Law Enforcement
Community Services
Seniors

Triad Newsletter

A Waldo County Joint Venture in Senior Safety

Volume 24, Issue 3 Summer 2026

Look How They Are Scamming Us Now!

Scam Involving Office of the Treasury

Nationwide, people are getting phone calls, texts and email messages stating they have thousands of dollars in unclaimed property being held by the state. This might be in the form of money, stocks or other assets. Scammers use the name of the agency that would hold such funds and give a specific amount you are eligible to receive. They may say time is running out to claim it.

While the State of Maine holds millions of dollars in unclaimed property, they will not contact you about it. They may provide notices in newspapers or TV spots letting people know where to search for your name in their vast list of owners but they will not contact you directly. If you were the real owner of property held by the state, you would need to contact them and show you are the person to whom it belongs. If you do not claim it, the state continues to hold it. If it remains there after your death, your estate can claim it if they can provide evidence they are the rightful owners. It never goes anywhere until it is collected by a true owner.

Scammers contact people telling them about their good fortune. They will ask for Social Security and bank account numbers. Sometimes they claim they will check the state files for you for a fee. If you respond, the scammer has your personal information and the fee you provided. If you have lost property being held by the state, there is never a charge to get it once you have shown it is really yours. Don't fall for this scam.

Scam Involving the Iranian Conflict

The Federal Trade Commission reports receiving information from the public regarding several scams that somehow include Iran. Here are three:

- Scammers contact you stating they are from your bank and they have detected a charge from Iran on your checking account or credit card. When you say you did not make the charge, the scammer transfers you to another scammer who claims to be from a government agency that can help you get the funds returned to you. To do that, they need your bank account or card information.
- Scammers are putting themselves on dating websites often claiming to be in the military and deployed to Iran. After building a relationship, they will suddenly need money for some emergency.
- Scammers are setting up fake charities to help the people of Iran rebuild their lives. The scammer tries to pressure you to donate cash, gift cards or wire transfers. They do not represent a charity. They pocket any funds sent.

Iran is not known to be involved in any of these efforts to take your money. The current situation happens to provide scammers with an opportunity to give a new twist to old scams. Watch for these Iranian-connected scams.

Read about more scams inside →

More Scams

Scam Involving Spectrum

A reader gets her telecommunications services through Spectrum. She reported receiving a call telling her she was eligible to have her monthly bill cut by 50%. The caller said they were making this offer to senior citizens as they were losing this age group because the bills were too high. She was told that to sign up for this offer, they required automatic monthly payment through a credit or debit card or checking account. She told the caller she would need to think about it and he gave her a phone number to call back. Immediately, she called Spectrum using a number that was on her monthly bill. Spectrum verified that they were not making the offer. .

Credit Card Interest Rate Scam

A company calls you unexpectedly and offers to lower the interest rate on your credit card. They may already know the last four digits of your Social Security number, your mailing address and the balance on your card. This makes them seem like they actually represent the card company. As the discussion goes along, you will learn they will need payment to attempt to lower your interest rate. Once you make the payment, that is the end of the contact with them. There will be no help from them. They got what they wanted - your money plus any additional information you may have given them.

You can call the credit card company yourself and ask if you qualify for a lower interest rate. They can give you details on what you might do to be eligible if you are not currently.

Pass It Along

People who know about scams are more likely to be able to spot them. Triad asks you to share what you know about scams with your family and friends. Additionally, The Triad board of directors would be pleased to add them to the newsletter list if they have an interest.

Expiring Rewards Points Scam

There are numerous programs that offer reward points. There are reports of people receiving text messages saying their points are going to expire today. In order to keep them, you need to click on a link in the message. If you click on it, they will ask you for a lot of personal information or download harmful software onto your phone.

If you get a message like this, go to the companies website or app to check your points. Do not use the information in the text message.

CAPTCHA Scam

If you visit websites on the internet, you probably have encountered CAPTCHA. It is a group of pictures where you have to check all those that have a specified item in them (perhaps a traffic light), or you have to copy a set of numbers and letters exactly as they appear. This is to prove you are a real person trying to enter the website.

There are reports of a scam that looks like a CAPTCHA request and it says it is trying to verify that you are a human. Instead of asking you to match pictures or copy a set of numbers, it asks you to type in "Windows" plus a few other commands. The screen might then say the site is performing a security verification. What it is really doing is downloading harmful software onto your phone or computer. Once that is completed, scammers can easily get into your email account as well as find any other information that is on your computer or sites you have visited, including information on any mobile banking you have used such as passwords.

If you find you have started to download from a site like this, disconnect from the internet and run a security scan. Keep your security software up-to-date to catch viruses.

Thank you

to **Tarratine Tribe #13** for their support in helping Triad to keep Waldo County seniors safer.

