



Triad Newsletter

A Waldo County Joint Venture in Senior Safety

Volume 18, Issue 3

Summer 2020

Triad is Open and Ready to Help

Waldo County Triad would typically be offering several public programs during the summer and fall months. With the importance of social distancing this year, Triad has cancelled these programs. However, we are continuing to offer our other programs.

Friendly Caller Program - Older people who live alone are invited to sign up to call in to the Waldo County Communications Center on a daily basis to let someone know they are okay and to have a conversation. If the person does not call in, the Communications Center will call them. If the senior does not answer, a patrol deputy is sent to the home to check on them.

This program is credited with saving the lives of several people who had fallen and could not get to the phone. In these days of social isolation, this program may be more important than ever as it also offers an opportunity for a conversation. To sign up, call **338-2040**.

Newsletter - We will continue to provide this newsletter to help keep people aware of some of the many scams out there designed to trick the public into sending money or giving out their personal information to use for a fraudulent purpose. The newsletter is free to Waldo County residents 50 and over.

File of Life - This is a small free packet for your medical history. This information is useful to first responders as they need to know about medications and medical conditions before they begin treatment. You will get a larger one to leave on the refrigerator door and a smaller one to carry in a wallet. All first responders in the county know to look for them.

Collection of Unwanted Drugs - Triad has two secure drug collection boxes where people can leave medications that are expired or no longer needed - one in the lobby of the Searsport Public Safety building and another in the lobby of the Waldo County Sheriff's office. Every year, Triad collects hundreds of pounds of pills in these boxes. By getting unwanted medications out of the house, they don't get taken accidentally, get stolen, or end up in the water supply.

Reflective House Number Signs - Triad is still making reflective house number signs. The sign can be set on a post to put near the edge of the road or made without a post to attach to a rural mailbox. A sign is \$10 without a post and \$15 with a post. Someone will deliver and install your sign if that is helpful.

Wanderer Program - Triad registers those who are prone to wander away from home. Once a family reports a person missing, a photo goes out immediately to all police along with any special information they need to know about the person. It is an opportunity to bring people home safely and quickly.

911 Cell Phones - If you do not have a cellphone, Triad can provide you with a free one that can be used to dial for emergency help. These phones can only be used to dial 911. Persons are provided with a phone and a charger and the phone will be tested at your location to be sure there is a signal.

Contact Triad - For services, call

1-866-426-7555

or email

triad@waldocountyme.gov

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

Scam Regarding Church Pastor

A reader sent information about the following scam that happened at a local church. Members of the congregation received an email message stating that the pastor was in need of urgent help. When people responded to the message they were told that the pastor was working with “patients” and needed eBay cards in large dollar amounts. They were told that the patients needed medical equipment that the pastor could buy for them on eBay. They were further instructed not to call the pastor who was busy with meetings. Some people did buy eBay cards for several hundred dollars and called back with the numbers on the cards.

A clerk at one of the stores where cards were purchased tried to tell the buyers that this might be a scam. The buyers were adamant that the pastor needed their help. The clerk notified the store manager who contacted the police.

The people of the church trusted their pastor and wanted to help. The pastor never knew this scheme was going on until the police got involved. Scammers use the names of trusted local people and organizations in their efforts to steal money from unsuspecting people.

Job Offer Scam

A reader received an email message stating that a company was moving to the U.S. and needed a payroll clerk. The reader had been selected to apply for this well-paying position. The business was not named in the notice nor was the pay nor the job responsibilities. It just said to reply for details, if interested. It is likely that if the person replied to such a message, the person would have to fill out a job application that would include a lot of personal information. Probably there would be a fee attached as part of the application process. Scammers know that many Americans are unemployed right now and hope that some fall for this scam. Examining the email address shows that it originated in China. Real employers do not contact strangers with job offers out of the blue by email or social media.

Loan Scam

A reader received an email stating that if you need a business loan, personal loan, car loan, student loan, debt consolidation loan, unsecured loan, or risk capital, you have come to the right place. I am your loan solution the message said. I am a private lender who loans to individuals and businesses at the interest rate of 2%.

The reader was instructed to send name, loan amount needed, required duration of loan, phone number, monthly income, and occupation to an email address. With that information, the lender would get back to you. Undoubtedly, the lender needed a fee for processing the “loan” that would never come.

