



Triad Newsletter

A Waldo County Joint Venture in Senior Safety

Volume 20, Issue 2

Spring 2022

Triad Happenings

Triad and Lions Club Event

Triad and the Belfast Lions Club have teamed up to bring you an opportunity to get rid of some of the items you need to get out of your house. Triad will be collecting unwanted medications as part of the National Drug Take-Back Day. Bring outdated or unwanted pills for proper disposal. Also Triad has hired a shredder truck to destroy documents containing personal information. These records include::

- Old tax records
- Old bank statements
- Credit card statements
- Medical Records
- Any other documents containing personal information such as your Social Security number, Medicare number or other insurance numbers, credit card numbers, bank account numbers, or date of birth.

The Belfast Lions Club will be collecting unwanted eyeglasses and hearing aids. They will be refurbished and given to people who cannot afford to buy them.

The event is scheduled for:

Saturday, April 30
(note the new date)
Belfast Public Works Facility
Crocker Road, Belfast
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Triad is Back

Triad is renewing some of its former events. We will use COVID-19 appropriate protocols to help ensure safety. We hope you can join us.

Board of Directors

Triad will begin holding in-person meetings of its board of directors. If you think you might be interested in helping to build programs to keep residents 50 and over safer in their homes and communities, we invite you to visit a meeting or talk to a board member. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the sheriff's office. The first meeting in a very long time will be held on April 13.

Senior Luncheon

The annual senior appreciation luncheon is being organized. There will be coffee and exhibits, Bingo with prizes, free luncheon of hamburgers or hotdogs plus beverages and dessert.

Thursday, June 2
Tarratine Hall
Main Street, Belfast
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Auction

The annual auction will be held on **September 9**. If you find a useful item you no longer need, consider donating it to the Triad auction. You can call **338-6786** to make a donation of goods. We cannot use large furniture, electronics, or clothing. Thank you for any help you can offer.

Read about lots of 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 Submitted by Our Readers

AT&T Calling

A reader received an automated message stating that her IP address had been hacked. She was directed to "Press 1" for help in fixing it. The message said if the call was not answered in 24 hours, the landline and internet services would be shut off.

Since the reader did not respond to the call, we don't know what would have happened if she had pressed the specified number. She might have been asked for money to repair the problem. Perhaps the scammer was looking to determine if the number was a valid one so he could sell it on to other scammers. Do not respond to these calls that tell you to press a number. Whatever the purpose, it is not to your benefit.

Donation Scam

A reader received an email from a woman who said she had won the Powerball jackpot a few years ago. In light of the pandemic and inflation, she was giving the reader \$450,000. The reader was to use part of the funds for himself and give the rest to a charity that would distribute it to those in need. The message asked the reader to reply for further details.

This email does not even address the recipient by name and yet is looking to give him nearly a half million dollars. If you reply, the sender is likely to want your full name, mailing address, and bank account number. The person could say the number is needed so funds can be direct deposited. It is more likely the sender is looking to remove money from the account.

Mary Beth Taylor

Triad dedicates this edition of the newsletter in memory of Mary Beth Taylor of Northport. She served on the Triad board of directors for five years and helped collate many editions of this newsletter and filled lots of the File of Life medical packets. Triad greatly appreciates the support she provided to the organization.

Winning Scam

A reader received a message saying it was from Warren Buffett. He was looking to share his wealth while he was living. The message said the reader's email address had been randomly selected to receive \$2,500,000 with no strings attached. The reader was directed to reply shortly as Warren Buffett was planning to leave the country for a while.

Would you wonder how email addresses are selected randomly? Generally, if you did not give the sender your email address, it was stolen from some company you have done business with. Do not reply to messages from people you do not know.

Order Scam

Three readers submitted this scam. In each situation, the person got an invoice saying they had bought a product from a well-know business and the message gave the amount owed. The message goes on to say that if you did not place this order call the customer service desk at the phone number provided.

One person got an emailed invoice for a sound bar and woofer she allegedly ordered for \$1,527.25 from Office Depot. Another reader got a message that her subscription to McAfee for computer security had been renewed for \$299.99. The third reader got a similar invoice for a Sony TV purchased through Amazon for \$1,219.89.

None of these people bought the item listed on the invoice. The hope is that a person will panic and call the customer service number provided. It is likely that the scammer will say he needs either your store account number, checking account number or credit card number so these funds can be credited to you. This scam is widespread now and the business are always large one where lots of people shop. The scammer will send emails out to thousands of people and know that some will reply so they can steal their money.