More Scams

Weight Loss Drug Scam

Millions of Americans are trying to lose weight. Scammers are on top of this. In a two-month period, the Better Business Bureau got over 170 reports from 35 states about a scam where celebrities and physicians were seen in videos promoting a product called LipoMax. The marketing began on social media and scammers used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to generate what appeared to be well-known personalities talking about the benefits of the supplement described as the pink salt diet. Most consumers said Oprah Winfrey was the primary person endorsing the product exclaiming it gave such magnificent results that she provided the funding to manufacture LipoMax. It was guaranteed to work or you could get your money back.

You had to buy a 6-month supply for about $400. Once people bought it, sometimes it took a long time to receive or the amount billed was wrong. When they called customer service, no one answered. After they got the product, they were bombarded with texts and emails to sign up for a weight-loss coach for an additional fee as well as to buy more of the supplement. Customers learned that the product did not work as promoted and if they tried to return it, they did not get a refund. Oprah did not know this was happening in her name until a lot of the product was sold. She did not even know about the pink salt diet to say nothing of endorsing it.

Don't be quick to trust endorsements. It is much too easy today for someone to take a photo of a well-known person and use their voice to create what appears to be an authentic video. The majority of these scams begin on social media. Before you click on a link in a social media ad, try googling the name of the company to see if you can learn something about the experience of others with the product.

Something To Keep In Mind
If an offer sounds too good to be true,
it probably is!

Imposter Scams

Imposter scams are those where the person calling, texting or emailing you pretends to be a representative of a government agency or a big business. The number of reported imposter scams for 2025 was up 40% over the previous year. The amount of money lost to this type of scam was $3.5 billion, an increase of about 20%. The great increase was primarily due to a barrage of bogus messages about toll-collection programs such as E-Z-Pass. These messages appeared to come from the turnpike authority of the state where the person lives and claimed they failed to pay a toll and now they owe the toll and a fine. They were threatened with suspending their registration if they did not pay. It appears some people were not certain enough about whether or not they had committed this violation so they filled out the online form and provided a credit card payment. Others said they did not remember doing it but the fee was minimal so it was easier to just pay it. Scammers were hoping most people would pay for one reason or another and the approach worked. Scammers made millions.

Investment Scams

As has been the case for the last several years, individuals lost the most money in investment scams with the average personal loss being about $10,000. Scammers have learned how to lure people in with the promise of big returns in the near future. Buyers often receive false monthly reports that show the investment is performing exceedingly well. The reality is there is no investment and the money has been stolen by the scammer.

Scammers are likely to tell you there is very little risk in investing in whatever product they say they are selling. It might be stocks, cryptocurrency or gold. There is always risk in these types of investments. Check out the name of the investment company before you buy. A large percentage of these scams begin as ads on social media but they can be phone calls or other types of contacts.

More Scams

Travel Scams

Summer is the time when fraudsters really get into travel scams. People are looking for deals on flights or hotels and scammers are there to take advantage. Sometimes scammers use the ads from real hotels or airlines, create fake deals and put their phone numbers in them. People buy the deal and then find out they have no reserved room or airline ticket when it is time to use it.

If you find the ad on social media go to your browser and type in the name of the airline or hotel to see if you can find the deal and the same phone number. Also, carefully check to see that the result does not start with the word "sponsored" in small print. That means someone paid for it but not necessarily the actual business.

Pet Scams

Americans love animals. Scammers are taking advantage of this. They find pictures of cats and dogs in need of veterinary care. They will create a story of how this is the beloved pet of someone who is unable to pay for the expensive treatment the animal needs. They set up a website and ask for donations to help pay for the care. Many people will willing to help an animal.

Additionally, scammers are locating pictures of appealing cats and dogs and putting them up on the internet using the name of a real animal shelter. In this instance they are asking for donations so the shelter can continue to provide care for these animals until permanent homes are found. Although it looks like you are on the real website of the animal shelter, the donation feature directs funds to the scammer.

Animal shelters run online auctions and raffles to raise funds. Individuals and businesses donate items to help the cause. Scammers are contacting people telling them they have won one of the more valuable prizes. A scammer will tell you to collect your prize, you will need to pay for shipping or taxes. You never have to pay to collect a legitimate prize. Also, remember you have to enter to win a contest.

Wrong Number Text Scams

If you own a mobile phone, you have probably received texts from someone who acts as if they know you. You quickly figure out this is not really an acquaintance but out of politeness, you reply. AARP says scammers are now using this technique to get you involved with them. The message might start out by saying something like "Are you coming for dinner tonight?" or "My dog is sick and I need an appointment." The nature of the remark causes you to think you need to answer so you tell them they have the wrong number. As a result, the two of you start a conversation.

