"They are isolated in their homes, and a second person goes in," said Kane County Sheriff's Department Officer Kevin Williams.

"If you don't know who that person is, don't talk to that person or let them in your house," Williams added. Seniors are targeted for these scams most often, Aschenbrenner said.

"They know you are most likely home alone and that you really do need some help with the yard. They know you are vulnerable," Aschenbrenner said.

Often, seniors don't want to be rude by asking questions, or making someone wait at the door.

A real city employee, utility worker, or delivery person would not be offended by questions, or by waiting at the door while the resident calls 311 or the police non-emergency number, or even 911, to verify the person's identity, Aschenbrenner said.

"Ask for credentials, I don't care who they say they are," Aschenbrenner said. "They can stand outside and wait. If they are gone when you get back, what does that tell you?" about their intentions, she added. She also suggests not calling the number on a card they give to you, but calling the customer service number in the phone book. The number on the card might also be in on the scam, she said.

Knowing what actual utility workers wear, drive, and what identifications they must have on them were a part of Thursday's fashion show. The models included Elgin, Kane County Sheriff and South Elgin police officers and plain-clothes detectives; Elgin firefighters; employees from Elgin's water and code enforcement departments; representatives from AT&T, WOW and Comcast cable companies; U.S. Postal Service, FedEx and UPS; and Nicor and ComEd utility workers.

If a person claims to be from ComEd, but is wearing athletic shoes instead of boots, they are not a ComEd worker, said meter reader Matt Williams. "When we are usually at your house you won't see us unless your meter is inside," he added.

The ComEd truck might be parked down the street, but they will always have on a safety vest, their identification, safety glasses, and a can of dog spray and an umbrella, too, Williams said.

South Elgin Chief of Police Chris Merritt and Elgin Chief of Police Jeff Swoboda emceed the fashion show.

Elgin has seen more scams against seniors than South Elgin has, Merritt said.

There was one instance where a senior allowed a potential ruse burglar into the house, said South Elgin Sgt. Randy Andean. But that senior locked the door behind the first suspect, not allowing a second person to gain entry.

"We hope we have gotten the word about these out to our senior citizens," Merritt said.

Phone Swindle Exploits Senior Vulnerabilities

The state Attorney General's Office and the AARP Foundation run ElderWatch Colorado, which collects data on financial scams that target seniors and provides educational materials to help keep people from becoming victims. If you're a senior and believe you've been the victim of a fraud, call ElderWatch at 1800-2224444, the Aspen Police Department at 9709205400, or the Pitkin County Sheriff's Office at 970 920 5300. When she received the first in a series of phone calls that her son was in an Atlanta jail, an elderly Aspen resident became instantly rattled, forced to act fast. A man, who she believed was her son on the other end of the line, told her he needed bail money. He was sitting in jail for a drunken driving accident that killed a seven months pregnant woman's unborn child. His nose was broken and required medical attention, which he couldn't get in the jailhouse, he told her. He also said he was embarrassed and humiliated by the incident and wanted it kept private. Five minutes later, his public defender called the woman, instructing her to pay a \$2,500 bail to release her son. "It made me very concerned," said J.O., the initials of a 75 year old self employed, single woman who asked that her full name not be used because of privacy issues. J.O. promptly went to City Market to make separate wire payments of \$1,273 and \$1,257. "I never knew people could abuse me like that. It's awful." J.O. 75 year old scam victim That was April 23, at which time J.O. thought her son was in Europe. But when the caller said he was "Sean" — that's her son's name — J.O. believed him. The caller said he had to return to the States because a co-worker of his had died. While in Atlanta, he had the crash that landed him jail.

"He said he was so drunk that he totaled his friend's car in a bad accident," J.O. said.

J.O. would make four more Western Union transfers because of her son's purported plight, pushing the total to nearly \$7,500. She took cash advances from her credit cards before learning that she had been scammed.

"When you are older, you have a different state of mind," J.O. said. "When your kids or your grandkids, who are everything to you, are in trouble, you start panicking, believe me. You worry about your kids and grandkids your whole life, and that's why they (the scam artists) use you. I never knew people could abuse me like that. It's awful."

Seniors can make convenient prey for swindlers. In 2001, the state Attorney General's Office and the AARP Foundation created ElderWatch Colorado, which collects data on financial scams that target seniors and provides educational materials to help keep people from becoming victims. ElderWatch's hot line, which is 1-800-222-4444, fielded 3,400 calls in 2012, with 1,105 of those cases combining for a loss of \$6.4 million, according to the Attorney General's Office's website. The scams come in many forms and can relate to college, veterans, secret shoppers, taxes, tickets, charities, and friends or family members in trouble, among others.