More Scams

Lost Pet Scam

Posting on social media is a great way to alert a wide range of people about a lost pet. Sadly, that publicity can sometimes put you at risk for scams.

The Better Business Bureau reports that this is how it could happen. The owner of a lost animal shares a phone number and a photo of the pet. A few days later the owner is contacted by someone who says the animal has been found. The owner asks for a photo. The caller might say something like he is out of town right now and the pet was seen near his house or the camera is not working on his phone. Then the caller will begin to pressure the owner for money to return the animal. The scammer does not have the pet. Owners are often tempted to pay to get their animal back but they should not do it. The caller will take the money and quickly disappear.

If you should happen to lose a pet and want to seek help through social media, there are some ways to prevent falling victim to a scammer.

- **Limit the information in the social posts.** You might omit a unique physical attribute about your pet. If the caller knows this detail about your pet, you know the call is valid.
- **Watch for spoofed numbers.** If someone calls claiming to have your pet, ask for a phone number where you can call them back. Con artists often use a device so the number appearing on the caller ID looks like a local one but can be coming from anywhere.
- **Ask for a photo.** If the “finder” offers excuses, this is a red flag.
- **Know that a request for payment as a gift card or a pre-paid debit card is something a scammer would do.**
- **Have a veterinarian microchip your cat or dog.** You can also purchase an ID tag to put on a cat or dog collar that includes a GPS tracker so you can find your pet’s location.
- **Call the police if your pet was stolen or you see someone trying to sell your pet online.**

Scams About Vintage Clothing

Currently, many people are buying vintage clothing and jewelry. That means scammers are at work. This is what can happen. You may see an on social media for a vintage item that looks to be in great condition and the price is reasonable. You visit the website listed in the ad and all looks okay so you make the purchase. Either you never get the item or what you receive is nothing like what was pictured online. In one example, a woman bought a vintage Chanel necklace for \$1,000 which would usually sell for about \$1,500. When it arrived, it was not a lovely necklace but a low-grade chain with a plastic pendant on it. She called the phone number on the website and was told in an unprofessional manner that there had never been a problem with anything the company sold to other customers and there was nothing they would do about it. Other scammers may just take the money, send nothing and never answer the phone.

Here are some ways to protect yourself from online scammers when shopping:

- **Avoid impulse buying, especially from social media ads.** Social media tracks your buying history so scammers can learn about your interests. Especially with unusual items, scammers try to make you feel that if you don’t buy now, it will be gone soon.
- **Check out the business before you buy from a new vendor.** Type the business name into the Better Business Bureau website (bbb.org) to find the company’s rating and customer reviews. Google the company name and add the word “scam” after it.
- **Check for valid contact information.** Trustworthy businesses should give a physical address. Check that out to be sure the business is actually located there.
- **Pay with a credit card.** You will have more financial protection.
- **Take a screenshot of the website in case it disappears.** Disputing the charges will be easier if it becomes necessary.



More Scams

COVID-19 Cure Scams

The Federal Trade Commission is targeting businesses that offer fake COVID-19 cures. Recently they took a company to court that was selling a tea-based beverage for \$60 per pint stating that it would cure COVID-19. When the case came to court, the business could produce no scientific evidence that their product had any effect on the disease. This company is now out of business. Undoubtedly, there are others out there looking to take you money.

When it comes to fighting COVID-19, any real treatment available is going to come through a pharmacy or a medial facility. It will not be found in an ad by a private business.

Work at Home Scams

Some older people want work-from-home jobs to supplement their Social Security and to keep safe from the virus. Millions of younger people are leaving their jobs in order to work from home as they see the benefits of working at odd hours, helping to resolve a childcare issue, needing to buy less gas and the opportunity to wear casual clothes while working. In the end, people often see working from home as a way to save more money. It can be with the right job.

Scammers are flooding job sites with professional-looking ads for work-from-home jobs that offer all kinds of rewards. These jobs are often about medical billing, data entry or other things that could be done outside an office. A scammer will either ask for money up front in order to pay for training or supplies or they will ask for a job application to be filled out **before** they see your resume. The application will include a lot of personal information such as your Social Security number and maybe even a bank account number which they say is for direct deposit of your pay.

Never pay to get a job. If money is requested, it is a red flag. Be sure a business is legitimate before you provide personal information needed. Google the company. Check if the address is real and if it's name is related to scams.