This is where the scam begins. The person continues to contact you and tries to build a relationship. Eventually, the person might let you know about a great investment that is really paying off for him or her and tries to encourage you to get involved with it, too. Maybe the new friend tells you he or she needs money for some emergency and asks you to lend it. Whatever the approach, this person is a scammer. The whole purpose of these interactions is to get your money. This scam is much like the romance scams but this person appears to be trying to befriend you without any romance involved. When an ask for money comes into the picture, you can be certain it is a scam.

As a side note, texting has now become the method used most frequently by scammers to directly contact potential victims. It used to be a phone call was the preferred approach scammers used to try to pressure a person into parting with their money. A text message is very quick and lots of people can be contacted in a short time period. More potential victims!

Triad Facebook Page

Waldo County Triad has a new Facebook administrator. She is doing a fantastic job of putting out current information. If you have internet access, be sure to check it out.

Things to Know

Maine Senior FarmShare Program

The Senior FarmShare Program is back. If you are a Maine resident age 60 or over and are income-eligible, you can sign up to receive vouchers worth $50 to use at the farmer's market. The vouchers come in $1 and $5 denominations and can be spent on fruits, vegetables, honey and fresh herbs at booths of participating farmers. There is an information booth at the market where you can sign up. Each person in the household who is at least 60 years of age can have a set of vouchers.

Income Eligibility

- 1 person household - under $29,526
- 2 person household - under $40,034
- 3 person household - under $ 50,542

You can sign up and use the vouchers to buy foods at the Belfast Farmers' Market located on the grounds of Waterfall Arts on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You get great foods and support local farmers.

Triad Board of Directors Meetings

Waldo County Triad is looking for a few new board members. The group develops and carries out programs to help improve the safety of area residents who are 50 years of age or older. If this sounds like something you might like to check out, we invite you to visit the meetings.

Date: Second Wednesday

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Sheriff's office
6 Public Safety Way, Belfast

Triad Shredding and Drug Collection

Triad gets many people asking when the next document shredding event will take place. It is done once per year in April. The next one has already been scheduled for:

Saturday, April 24, 2027

Make a note of the date. We will provide more information in newsletters, and on our Facebook page and website when the date is closer.

Ticks

In 2025, Maine set a record for the number of people diagnosed with a tick-borne disease. Some of these diseases are debilitating while others can be fatal. There are some things you can do to help protect yourself:

- Wear light-colored clothes when outdoors to help you see a tick on your clothing.
- Use insect repellent to help deter them from getting on you or wear garments permeated with permethrin.
- When you come in from outside, if possible, remove your clothing and toss it into the washer, not the hamper. Take a shower to wash ticks off before they burrow under your skin.
- Do a full body check to look for ticks that have attached themselves. If you do not have someone to help you, you can use a hand-held mirror to see the back of your legs. To see your back, you can stand back to a dresser mirror, medicine cabinet mirror, or a long mirror and use the hand-held mirror to look over a shoulder.
- If you find a tick attached to your body, remove it as soon as possible with tweezers or a tick remover. It takes a few hours for them to transmit a disease so the quicker you can remove it, the less likely you are to get sick from it. Get medical help right away if you develop symptoms after a tick bite.

You do not even have to go outside yourself to get a tick on you. If you have cats or dogs that go outside, they can pick up ticks in the grass and bring them inside to you. Ticks can fall off the animal and end up on the couch, bed or floor where the tick can move to you for its next meal.

There are medications to help prevent tick-borne diseases in animals but nothing yet for humans. Ticks have an anesthesia-like substance in their saliva so you may not even know it is there unless you see it. You need to be vigilant.

Things to Know About Triad

Reflective House Number Signs

Triad sells reflective house number signs at cost. Signs are helpful to first responders as they look for a particular house, especially at night. It also helps delivery persons.

You can set the sign beside the road on a post or you can attach it to a rural mailbox. The cost for the sign is $15.

Send your order to:

Waldo County Triad
6 Public Safety Way
Belfast, ME 04915

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

Contact Triad

If you want more information about Triad or its services, visit our website, call or email at:

Website: *waldocountytriad.com*

Phone*: 322-4149*

Email*: triad@waldocountyme.gov*

Friendly Caller Program

Many older Waldo County residents live alone without much contact with others. Triad offers the Friendly Caller program to give seniors a daily connection 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 check on them. Over the years, several enrolled people have fallen and been unable to get up. This program has been credited with saving lives. To register or to learn more about the program, call ***338-2040***.

RFID Sleeves

RFID card sleeves block the transmission waves that come from credit/debit cards that allow a card reader to take payments. Scammers have a device that can read the data stored on debit/ credit cards. Triad will have protective RFID card sleeves available at coming events. Be sure to pick one up.