Mary Barbour, program director for Pitkin County Senior Services, said information is regularly provided to older residents warning them of email and telephone swindles.

"It happens to the smartest people," she said of elderly folks getting fleeced. "We try to put out information at lunch time and in our newsletters. One time I stopped a woman from giving money (to a scam artist). She was 88."

Such schemes that victimized J.O. aren't unusual in Aspen, said Aspen Police Department spokeswoman Blair Weyer. Last year, an elderly victim surrendered upwards to \$20,000 to a scam.

Generally speaking, the swindles involve wire money transfers, so the funds can't be easily traced or recouped, Weyer said.

"I'm not aware of any of our cases where restitution was achieved," Weyer said. "Once that money has been sent off, it can really be hard to get it back."

Weyer said the scams have become so elaborate that oftentimes their orchestrators do background work on their potential victims, learning family names and addresses.

J.O. said she figured that's what happened to her. The swindlers knew her son's name and knew he was out of town.

She was strung along for several days, first wiring the bail money, then wiring \$2,330 to a woman she was told was the victim in the crash. And on April 27, she wired another \$2,484 to help pay her son's medical bills, J.O. said.

All of the calls came from the same number with an Atlanta area code. She was given a case number, making her believe it was credible. She did question why she was instructed to wire the money to the Dominican Republic, but felt she had to because of what she believed was her son's desperate situation. An hour after she wired her final payment, she got a phone call from her real son. She'd left messages for him, but he didn't get them because he was in Europe. Upon his returned to the U.S., he listened to her messages and called her.

"He said, 'I'm fine, I'm fine,'" J.O. recalled. "He said, 'Mommy, it's a big scam and told me to go to the police station.'"

That's what J.O. did, but she was told her chances were slim in getting back the money.

She provided the scammer's phone number (404-382-9107) to The Aspen Times, which made repeated calls seeking information. Each time someone answered, they hung up the phone after a caller identified himself as a reporter. Twice, they answered the phone "Legal Aid Society."

As for J.O., she says the financial loss has put her in a hole. She didn't mince words recounting her story, often choking up because she felt so violated. She called the swindlers "evil scammers." But she hopes other seniors learn from her dilemma and don't commit the same mistake she did.

"I'm lucky I can work," she said. "So many people my age can't work anymore. Fortunately I'm healthy and can find my therapy through work."

92-Year-Old U.S. Air Force Veteran Testifies Against Lottery Fraudster

When a man with a pleasant voice called Nina Gebrian to say she had won a large amount of money in a lottery, the South Florida woman was understandably excited.

But first, he told her to send money to pay fees and taxes before her winnings could be turned over to her. For most of her 92 years, Gebrian was no pushover. She served as a mechanic in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, keeping B-17 bombers in top-flight condition. Later, she moved to Florida and continued working as a mechanic.

But as a retiree, living on Social Security and a small pension, she fell victim to what investigators call a Jamaican lottery fraud scheme.

Victims, nearly always seniors, receive phone calls that look like they come from the U.S. but really originate in Jamaica. They are directed to send cash, wires or prepaid debit cards to addresses in the U.S. to cover advance fees and taxes on their prizes.

Investigators said Gebrian, of Stuart, sent close to \$110,000 to several people at different addresses in the U.S. She wasn't well off but pulled together the cash by withdrawing money from her IRA.

At first, she believed it was only a matter of time until she would collect her big prize. But time passed and she realized something was terribly wrong.

"Then I became afraid but I didn't want them to know I was scared," Gebrian testified between sobs Friday in federal court in Fort Lauderdale.

She kept sending money because she thought "the voice" would leave her alone when all her money was gone. Eventually, she became so distressed she told a friend and they reported it to law enforcement.

Jamaica-based scammers prey on U.S. seniors - and reap millions

On Friday, one of the so-called "middle men" who admitted he received about \$40,000 of her cash was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison for his role in the fraud.

Fabian Winston Parkinson, 34, formerly of Margate and Homestead, pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of mail fraud.

He admitted he received more than \$120,000 from several elderly victims. He kept some money and sent the rest to his associates in Jamaica who had called the victims and persuaded them to send cash.