By looking carefully at the email address used by the sender, you would see that it originated in Brazil. This is yet another scammer from another country trying to take advantage of people who are unemployed or having trouble keeping a business afloat at this time.

Money Bequest Scam

This email said it was from a newly widowed woman who was now near death from cancer. Her late husband had won a government contract for which he was paid \$100 million. They had put that money in a bank. Since she was childless, she was looking for a person who would put part of the money into a profitable business venture and part into charitable causes. The writer states that as soon as the reader replied, contact information for the bank holding these funds will be provided and the money would be released to the reader. Undoubtedly, the reader will have to pay fees in order to have the money released and those fees are likely to have to be in the form of a gift card.

This is a scam. The writer does not know the name of the reader but somehow selected this person to get these funds. This scam is designed to play on the sympathy of the reader for a woman who is supposedly sick and the reader might be able to help with a dying wish.



Coronavirus Scams

Most scams are built around topics that are related to our fears, the need for more money, or loneliness. The current COVID-19 situation has created all of these issues for a large segment of the population. Since more people are working from home at this time, scammers are making more calls and sending more email messages. The need for social distancing has made people feel more isolated than usual and people living alone are more likely than normal to answer the phone and talk to someone who calls. Scammers know this, too.

Here are just a few of the scams that have been discovered related to the virus.

Coronavirus Treatment Scams

There are loads of people selling “treatments” to prevent coronavirus. The Federal Trade Commission halted 160 of these marketers in the first 90 days of the virus outbreak. These treatments are promoted through phone calls, email messages, as well as on social media. Sellers of treatments are saying such things as they will provide intravenous vitamin C and D infusions, a supposed stem cell therapy or immune-boosting shots, just to name a few. There is no research to show that any of these treatments will prevent coronavirus.

Americans want their former lives back and know that may not happen in any real way until we have an effective treatment to prevent the disease. Scammers are well-aware of this and are using this concern as a way to take a lot of money from the anxious public.

Once there is an effective treatment to prevent COVID-19, you should not expect to hear it through a phone call or an ad. The CDC and many drug manufacturers and other medical researchers are working flat out to get a safe and effective vaccine to make people immune to the disease. When the real products become available, expect to learn about it from such sources as the CDC, your pharmacy, your physician or other knowledgeable sources.

Shortage of Goods Scams

There is high demand for online health and safety items such as face masks, toilet paper and other paper products. There have been many reports of customers paying for masks or toilet paper and then never getting the items. The scammers took their money and then either refused to answer questions about the order or took down the store website altogether.

Here are a few tips before ordering online from a company you have not done business with before.

1. **Type the company name into your search engine and then write the word complaints after it.** For example, if you search with Google and are thinking of buying from the company Scarce Products, you might type in Scarce Products complaints. You should get a listing of any complaints from other consumers.
2. **Look at the terms of sale.** Total the full purchase price, including taxes, shipping and handling. Find out when you can expect delivery. By law, companies must ship within the time stated on their website or within 30 days if there is no shipping time given. Check to see what the return policy is. Do you have to pay the return shipping costs? Is there a restocking fee?
3. **Pay with a credit card.** By federal law, you do not have to pay for merchandise you did not get or that you returned and did not receive a refund. If your card was charged and your merchandise did not arrive within the specified time or you returned it, you can contact the credit card company and set up a billing dispute. The credit card company will take it from there.

You can try to work out any issues you have around a purchase with the seller. However, you can get a credit card company involved to help. If you suspect a scam, contact the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the company at <http://ftc.gov/complaint>.



More Scams

Between mid-March and June 1, Maine residents reported 647 scams to the Federal Trade Commission. Some of these people had lost money in scams and others were just notifying the FTC that the scams were happening here. In those few weeks, Mainers admitted to losing \$140,000 to scammers. The real figure is undoubtedly higher.