Supporting Waldo County Triad

Triad is an all-volunteer organization. Funds are used entirely to support programs. Most services are free so that everyone can take part. If you would like to donate to Triad to help support a particular effort, below are the costs of three Triad services:

- Newsletter - $6 per year
- File of Life - $1.50 each
- Carbon monoxide/smoke detectors - $40 each

The cost of Triad's drug collection, daily call-in and 911 cellphone programs are all donated by member agencies.

To make a donation to help continue what Triad does, make a check payable to: **Waldo County Triad** and send it to:

Waldo County Triad
6 Public Safety Way
Belfast, ME 04915

File of Life

Triad offers a free medical information packet called a File of Life. It should be kept on your refrigerator door in the event of a medical emergency. It comes with a smaller version to keep in your wallet. Emergency responders are familiar with the File and look for it upon arrival. This packet can save the responders time as all the information they need to start helping you is in that packet. To receive a File of Life, contact Triad at:

call: *322-4149* or

email: triad@waldocountyme.gov

If you have a File of Life with many edits, we can provide both large and small replacement inserts.

Community Opportunities

Community Walking Group

The Belfast Public health nurse is leading a free walking group twice per week. No registration is required, just show up to walk with others. The walk begins at 6 Footbridge Road in Belfast.

The schedule for **July and August** is as follows:

Date: Mondays at 11:00 a.m. (not July 20)

Date: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m. (not July 22)

For more information, call ***505-4940***

Dining at the YMCA

Date: Last Wednesday of the month

Start Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: YMCA
157 Lincolnville Ave., Belfast

Registration: Call ***338-4598***
(Please register so they have the right amount of food for those attending.)

Searsport Senior Drop-In Center

The Searsport Senior Drop-In Center is open to anyone. There are games, Bingo, a free light lunch and a presenter offering information of interest to seniors.

Date: Third Wednesdays

Time: 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Former Lions Clubhouse
44 Prospect St.
Searsport

Winterport Senior Citizens Group

The Winterport Senior Citizens Group invites all seniors for socialization, fun, information and a potluck lunch.

Date: First and third Tuesdays
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: They have moved their meetings to a different building. The new location is:

Winterport Baptist Church
100 Coles Corner Road

Contact: ***713-1716*** for questions

For Information on events: go to Winterport Community and Event Group.

Waldo County Handcrafters' Day

Triad is organizing volunteers who are willing to share their skills and knowledge about an art or craft. The date and location for the fall Handcrafters' Day has not been set yet. If you would like to receive the information when it is available, email or write for the brochure.

Email: triad@waldocountyme.gov
or
Mail to: Waldo County Triad
6 Public Safety Way

Veterans' Services

A representative of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services will be at Spectrum Generations monthly if people have made appointments to see him.

Date: Last Wednesday of the month

Time: by appointment only

Location: Spectrum Generations
18 Merriam Rd, Belfast

Appointment: Call ***338-1190***

Belfast Community Works' Repair Cafe

Volunteers offer to repair items free of charge or at cost if you need new parts.

They can mend clothes or other fabric items. They work on small appliances and bring commonly needed replacement parts. (If you have the replacement parts, bring them.) They also do basic bicycle repair and maintenance.

Date: Third Saturday of the month

Time: 9 - noon

Location: YMCA
157 Lincolnville Ave., Belfast

Triad Shredding and Drug Collection

Triad recently held its shredding and drug collection day for 2026. The next one is scheduled for:

Saturday, April 24, 2027

More information will be provided in the early spring.

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: 322-4149
email: triad@waldocountyme.gov

Triad Officers

Chairman -------- Randy Fox
Vice Chairman --Owen Smith
Secretary --------- Jessica Sullivan
Treasurer ---------Matt Curtis

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Editor ---------- Pat Pierson
Proofreader --- Linda Didelot

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Sue Dean	Audrey Lawson	Sarah Rossiter
Joanna Deetjen	Michael Lawson	Owen Smith
Linda Didelot	Denise Lindahl	Evie Tinker

Summer 2026

Triad Board of Directors

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- Matt Curtis
- Sue Dean
- Candace Eaton
- Randy Fox
- Megan Harvey
- Eileen Kelley
- Patricia Kelley
- Lori Kuwik
- Leah O'Neill
- Pat Pierson
- Owen Smith
- Jessica Sullivan
- Evie Tinker
- Hillary Waterman

Waldo County Triad programs are open to all residents who are age 50 or older.

To change your mailing address or to add or remove a name to this mailing list, call Waldo County Triad at 322-4149 or email at triad@waldocountyme.gov

Change Service Requested

Waldo County Triad
6 Public Safety Way
Belfast ME 04915

Triad

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