

New Kent County
Charles City County

VIRGINIA
Triad

SENIORS

Seniors & Law Enforcement Together (SALT)

Reducing Crime Against the Elderly

LAW ENFORCEMENT

COMMUNITY

Chickahominy Area Triad

Scam/Fraud Alert Bulletin #3

Be Aware, Be Smart, Stay Protected

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

Type	Synopsis of Reported Incidents
Fraud: SCAM:	<u>MICROSOFT</u> : The victim was on their laptop when a pop-up appeared stating they had been hacked and to call Microsoft. Victim called the provided number and spoke to “Roger Collins.” “Mr. Collins” proceeded to explain that the victim’s bank account had been compromised and he conveniently transferred the victim to a representative from the victim’s bank, “Chris Reed.” “Mr. Reed” instructed the victim to purchase various gift cards and provide him with the card information in order to transfer the funds to a new account; victim complied. The following morning, the victim received a call from “Mr. Collins” stating the victim had lost an additional \$6,000. It was at this point the victim realized this had been a scam and reached out to the helplines listed on the back of the gift cards. Victim was able to receive reimbursement on three (3) cards, however, the victim still sustained a loss of \$2,350.00.
Fraud: SCAM:	<u>PUBLISHER CLEARING HOUSE</u> : The victim received a call and was told they had won the Publisher’s Clearinghouse Sweepstake which consisted of \$7,000 a week for life and a Mercedes Benz. However, victims would need to send \$3,000 via cashier check. The victim purchased the certified check as well as a certified envelope to send the check in and mailed the check. It was at this time the victim became suspicious and worked with USPS to have the check in the certified envelope returned; victim received the check back and sustained no monetary loss.
Fraud: SCAM:	<u>JOB POSTING</u> : The victim was sent a link for a job posting and applied. The victim was contacted by “Margaret Ashley” from

	<p>the company who offered the victim a different job, and the victim accepted. The victim was asked to purchase items they would need for the job as well as shipping items to other employees at other locations with the understanding the victim would be reimbursed. Victim received a check and deposited it into their personal account only to be contacted by their bank to inform the victim that the check was fraudulent. Monetary loss of \$11,197.90.</p>
SCAM:	<p>PET: The victim had joined a group on Facebook called “Free Kittens for Rehoming.” Victim was contacted by “Julio Le Seul Borel” and was told to send \$80 for documentation and transfer of ownership for two kittens. The victim complied and paid via Zelle and “Julio” said he would meet the victim to give them the kittens. However, “Julio” continued to reach out requesting additional funds to pay for other services for the kittens. The victim quickly realized this was a scam. Monetary loss of \$80.</p>
Fraud:	<p>LARENCY: Suspects selected new gift cards that had not been activated/loaded with funds. The suspect proceeded to the register to pay for his purchase by using the “empty” gift cards. The suspect inserted the gift card in the credit card terminal, giving the cashier an error message. The suspect then instructed the cashier to select the “cash” button on the register. The cashier did as instructed and unbeknownst to the cashier, this process adds money to the card. Monetary loss of \$1,934.69.</p>

NOTE: The reported occurrences depicted in this bulletin are true. **They did not occur within the Counties of New Kent or Charles City, Virginia.** However, they were reported to the Northern Virginia Sheriff’s Department within the past two weeks. Stay alert, don’t become a victim, as you can see it can be costly and please don’t think that it couldn’t happen to you. This publication was made possible by Dominion Energy, Medicare Assistance & Counseling, and Cox Communications.

