



Triad Newsletter

A Waldo County Joint Venture in Senior Safety

Volume 18, Issue 2

Spring 2020

Triad Happenings

Triad Turns 20!

In celebration of Triad's 20th year in Waldo County, we are planning a few events that are not strictly about safety but opportunities to get out and have a good time. The first of these events is a movie matinee. The second special event will be a dance for seniors.

First Event:

Movie: Casablanca

April 22

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Colonial Theater
High St., Belfast

FREE ADMISSION

FREE POPCORN

FREE BEVERAGES

(For updates, check our Facebook page or call our toll-free number **1-866-426-7555**.)



Second Event:

Senior Prom

June 26

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

YMCA

Lincolntown Ave, Belfast



There will be a DJ playing tunes from the past, dancing, refreshments, and a good time.

Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 25

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sheriff's Office

Public Safety Way, Belfast

Bring unwanted prescription or over-the-counter pills for safe disposal. Triad board members will be there to answer questions about Triad and its activities.

If you wish to donate returnable cans and bottles, Triad will be prepared to take those to help continue its safety work for Waldo County residents 50 and over.

If you cannot attend on April 25th, and have medications you wish to dispose of, there are secure drug drop-off boxes in the lobbies of the sheriff's office in Belfast and the public safety building in Searsport. By properly disposing of unwanted pills, you can be sure that they do not end up in the wrong hands or in the water supply.

(Shredding will be available in the fall.)

Triad's Annual Senior Appreciation Day

- **Exhibits** related to seniors
- **Bingo with prizes** and
- **Free lunch** (hamburgers and hot dogs plus dessert and beverages)

Thursday, June 11

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tarratine Hall

Main Street, Belfast

Read About Current Scams Inside

Waldo County Triad is a partnership of citizens, law enforcement, and other local organizations dedicated to the improvement of the safety of older Waldo County residents through education and service.



Scams From Our Readers

Final Expenses Scam

A reader provided a post card that she received saying “You may qualify for a state-regulated program to pay for final expenses regardless of your medical condition, even if you have been turned down before. It is important you know how to qualify for this benefit available to you. This benefit may pay for 100% of all final expenses up to \$35,000.” “Please return the attached postage-paid card today or visit” and it gives a website. A person responding is asked to provide a signature for self and spouse, date of birth for both, phone number and email address. In fine print, there is a note that you may be contacted by an insurance representative.

Upon investigation, we have learned that this card has been mailed in several states since 2016. The card reads just the same, only the state name and the return post office address changes. There is never a business name or address on the card. As people have complained to the postal service in other states, postal inspectors have called the phone number registered when the post office box was paid for but the number was not a working number. Googling the address registered with the post office turned up a legitimate address but not for whoever was behind sending out the cards.

The general thinking is that if a person receiving the card submits the information requested, a call will come from someone posing as an insurance agent. That person will give a price for the insurance coverage and tell the person about the types of payment accepted. That “insurance agent” is really a scam artist who will take the money for personal use and there will be no insurance at all.

There are certainly legitimate places to buy insurance coverage for final expenses. Our research suggests that this is not one of them! Anyone receiving a card like this should recycle it. This is a scam that keeps moving to keep away from authorities. At each location, enough people respond to keep these scammers in business.

Lottery Scam

A reader received an email message saying that she had won the lottery in Azerbaijan worth over \$3 million. To receive the funds, she had to send her mailing address, phone number, copy of a passport or other photo ID, Social Security number and bank account number. The message stated that all of this information was to ensure that the correct person had been located. The bank account number was said to be required so the funds could be deposited after identification was certified.

The reader was sure she had not entered any contest in Azerbaijan. Anyone who had replied to this message would have given enough information to have their identity stolen plus their bank account emptied.

Scam Involving Fed-Ex

Several individuals have reported receiving a phone call or email or text stating that someone has sent them a package through Fed-Ex and the company has been unable to locate the delivery address. The caller says you will need to give your address and verify who you are and pay a fee to receive the package as it was improperly addressed. If you get a contact like this, do not pay the caller and do not provide the information requested.

When a package is sent through Fed-Ex, they take identification information from the sender and verify the delivery address. They do not ask for fees when the package is delivered. This is a scam. You can call Fed-Ex if you have questions about delivery.