Pet-Related Scams

Many people who used to be away at work through the day suddenly found themselves working from home. It seemed like a good time to get a dog and be able to do some training. Some older persons who were living alone became very isolated when their friends and family could no longer visit and the events they had been attending were cancelled. It seemed like a good time to get a companion. Soon there were very few animals left in some shelters and many people turned to online offers for a new pet. Scammers are all over the internet with animals to buy. You can find ads listing supposedly purebred dogs for prices much lower than a reputable breeder would charge. The photo may look like a dog with great conformation but it may be a picture of an animal the seller does not even own. People have sent their money but no animal ever arrived or the one that came is not anything like the one pictured. Some sellers are asking buyers to pay with gift cards instead of a credit card. Requesting a gift card as payment is a sure sign it is a scam. This may be a great time to get a new pet. Just be sure you do your research so you get the pet you want.



Elder Abuse is domestic violence.

For help or information call
NEW HOPE for WOMEN.

1-800-522-3304

Scams involving Agencies

The fact that most people are getting some type of governmental payments has led to a new scam. Lots of people are reporting that they are getting phone calls, texts, and emails from people claiming to be from the Social Security Administration, IRS, Bureau of Census, or other government agency. There are several types of these messages. Some say that you are eligible for a COVID-19 package or Medicare benefits. Other people have said they got fraudulent contacts stating that they have been approved to get money due to the virus situation. The scammer will ask for your name, mailing address, date of birth, Medicare or Social Security number saying they need to be sure they have contacted the right person. Don't give them that personal information. They will use it or they will sell it to other criminals who will use it for their fraudulent purposes.

Unemployment Benefits Scam

The fact that thousands of Mainers were unemployed overnight in March set up a situation for scammers to use. Typically, once a person makes an unemployment claim, the Department of Labor contacts the former employer to get the details of the job loss. The Department of Labor received huge numbers of applications for benefits within a few days. Maine and most states were so overwhelmed that the only way they could see to get money out to people who applied was to pay it out and check up on the validity of the claim later. Mixed in among the early claimants were lots of scammers making claims in the names of other people. The scammers would receive one or two payments in various names and then the bank account would be closed and the scammer would disappear. If a person who was actually unemployed made a claim after an imposter had made one in the same name, the person who deserved to get the payments was left without money since according to the records, they were already being paid. Now states nationwide are left trying to sort out who is making a genuine claim and who is not. Lots of true applicants were left without money.



Even More Scams

New Twist to the Grandparent Scam

The grandparent scam has been going on for years. Apparently it has been effective enough for scammers to continue to use it as they have learned that most grandparents would be eager to help a grandchild in trouble. In these days of coronavirus, the scammer either calls, texts, or emails a person claiming that a grandchild is sick and in a hospital and needs money to pay the bill. The message will be urgent and will ask to have money wired immediately.

If you get such a contact, resist the urge to act right away no matter how dramatic the story is. Ask questions of the person reaching you that a stranger could not possibly answer. Call a family member who may know where the grandchild is. Make this call even if you have been told to keep the request a secret. Never send cash, gift cards or wire money in response to one of these notifications. Once the scammer has any of these forms of payment, the money is gone.

Computer Technician Support Scam

With so many people working from home now, the technician scam is back in full force. Most often, these scam callers say they represent Microsoft and there is a problem with your computer that needs urgent repair. These scammers try to talk you into letting them fix a problem that does not exist. Here are a few suggestions about computer repair:

- Never give control of your computer or your credit card to someone who called you out of the blue.
- Security warnings from real computer repair businesses will not ask you to call a phone number to get help.
- If you think there may be a problem with your computer, update your security software and run a scan. This may correct any problems on your computer.
- If you need help with fixing a computer problem, go to someone you know and trust. If you don't know a person doing this work, check with friends for a recommendation.

Casino Secrets Scam

There is a scam stating that it is from the Royal Ace Casino that will give you secrets to winning. It says these secrets have been used by royal families for years and now they can be yours. They are so sure you will enjoy playing and winning at their site using their information that they will give you \$4,000 to entice you to begin playing. You just have to provide your personal information to get started. Once again, this is just someone trying to get information about you to use or sell to another criminal. Do not reply to such messages.

Make Your Donations Count

The coronavirus crisis has brought out the best and the worst in people. Charities and individuals across the country are stepping up to do what they can. Some of these efforts take money to provide services and many people are donating to help. Scammers are taking advantage of the situation and setting up fake charities to swindle donations from good-hearted people. No one wants their donation to go to a scammer. Do some research before you give.