"I'm truly, deeply sorry that I'm in this position," Parkinson said, acknowledging he had destroyed lives. "I'm sorry to all the victims."

U.S. District Judge James Cohn sentenced Parkinson to the highest recommended federal prison term. "This is one of the most cruel and despicable scams imaginable," Cohn said. "Preying on the elderly and infirm is unconscionable. It shows a person with no conscience."

Many of the victims were left destitute in what should have been their golden years, the judge said. Parkinson will be deported to his native Jamaica after serving his prison term and will be ordered to pay restitution to the victims. The exact amount has not yet been calculated.

Other targeted victims of the scam included a Holocaust survivor and a woman with terminal pancreatic cancer, said Bladimir Rojo, who investigated the case for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The callers preyed on each person's vulnerability — using religious terms to bond with a devout woman and telling an older immigrant that they too had immigrated to the U.S. and knew how to help her avoid paying taxes.

Some of the victims' relatives told investigators the seniors so wanted to believe they were winners they argued with family members who tried to help them.

Many of the victims thought the fictitious prize money would mean they would never be a financial burden or that they could bequeath money to help sick and needy relatives.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bertha Mitrani said seniors are particularly vulnerable and often targeted by such frauds because they are more likely to live alone and less likely to screen their calls. The majority of victims are in their 70s, 80s and 90s, she said.

Gebrian, so frail she had to be helped on and off the witness stand, said the crime left her shaken but relieved that she finally mustered the confidence to report it.

"I am a survivor, I'm old school and I will make it," she said.

pmcmahon@tribune.com, 954-356-4533 or Twitter @SentinelPaula

Seniors Targeted in Telephone Scam

Several telephone scams, some targeting senior citizens, have been making the rounds in Petaluma, according to police.

In one common version, the caller claims to be from the Internal Revenue Service and states that the recipient owes back taxes. If they don't pay, an arrest warrant will be issued, the caller says.

Petaluma Police Sgt. Ron Klein received a call like this on his personal phone, and he hung up.

"Just hang up the phone," he said. "Often these numbers are untraceable. We're hearing about a lot of these scams. They seem to be targeting the elderly."

The Petaluma People Services Center, which runs the local Meals on Wheels program, has had reports that people are receiving phone calls asking for donations from Meals on Wheels. The only problem is, Meals on Wheels doesn't solicit donations over the phone, said Elece Hempel, the executive director.

She said one elderly woman who received such a call, traced the number back to a mobile home park in Bend, Ore.

"We never call people to raise money for us," Hempel said. "It makes you a little mad to know that people are out there scamming people."

Deborah May-Buffum, a Petaluma resident, said she received a call recently that seemed even more sinister. The caller claimed to be from the "heating and cooling company," she said. He wanted to know if she would be home the following day to come inspect their heater. When the call started sounding suspicious, she hung up.

"We're creeped out," she said. "This is someone trying to get into your house."

(Contact Matt Brown at matt.brown@arguscourier.com. On Twitter @MattBrownAC.)

Social Network Scams - A Little Caution Goes a Long, Long Way

Twitter, LinkedIn, Bebo, Facebook, eHarmony and other online social communities make establishing connections with others available day and night. Twenty-six percent of online adult users in the U.S. use Twitter, 26% Instagram, 28% Pinterest, and 28% LinkedIn.¹ And 71% of all online American adults and 73% of all those ages 12-17 now use Facebook, creating profiles that offer oodles of personal information – which

is why social networking is big business for criminals who have the knowledge and patience to manipulate personal information, bit by bit, over time.

Social networks are exploited by establishing strong emotional bonds through fake shared interests and lifestyles. These so-called "Social Engineering" scams are also used in email and Instant Messaging (IM) settings. Because online networks remove face-to-face contact, a criminal can build credibility and trust more readily. A user's network profile also gives access to sensitive background information, such as photographs, religious and political affiliations, employment history, daily movements and holiday details, and even dates of birth and residence information that can be manipulated into a highly stylized pitch. Once accepted as a "friend," scammers also utilize that status to gain access to more potential victims. Some of the most prominent methods of scamming include:

- Setting up fake profiles to redirect you to another website.
- Friend or dating requests that are made by people pretending to be someone else.
- Financial fraud schemes.

The fact that social networking is implicitly a connection of people with like interests means users are more likely to let down their guard. Social networking increases our vulnerability by making sensitive information about us and our family public. This lets a social hacker (social engineer) find out enough about you to get you to 'friend' them or click on a link they send via social networking or IM. Once they get 'in' they can impersonate you, steal your identity, download malware to your devices, or gain access to restricted sites².
Current Trends

Most of these scams use phishing to try to gain access to personal information.