Waldo County Wanderer Program

Do you worry about a loved one who wanders? Register him or her with the Waldo County Wanderer Program to help make a quicker return.

Registration forms are at the offices of the Belfast and Searsport Police and the Waldo County Sheriff as well as on their websites.

Sign up today!



More Scams from Local Readers

You Have Won

People have reported receiving a letter stating that government agencies from many countries have been working together to eliminate scams coming from African countries. In the process, they have been able to locate and arrest many scammers and those individuals had huge amounts of money in their possession. The letter states that the United Nations Anti-Crime Commission and the U. S. Government have decided that these funds will be divided equally among 100 of the those names found on the computers used by the scam artists. The letter says that the officials drew names to decide which 100 persons will receive \$10 million each and that funds will be delivered to each winner as a Master Card that can be used worldwide. To get the card, you are directed to provide your name, mailing address, home address, telephone number, and other personal information. The U.S. Government does not raffle money confiscated from crimes.

Scam Involving McAfee

A person reported that he went to Amazon to buy a McAfee computer anti-virus program. He found it offered for \$12.99 and bought it. When he entered the activation code, he got a message telling him to stop and call a phone number immediately. He did that and was told that he could not activate the program because he had viruses on his computer that needed to be removed before the new program could be installed and that would cost \$299.00. The buyer said he was on a fixed income and that was too much and the person offered it to him for \$199.00. The buyer said he did not want to pay \$199 either. The seller hung up and the buyer called Amazon and got his money returned to his credit card. The buyer went to Staples and bought a copy of the computer program and it worked properly. The scammer was selling through the Amazon marketplace which made the buyer believe it was a legitimate business. That would be true most of the time but apparently this scam artist got through. If you notify Amazon of a problem with a purchase, they will try to help.

Scam Involving Walmart

A reader received an email message stating that Walmart had been trying to locate her to let her know that she had won a gift card for \$1,000. The reader had to click on a link to declare whether she wanted to use the card in the store or online.

A real Walmart gift card can be used online or in the store as you wish. It would not be limited to one type of use. The message also had misspellings and was hard to follow.

The reader did not enter any contests so she knew that she had not won a prize. Scammers always figure that you will be so eager to get a prize that you will follow the directions without taking much notice of the rest of the message.

Gift Card Scam

A reader reported an email that said she had a debit card which was waiting for her in Nigeria with \$3 million on it. The writer said he had picked it up for her from the bank and she could either come to Nigeria to get it or he would send it via courier. She had to provide her full name, home address, age, telephone number, and occupation to be sure he has the correct person. Once that information was received, a Nigerian bank would send a PIN number.

The message also said that once the card was in the reader's hands, she would be limited to withdrawing \$10,000 per day. The message does not mention why the reader is receiving the card worth \$3 million.

It is difficult to know why scammers continue to send messages claiming to involve Nigerian banking. Similar messages have been sent for over 25 years. Most often they state that someone is trying to get his money out of Nigeria but the local banks are not cashing checks at the moment so he will send the check to the reader and give a percentage for the trouble if the reader will put it through his bank account. They are all scams.



Even More Scams

Census Scam

Census-related scams were anticipated and now they are a reality. The Census Bureau hires hundreds of thousands of temporary workers for both office and field jobs. There are scammers offering to fill out the required paperwork and then guaranteeing that an applicant will be hired by the Census Bureau - all for a fee. Like most job applications, the real census application requires a lot of personal information including Social Security number, home address, mailing address, email address, phone number, date and place of birth. If you let a scammer fill out the form, they have all this personal information plus whatever fee they choose to charge.

There is no fee to apply for any government job. Neither is there any up-front guarantee that the applicant will be hired. Either charging to apply or assuring a job just because you do apply should be seen as red flags.

Anti-Aging Scam

The Federal Trade Commission recently brought charges against a group selling what they called "Rejuvenation" anti-aging pills. There was no research to substantiate what they were saying about the product. Among the claims made by the company, these pills would reverse the aging process, heart disease, blindness, deafness, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, Crohn's disease, arthritis, brain damage from stroke, and repair damage from heart disease. There were ads in magazines and online for the product where a one-month supply cost \$40 or \$50 plus shipping and handling. The company was found to have sold approximately 75,000 packages for \$3.4 million before being caught. Most of the money was gone by the time they were discovered and only property could be confiscated, leaving each buyer to receive about \$9 back on each package of pills purchased.

