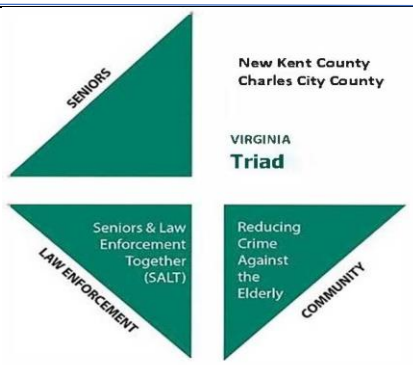

Chickahominy Area Triad

Scam/Fraud Alert Bulletin #28

Be Aware, Be Smart, Stay Protected

Serving the Counties of New Kent and Charles City, VA.

Type	Synopsis of Reported Incidents
Fraud - SCAM:	The victim received a call from a female named Maria Gonzalez. Maria claimed to be from Customs and Border Patrol. She advised that the victim had accounts in El Paso, Texas and those accounts were consistent with money laundering. Maria then transferred the victim to her alleged supervisor, Clara Hobbon, who stated the same thing. They advised that the U.S. Marshals would be in contact with him about a court date and possible litigation. The alleged US Marshalls then contacted the victim again and advised that they were going to assign the victim a new Social Security Number, but they needed to confirm his identity first. In order to confirm his identity, he had to verify his assets by withdrawing as much money as he could and place it into a Bitcoin account. They advised if he did not do this, they were going to proceed with the money laundering charges and there would be a warrant for his arrest. The victim proceeded to withdraw $20,000. While on the way to place the funds into the Bitcoin machine, he told Shannon (a third party) that he was not going to go through with the transaction. Shannon advised that he would contact the local Sheriff's Office to confirm the validity of the transaction. The victim then received a call from the Stafford County Sheriff's Office and they reassured him that what Shannon was saying was correct. The victim completed the transaction and placed $20,000 into the Bitcoin machine. The victim was instructed to withdraw an additional $10,000, and proceeded to follow their instructions, however, he became suspicious and drove directly to the Sheriff's Office to report the scam.

Fraud - SCAM	The victim received a text message claiming to be his pastor and asked for him to buy eBay or Apple gift cards totaling to the amount of $600 USD. The text message also claimed that these gift cards would be used for kids at the hospital who had cancer. The victim purchased the requested gift cards and provided the barcode of the gift cards to the caller via text. Shortly after, the victim received a group text message from his church stating that the pastor's identity was being used to deceive others into buying gift cards and warned to not reply to the impersonators.
Fraud - SCAM	The victim advised that he received a call from someone posing as a Navy Federal Credit Union employee. The fake employee advised there were fraudulent transactions to his account and to keep his money safe, he needed to transfer everything to a CashApp. The victim quickly ended the call and reported the incident to the Sheriff's Office.
Fraud - SCAM	The victim advised he received a call from someone posing as a Sergeant with the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. The scamming Sergeant informed the victim he had a failure to appear charge and needed to Apple Pay thousands of dollars to have it taken care of. When the victim responded to the Sheriff's Office, he discovered the truth of the scam.
Fraud - SCAM	The victim advised he was contacted by someone posing as a Dominion Energy employee. The deceitful Dominion employee advised the lights to his business would be shut off in less than an hour unless he paid up.
Fraud - SCAM	The victim reported being contacted by someone posing as a Norton Antivirus employee. The nefarious Norton employee advised because the victim already paid for her yearly subscription he was going to send her money from a recent transaction back. Instead, the scammer advised he sent too much money, and she needed to pay him back using gift cards. Luckily, the victim talked to CVS staff regarding the situation, who informed her of the common scam. No money was lost.

Fraud - SCAM	The victim advised he received an email in which the sender stated he knew the victim visited "darker corners of the cyberspace." To avoid information and pictures from being released, the sender demanded $2,000 worth of Bitcoin. The victim knew this to not be real, and did not comply, and reported it.

NOTE: This above reported occurrence is true. They **did not** **occur within New Kent County or Charles City County, Virginia,** however, it was reported to law enforcement agency within the state of Virginia. Stay alert, do not become a victim.

Meta: Chickahominy Area Triad Scam Warriors

Meta: Chickahominy Area Triad

www.chickahominytriad.org