- Type the charity's name into your search engine and add scam after it to see if you get any evidence of problems with the organization.
- Donate using a credit card. If you learn that there is a problem with this charity, you can have the credit card company stop payment.
- Double check the name of the organization. Many fake charities use names almost like the real ones, especially well-know charities. There might be one word misspelled in the name so at quick glance, you think you are giving to the real organization
- Check the charity's website, address and mission. Look for a breakdown of how donations are spent: programs vs administration. How many people are helped? Is money spent locally?
- Do not assume that a donation request on social media is legitimate just because a friend liked it or shared it.



Things to Know

Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

In these difficult times, more people than ever can benefit from the food cupboards. Some have expanded hours or altered services. If this is your first time attending, you might want to call first to be sure the services remain as listed.

Food Pantries

Belfast:

Beacon of Hope on the Hill

21 Patterson Hill Road
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Contact: **505-5414** ---Joanne Abbott

Greater bay Area Ministerial Food Cupboard

Visits are currently suspended
Call to place order. If family qualifies, food will be delivered
Contact: **834-5815** --- Jim Kelly

Little River Church

259 Northport Avenue
3rdThursday from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Contact: **338-4843** --- Deb Edgerly

No Greater Love Food Pantry

34 Field Street
Every Saturday, 10:30a.m. - noon
Contact: **299-2093** ---Tanya Bormet

Jackson:

Jackson Food Pantry

260 Village Road
Every Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Contact: **322-9469** --- Cindy Ludden

Liberty:

Liberty Area Food Pantry

100 Main Street
3rd Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Contact: **589-4246** --- Anita Pease

Morrill:

Crossroads Food Cupboard

1106 Augusta Road
Every Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Contact: **342-4044** --- Raelee Heath

Northport:

Northport Food Pantry

489 Atlantic Highway
3rd Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Contact: **781-801-0331**--- Patti Wright

Palermo:

Palermo Food Pantry

Community Center on Turner Ridge Road
Every Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - noon
Contact: **993-2225** (or after hours **441-6447**)
--- June Nerber

Searsport:

Searsport Congregational & Methodist Church Food Cupboard

43 E. Main Street
1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Contact: **548-6204** --- Ralph Harvey

Unity:

Volunteer Regional Food Pantry

180 Depot Street
3rd Saturday, 6:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
Contact: **948-6232** --- Richard & Mertice Moore

Winterport:

Neighbor's Cupboard

40 Park Drive
Every Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Contact: **299-5186**

Soup Kitchens

Belfast Soup Kitchen (new Location)

31 Belmont Avenue
Monday - Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Currently take-out service
Contact: **338-4345**

Unity Soup Kitchen

Unity Community Center, 22 School Street
Every Thursday, 11:00 a.m. until food is gone
Currently curbside service

Monroe Food for All Soup Kitchen

Currently Suspended
For more information, call **223-9951**



Community Opportunities

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.

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 the Waldo County website under the tab for the sheriff's office.

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



Elder Abuse is domestic violence.

For help or information call
NEW HOPE for WOMEN.

1-800-522-3304

The Market of Unity

Once again this season, the Market of Unity is open to sellers and buyers on Saturdays in the parking lot of the town office. It is an outdoor market with stalls where vendors are selling food, garden produce, and lots of unique hand-crafted items. Vendors attending may vary from week to week so it is not always the same.

If you are interested in selling, one week or every week, there is no charge for the space. You do not need to come from Unity as the group behind this project is trying to provide an opportunity for people from the area. There is a form to fill out with basic information so the managers know what vendors plan to sell and so they can promote the products. For more information and an application form, check their Facebook page. You can also call **649-1925**.

To check it out, visit the Market of Unity:

Saturdays

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Town Office Parking Lot

School Street, Unity

The Belfast Art Market

The Belfast Art Market is an outdoor market that shows Maine artists offering a variety of unique works - ceramics, clothing, jewelry, leather goods, paintings and more. The space is free and there is no commission. It is an opportunity for people to get exposure for their works. If you would like to sell, more information can be found at

<http://waterfallarts.org/artmarket>

or call **338-2222**

The market is out under tents, rain or shine. Vendors are on the grounds of the Waterfall Arts building alongside the Belfast Farmers' Market. Some of the vendors do not come each so you can see different things in different weeks. Visit the market on:

Fridays through September 25

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

256 High Street, Belfast



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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

Summer 2020

Change Service Requested

Waldo County Triad
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