Be very skeptical about miraculous cures.

Earn Unlimited Income Scams

A pyramid scheme is a technique where one person buys in and then recruits others to take part. They were abundant a few years ago and are making a comeback. The Federal Trade Commission has just charged a group calling itself Success By Health with bilking participants out of more than \$7 million.

The company put out ads claiming that you can replace your current income in six months and gain financial freedom in 18 months by selling its coffee, tea, and dietary supplements and recruiting other people to become sellers.

The company suggests that to get the most out of it that a person max out credit cards, borrow money from family, get bank loans and sell or mortgage their homes in order to raise the money to buy inventory and to attend costly training programs. However, the only way to really earn money is to recruit others to put their money into the program. Most people spend more on the program than they earn.

Be leery of any plan that offers to bring you lots of money if you take part. The get-rich plans are only going to make the operators of the program rich if they can entice enough people to give their money to join.

Coronavirus Scams

Scammers often base scams on topics that people fear. The coronavirus has become a new one. They are setting up websites to sell bogus products, and using fake emails, texts and social media to take money and personal information.

They are selling various treatments to prevent or cure the virus. Ask yourself if the first place to hear about this would be an ad. The Centers for Disease Control is working hard with other organizations around the world to come up with preventions and treatments. Some scammers are promoting investment opportunities where you can be an early investor in new vaccines or other cures and preventions. Don't believe any of it. This is just another way to take your money.



Things to Know

The Centers for Disease Control is offering information for Americans on ways to protect themselves and others from getting sick with the coronavirus disease known as COVID-19. The fundamental things to do are:

- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **If you are over 60 or have an underlying medical condition**, you should consider not using public transportation or going to areas where there will be lots of people in close contact if the virus reaches our area. Concerts, political rallies and other such events can mean there are lots of people crowded close together and illnesses can spread easily in these types of settings.

This particular corona virus is new since January of this year. As of yet there is no vaccine to prevent it. Those who have tested positive for the disease experience mild to severe respiratory illness. Symptoms can include:

- **Fever**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath**



Elder Abuse is domestic violence.
For help or information call
NEW HOPE for WOMEN.
1-800-522-3304

Seek medical advice if you develop these symptoms. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 - 14 days after exposure. If you are known to have been exposed but do not have symptoms, you maybe asked to separate yourself from others for two weeks. If you do develop symptoms, you will be asked to remain at least six feet away from others for two weeks. At home, a sick person should not share towels, drinking glasses or eating utensils. These items should be washed thoroughly with hot water and soap after use. If you or another member of your household is sick with the virus, clean all highly touched surfaces daily with a disinfecting cleaner. These areas include countertops, table tops, toilets, phones, bedside tables, keyboards, door knobs, and faucet handles.

Seek medical attention if your symptoms worsen. The primary worsening issue is greater difficulty in breathing. Call your doctor's office before going there so that they can inform you on how to help protect other patients and the staff from becoming infected with the virus.

If you or another member of your household is confirmed to have the coronavirus, the person should remain at home under isolation until the risk of infecting others is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions is made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

We can continue our normal activities unless the virus reaches our area. Under that situation, health officials may close public facilities such as schools in an effort to stop the spread and wait for the virus to run its course. It is critical that people do not panic. Just be prudent and do what you can to keep yourself and your family well.

Thank You!

Waldo County Triad wishes to recognize the
Waldo County
Emergency Management Agency
for helping Triad to continue its work.

Things to Know about Triad

Triad Auction

As you do your spring cleaning and finding items you no longer need, you might think of Triad. We are already collecting items for our annual auction in September. This event is a major fundraiser for Triad and 100% of proceeds go to improve the safety of people age 50 and older. If you have new or gently used items to donate, you can bring small items to the sheriff's office during opening hours. You can make arrangements to have larger items collected by calling **338-6786**. Sorry but we cannot accept large furniture pieces, clothing or electronics.