Online Auction Scams

You see an ad for a website auctioning cars, motorhomes, boats and other big ticket items. The site may claim to be affiliated with the government. The auction may require that to participate you must register by providing a copy of your driver's license and other personal information. After you register, you place a bid on an item. To your surprise, you win the item for a price that seems almost too low. The auctioneer give you instructions on how to transfer the money. Once you have paid, the item is not delivered. You try contacting the auctioneer but no one answers the phone.

One person reported that he bid on and won a 2019 Nissan Titan pickup with 17,000 miles on it for a few thousand dollars. The next day he received an invoice so he could get his bank to transfer the funds. While he thought he was dealing with a business in Oklahoma, the invoice was made out to an individual in Georgia. The buyer called the auctioneer and began asking a lot of questions. After a while, the "auctioneer" said he was going to cancel the sale. That buyer did not lose his money.

Online auctions can be a great way to get items for a good price. If it says it is a government auction, check with the branch of government to make sure the auction is legitimate. Don't let a scammer con you out of an entry fee or pre-bid deposit. Before you submit personal information, be sure you can trust the company or auctioneer. Call to find out about the auction. If you speak to someone involved with the auction who is uncomfortable with your questions, don't participate. Google the name of the company plus the work "scam" to see if others have had issues with them.

Thank You!

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



Things To Know

Social Media Scams

Last year, more than 95,000 people reported to the Federal Trade Commission that they had been scammed with a con that started on social media. Social media is where about 26% of all scams began and the reported losses amounted to \$770 million. This is a substantial increase over previous years. There are certainly many more people who never reported they had been scammed because of embarrassment.

The reports show that investment, romance and online shopping scams are rampant on social media. People report losing the **most money** to romance scams and investment scams, especially those involving cryptocurrency. However, **most scams** reported were from people who were trying to buy something they saw marketed on social media. Most said the item they paid for never arrived. Others reported fake ads impersonating real online retailers.

Scammers trying to get your money are always looking for new ways to reach people and they will use whatever they know about you to target their pitch. Here are some things to do to protect yourself no matter which social media platform you use:

- Try to limit who can see your social media posts. Visit your **privacy settings** to set some restrictions.
- Some platforms let you opt out of targeted advertising. Check to see if you can do that.
- If you see an “urgent” message from a friend asking for money, stop. This could be a hacker using your friend’s name.
- Check out a new online company before you buy. Type the name of the business into your browser and then add the word “complaints” or “scam” to see what you find. You may learn whether this is a valid business or not.
- Don’t deal with a vendor that requires payment as cryptocurrency, gift card, or wire transfer. This is likely to be a scam.

Spoofing

It reached the point where Americans were getting so many scam calls that they stopped answering the phone if they did not recognize the number on the Caller ID. That got scammers to try something else. For a number of years scammers have been using a device to change the outgoing name or number on their phone to make it read differently on the recipient’s Caller ID. This is called “spoofing”.

The scammer might set the device so that when the number is received, it appears to be a local call and lots of people will reply to that. Often scammers use the number of an organization or agency in order to get a person to answer the phone. A favorite trick is to use the number of the local court or police department. That would seem safe enough to most people so they would answer the call. Once they get you on the phone, they begin their spiel. If they have set the number to be the court’s phone number, they might say you failed to show up for your court date or jury duty and they can fix that for you if you pay the fine to the caller, often using a gift card. If you thought about it, the court system does not collect fines in the form of gift cards. Nationwide scammers are calling using a number of an area police department. The scammers say they are a member of the police department and are asking for money for families of injured officers. The public has donated millions. Know that police will not call asking for money.

Scammers often use the device to call after a disaster. Your Caller ID might read like the call is from an organization such as the Red Cross. In reality, it might be a scammer pretending to represent the organization.

Using the device, the scammer can be calling from anywhere. By using an inexpensive phone, they can afford to discard it after they have collected money from a few people. There is no way to trace them. They can buy another phone at a different location and continue scamming.

Be sure to know to whom you are speaking.



Things to Know About Triad

Reaching More Seniors

Waldo County Triad reaches approximately 2,500 Waldo County residents who are over 50. The board of directors is interested in reaching even more area seniors. If you know an older person who is not familiar with Triad, perhaps you can let them know. We can send them a brochure on Triad services in Waldo County or we can add them to this newsletter mailing list. We would like to connect with all seniors interested in the services Triad offers.

Reflective House Number Signs

If you would like to have a reflective house number sign, Triad sells them at cost. The signs are very helpful to emergency responders as they look for a particular house, especially at night. It also works for delivery persons.

The sign can be made attached to a post to be set beside the road out of the way of the plow. If you prefer, it can be made to attach to a rural mailbox (no post). The cost is \$15 with the post and \$10 without.