- **Fake Password Reset Emails and IM Messages** – These appear to be from your social network site provider. But once you give your login details, the scammer takes control of your account and username and poses as you. They may also steal identity information from your social media account and commit financial fraud against you.
- **Emails Asking for Help** – After learning of your holiday plans online, a scammer contacts your family saying "you" have been robbed and need money right away. By having kept up with your posts for a long period, they can make their emails sound like you wrote them.
- **Affinity Fraud** – Social media is used to gain investment capital through trust building as a supposed member of an organization or group with which you are affiliated.
- **Fake Lottery Chats** – Someone you've friended through another acquaintance claims you have won a lottery. This is a new take on an old scheme.
- **Online Dating Scams** – A new online friend courts you, saying all the right things and rushes you into a serious relationship. Invariably the scammer will give the 'perfect' story and will also defraud their target financially as well as emotionally.
- **Ancestry Phishing** – These offers lure individuals into divulging important personal information in order to commit identity theft and/or financial fraud.
- **Military Personnel Impersonation** – There are frequent reports worldwide of scammers using social media to create profiles and pose as senior or non-commissioned officers, even using official photographs, to get victims to reveal personal and financial information. They are usually male and prey on victim emotions in much the same way as dating scammers.³

¹Pew Research Center. September, 2014.

²Landsman, M. "Social Networking: The .Con" About Tech. 2015.

³CID warns of social networking, dating site scams "U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) Public Affairs. July 20, 2013.

What You Need to Know - Red Flags

- Unsolicited offers of any kind are cause for concern as they may be a threat to your personal safety and/or to your financial well-being.
- Anyone asking online for money for transportation, medical, or other fees should be considered suspect.
- News feeds that claim to show video or stories about celebrities are often enticing you to click on links, application, or fill out surveys that will download malware to steal your information.
- A “friend” request or a “follow” from a stranger is always a warning flag.
- Be careful about placing personal photos on social media.

Things You Can Do

- **Respect Personal Information** – Be cautious about what you post and what you forward of other people’s information. Don’t post information that can put you at risk, such as your daily routine, holiday plans, school information, and sensitive personal information.
- **Set Profiles to “Private”** – Use this setting and take time to learn about those who request access to your profile before giving them permission to see your full profile. Set high privacy on IM, peer-to-peer (P2P) media, and video calling accounts.
- **Use Strong Passwords** – And change them regularly. Use a different password for each site to lower your risk in case an account is hacked.
- **Don’t Accept “Friend” Requests from Strangers** – Online is an easy place for people to pose as someone they are not. Keeping scammers out is the best way to stay safe.
- **Be Aware of Your Internet Presence** – Type your name into a search engine and see what it reveals. You may find your identity is being used in ways you did not know.
- **Make Sure Friends Have Alternate Ways to Reach You** – Especially when you are traveling, make sure friends and family have alternate contact means, other than email or social sites. If you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from a friend of a family member use an “out of band” – i.e., an alternate method - to contact them directly.
- **Disable Unused Options** – Anything you rarely use on a social network site is best turned off. Consider disabling GPS options.
- **Log Off** – Never stay signed into accounts when you are not using them and disconnect your Wi-Fi from your system when you don’t need to be connected.
- **Always Get Permission Before Posting Photos** – And tell others they need your permission to post photos of you.

S.A.L.T. Expo a Hit with Senior Citizens

About 120 senior citizens from the Baker, Baton Rouge, Central, Chaneyville and Zachary communities and Council on Aging centers on April 7 attended the sixth annual East Baton Rouge Seniors and Lawmen Together Senior Expo.

A S.A.L.T. Council is a group of seniors, senior organizations and local law enforcement agencies working together to determine the needs of communities’ senior populations and creating activities to address those needs, according to the East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office.

The free event was held in the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church and included law enforcement personnel from the East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office, Baker, Baton Rouge and Zachary Police departments and the Zachary fire department.

“Essentially, we work together to better the lives of seniors,” said Zachary Police Chief David McDavid.

“S.A.L.T. Council expos aim to give seniors a more comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues related to crime and provides an opportunity to learn more about crime prevention,” said East Baton Rouge S.A.L.T. President Joshua Hollins, of the State Attorney General’s office.