Email Newsletter Offer

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email rather than by mail, just send your name and email address to our newsletter address at:

triad@waldocountyme.gov

You will be notified when the next edition is ready. Back issues from the past several years are available at:

<http://www.waldocountyme.gov/wso/user/triadnewsletters.html>

We are happy to provide the newsletter without charge via email to anyone regardless of where you live.

Paper copies are free to Waldo County residents. Also, we send paper copies to addresses outside of Waldo County. We ask that those persons contribute \$5 to help defray the cost of postage and printing.

Preparing This Mailing

This mailing is put together four times each year. It takes about 3 hours for a lot of volunteers to assemble pages, fold, seal and add the labels to about 2,000 newsletters.

If you would like more information or think that you might be able to help

call: **1-866-426-7555**

or

email: *triad@waldocountyme.gov*

File of Life

If you would like to have a medical information packet to keep on your refrigerator door in the event of a medical emergency, call or email Triad and ask for a File of Life. Also, you will receive a smaller version to keep in your wallet. All area emergency responders are familiar with the File and look for them upon arrival. This packet can save the responders considerable time as all the information they need to start helping you is in that packet. To receive a File of Life

call: **1-866-426-7555**

or

email: *triad@waldocountyme.gov*

Supporting Triad with Returnables

There are now a few places that accept returnable cans and bottles on behalf of Triad. If you wish to donate your returnables to Triad, you can do so at the following locations:

Belfast:

- Waldo Avenue Redemption, Waldo Ave.
- Hannaford through the Triad CLYNK account (If you are not familiar with the CLYNK program, you can inquire at Hannaford.)

Swanville:

- Swanville Grocery, Route 141

All donations will go toward continuing Triad safety programs for older residents.

Triad's Facebook Page

Follow Triad on its all new Facebook page to find out what the organization is doing.



Elder Abuse is domestic violence.

For help or information call
NEW HOPE for WOMEN.

1-800-522-3304



Community Opportunities

Movie: *Casablanca*

FREE ADMISSION
FREE POPCORN
FREE BEVERAGES

Date: Wednesday, April 22

Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Colonial Theater

High Street, Belfast

(For updates, check the Triad Facebook page or call 1-866-426-7555.)

Drug Take-Back Day

Date: Saturday, April 25

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Sheriff's Office

Public Safety Way, Belfast

Bring unwanted medications for safe disposal. If you wish to donate returnable cans/bottles to support Triad programs, we will be prepared to take those too.

Senior Appreciation Day

FREE BINGO
FREE LUNCH
EXHIBITS

Date: Thursday, June 11

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Place: Tarratine Hall

Main Street, Belfast

Senior Prom

DJ playing music from the past

DANCING

REFRESHMENTS

Date: Friday, June 26

Time: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Place: YMCA

Lincolville Ave, Belfast

YMCA Senior Luncheon

Date: Last Wednesday each month

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Place: YMCA - Lincolville Ave., Belfast

Cost: Donations welcome

You need to reserve a space with the YMCA so they know how many meals to prepare. Make your reservation at least one week earlier by calling the Y at **338-4598**.

Triad will have a display there. You can pick up Files of Life, subscribe to this newsletter, get printed materials on how to keep safe from scams and more.

Triad Auction

Date: Friday, September 11

Time: 5:00 p.m. for viewing

5:45 p.m. for auction

Place: Tarratine Hall

Main Street, Belfast

Water Color Basics

Explore the basics of water color painting. Special attention will be provided to beginners. You will need to bring your own supplies.

Date: Mondays

Time: 10:00 a.m. to noon

Place: YMCA

Lincolville Ave., Belfast

Cost: Free

Friday Night Flix

The Belfast Free Library offers movies on Friday nights. During March, the movies are set in Maine. Enjoy an evening out.

Movie: *Cider House Rules*

Date: March 27

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Abbott Room, Belfast Free Library

Cost: Free



Waldo County Triad is a partnership of **seniors, law enforcement, and local organizations** dedicated to improving the safety of people 50 and older in their homes and communities through education and service.

Triad Phone Number: 1-866-426-7555
email: triad@waldocountyme.gov

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Waldo County Triad programs are open to all regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

To change your mailing address or to add or remove a name to this mailing list, call Waldo County Triad toll-free at 1-866-426-7555 or e-mail triad@waldocountyme.gov

Spring 2020

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