Send your order to:

Waldo County Triad
P.O. Box 125
Belfast, ME 04915

Include your phone number so someone can contact you when the sign is ready. If it is helpful, someone can deliver and install it.

Unwanted Medications

If you have unwanted medications and don't want to wait for the next Drug Take-Back Day, you can bring them to one of the Triad secure boxes during office hours for disposal. Boxes are located in the lobby of the Searsport Public Safety building and another in the lobby of the Waldo County Sheriff's office. Just drop them in the box.



We cannot accept needles or liquids.

Friendly Caller Program

The winter months are often particularly lonely ones for older persons living alone, especially in these times. Triad offers the Friendly Caller program to give people a daily contact with the outside world and the opportunity to let someone know they are okay.

Participants call the County Communications Center every morning to have a chat with someone. If the person does not call in, the dispatchers will try calling the house. If there is no answer, they will contact the person designated by the individual to go to the house to see that everything is okay. To register or to learn more about the program, call 338-2040.

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. If you know someone who lives outside the area and might enjoy reading the newsletter, send us their email address.

Contact Triad

If you want more information about Triad services, contact Triad at:

1-866-426-7555

or email

triad@waldocountyme.gov





Community Opportunities

Triad and Lions Club Event

Triad will offer drug take-back and shredding opportunity. Bring your unwanted medications and documents containing personal information for proper disposal.

Bring your unwanted hearing aids and eyeglasses to be collected by the Lions Club to be used by someone else.

This will be a drive-through event.

Date: April 30

Location: Belfast Public Works facility
Crocker Road, Belfast

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

Pickleball

This is a racket sport played on a badminton court with a lowered net and a perforated plastic ball and paddles.

Date: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: YMCA Gymnasium

Home Repair Volunteers

The Mason's Elder Outreach program helps older homeowners with small home maintenance jobs like changing lightbulbs in ceiling fixtures or outdoor lights, changing batteries in smoke detectors, cleaning gutters, cutting up branches that have fallen in the yard, adding a handrail to the stairs, or replacing a board on the steps. This program is available to older people who need a little help maintaining their home safely.

If you would like to request help with your home or property, call Aging Well in Waldo County at:

218-0207 and select Option 2

Leave a message about what you want done and your call will be returned.

If the project is something the Masons can do, they will send a volunteer. If they cannot do the work you require, Aging Well in Waldo County may be able to recommend a solution for you.

Car-Hop Dining at the YMCA

Triad is one of the sponsors of the drive-through luncheons held at the YMCA each month for those 60 or over. To take part, you need to register so they know how many meals to prepare.

Date: Last Wednesday of each month

Start Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Front Circle at the YMCA
157 Lincolville Ave., Belfast

Registration: Call **338-4598**

Triad Board of Directors Meetings

New members and visitors welcome.

Date: Second Wednesday

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Sheriff's office, Belfast

Triad's Senior Appreciation Day

Date: Thursday, June 2

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

Location: Tarratine Hall
Main Street, Belfast

Triad Auction

Date: Friday, September 9

Location: Tarratine Hall
Main Street, Belfast

Time: Viewing - 4:45 p.m.

Auction - 5:45 p.m.

Food available for purchase beginning at 4:45.

To donate usable items, call the sheriff's office at **338-6786** to make arrangements.

Triad cannot accept clothing, electronics or large pieces of furniture.

Thank you

to the **Tarratine Tribe** for their support in helping Triad to keep Waldo County seniors safer in their homes and communities..



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

Newsletter Staff
Editor ----- Pat Pierson
Proofreader: Linda Didelot

Collating and Mailing Team:

Marian Burke Ellen Hoyt Mike Lawson
Linda Didelot Audrey Lawson Sandra Otis Anderson
Barbara Gould Evie Tinker

Triad Officers

Chairman ----- Jeff Trafton
Vice Chairman --Sue Dupler
Secretary ----- Owen Smith
Treasurer -----Matt Curtis

Triad Board of Directors

• Eileen Anderson	• Sue Dupler	• Ellen Hoyt	• Sarah Rossiter
• Marian Burke	• Joyce Fenner	• Lori Kuwik	• Owen Smith
• Sue Corey	• Donna Hopkins	• Pat Pierson	• Evie Tinker
• Matt Curtis	• Steve Hopkins	• Sandra Otis Anderson	• Jeff Trafton

Spring 2022

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

Change Service Requested

Waldo County Triad
PO Box 125
Belfast ME 04915



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
BELFAST ME 04915
PERMIT NO. 26