Free services, free resources, wellness programs and consumer tips were offered from more than 30 vendors such as AARP, American Red Cross, the Attorney General’s Office, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Charlet Funeral Home, East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Grace Health & Rehabilitation, Lane Home Health, Lane Regional Medical Center, Life Source Hospice, the Louisiana Department of Insurance, Louisiana Senior Medicare Patrol, National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, Northpoint Health Center, Oakwood Village, South Louisiana Hospice, Southeast Community Health System, the Hospice of Baton Rouge, Wellcare and others.

Free health screenings, blood pressure and hearing checks were offered.

Presentations were given on funeral planning by Jordan Charlet and Nicole Charlet Wilcher, of Charlet Funeral Home; crime prevention by Deputy Melvin Edwards, of the EBRSO; identity theft by Detective Enis Sims, of the ZPD; general safety by Zachary firefighters; wills and successions by attorney Ricky McDavid; and hurricane preparedness by Resilience Outreach Specialist Barbara Bourgeois, of the American Red Cross.

“The event has grown to be a really fun and vital asset for area seniors,” said Terri Kaaihue, of Life Source Hospice.

Door prizes were awarded, free paper products from Georgia Pacific were distributed, and Zachary Mayor David Amrhein and members of his staff prepared fried catfish lunches for the seniors.

People Who are Frauds Look Like Me

In his message to local seniors, Marty Fleischhacker of the Minnesota Department of Commerce draws a clear picture of how prevalent scamming is and gives tips for people to protect themselves

They come via phone, email, regular mail, malware, and even some are as bold as to do it in person: scam artists.

In today’s digital world, there’s a wealth of information being put out on the internet day in and day out. On April 21, Marty Fleischhacker of the Minnesota Department of Commerce told a room full of around 70 seniors at the Aitkin American Legion to make sure they are keeping a close eye on their financials and who is trying to contact them.

“These people are smart. Very smart. They know what they’re doing,” Fleischhacker said of scam artists. Seniors are a common target for scammers, because most live on their own. Those suffering from Alzheimers or dementia are also at risk.

Fleischhacker went through several different examples of the ways people are scammed.

“Fraudsters pretend to be part of groups with something in common, like religion,” explained Fleischhacker. Financial abuse has become widespread and is getting worse, continued Fleischhacker. “Some still swindled after the commerce department took away their licenses.”

Being called for refilling prescriptions to bailing a loved one out of jail or being scammed by a home loan modification, a scam can be put on anyone at any time. Lottery sweepstakes, magazine subscriptions and disaster relief calls are also common.

Individuals who have recently lost a spouse have been prey of romance-type scams, added Fleischhacker.

Red flags, questions

Are there inconsistencies with a bank statement? Can't pay your bills? Are CDs and accounts being closed? Are there maximum cash withdrawals being made?

These are just a few questions Fleischhacker posed to the crowd during the TRIAD meeting.

It could be possible a care giver has not allowed the account owner direct contact with the bank. It's also possible someone else could be accessing an account without consent.

"Ninety percent of these crimes are done by family or people associated with the victims," said Fleischhacker.

Aitkin County Sheriff Scott Turner said what makes this generation more susceptible to scams is the way they did business.

"They grew up with agreements by a hand shake, not contracts," said Turner.

TRIAD is working closely with seniors to educate them on what they can do to prevent being the next victim, because it's too costly to try and track the money.

"And it's time consuming," explained Turner. "It's not worth the taxpayers' money to go through with the tracking."

Even at the Department of Commerce, Fleischhacker said a large amount of money must be swindled before enforcement is considered.

Sheriff Turner said people can prevent scams by simply not answering the phone, and by being good stewards of their personal information.

Illinois TRIAD Conference

Please consider attending the 19th Illinois TRIAD Conference on September 15-16, 2015 at the I Hotel & Conference Center, 1900 South 1st Street, Champaign, IL. Full conference fees: \$110.00, Senior full conference \$55.00, Tuesday only conference \$35.00, Wednesday only conference \$80.00, Senior Award Winner full conference \$30.00, late full conference after August 24th \$120.00. Who should attend: Law Enforcement Professions, Crime Prevention Specialists, Elderly Service Officers, First Responders, Adult Protective Services, TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council Members, Senior Citizens, and anyone concerned with issues that affect seniors. More information and registration is available by visiting: www.illinoisTRIAD.com or [Facebook.com/IllinoisTRIAD](https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisTRIAD).

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