

New Kent County  
Charles City County

VIRGINIA  
**Triad**

Seniors & Law  
Enforcement  
Together  
(SALT)

Reducing  
Crime  
Against  
the  
Elderly

**Chickahominy Area Triad**  
**Scam/Fraud Alert Bulletin #23**  
*Be Aware, Be Smart, Stay Protected*  
Serving the Counties of New Kent and Charles City, VA.

Type	Synopsis of Reported Incidents
<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	<p>The victim stated he joined a Facebook group about two (2) weeks ago by the name of "Beagle Puppies for Good Homes". He then corresponded with a man by the name of "Henry Buchanan" about buying a beagle puppy. He agreed to buy a female by the name of "Abby" for the total cost of \$650. The victim was instructed to pay \$350 as a deposit and the rest at the time of pickup using PayPal and sending payment to "Travion McPhail"; the victim sent the payment of \$350. The victim and "Henry" agreed to meet at a specific location and time. The victim was then contacted and was requested to send an additional \$200 on top of the \$300 still owed before he could pick up the puppy. When the victim refused and questioned about being scammed, "Henry" blocked the victim on Facebook and PayPal.</p>
<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	<p>The victim found an advertisement on Facebook for a rental property at 6808 Farm Circle. The ad stated that the property was listed for \$900 per month with a \$500 deposit. A contact number of (209) 261-4377 was provided linked to a "Paul Baker". The victim text the number and someone responded telling her that she would need to submit a rental application, including a photocopy of her driver's license, along with the application fee of \$60 to be paid via Cash App account. The account name provided was "\$benja8n". The victim attempted to send the money to the account but it was declined by Cash App, due to suspicion of fraud. She was able to then confirm that the rental ad was fraudulent, and the property was not for rent. Although there was no monetary loss, the victim's personal information had been provided.</p>

<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	The victim had been contacted through her Messenger app and was asked if she was interested in an online job. She stated that the person had a WhatsApp business account and went by the name "Caitlyn 14693163089." She advised that she had provided her social security number to this subject when applying for the job. This person advised her of an online job where she would complete "Hotel Optimization for AirBnb", which meant transferring Bitcoin or Ethereum into digital wallets online using the site they were directed to use. The victim had been depositing her own money into the site and then sent it to other locations. This earned her "commission." Both the money she deposited, and the alleged commission were viewable on the website and she thought that she could withdraw it whenever she wished. However, when she attempted to withdraw a portion of her money from the site she was advised that she would need to deposit \$100,000.00 to keep her account active before withdrawing funds.
<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	The victim intercepted a contracting crew on their property preparing to dig and survey the plot. The contractor advised that he was contacted by someone who was purchasing the property and hired the contractor to survey the property. The soon-to-be-owner was contacted and advised that he saw the property posted on the MLS listing, contacted the listing agent, and began the buying process, which included contacting the survey contractor to ensure the land was what he wanted. The listing agent was contacted and stated that someone had contacted her via the Internet to list the property. She had received a copy of the individual's ID which displayed the name of "Joao Sousa". All paperwork had been completed online. No money was exchanged, and the land sale was not processed. All parties involved realized they had been scammed.
<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	The victim received an email from Lendumo congratulating her on the approval of her loan. She then received multiple emails from Lendumo stating her personal information had been changed. Specifically, her email, phone number, mailing

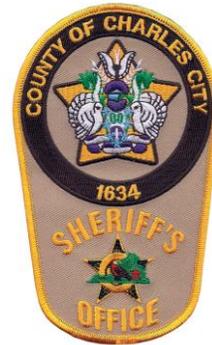
	<p>address, and driver's license number. The next email received advised a new bank account was added, which was not the victim's bank account information. Additionally, the victim received a follow-up email advising that \$1,400 would be transferred to the new bank account and a second email advising her that the current loan balance was \$6,381.54. The address provided on the fraudulent profile is 1030 Gary Ave Girard Ohio 44420. The victim received another email from a different loan company, Makwa Finance. The email thanked her for her interest in another loan, however, it was denied. The address provided on this fraudulent attempt was also 1030 Gary Ave Girard Ohio 44420 also with the victim's name on it.</p>
<b>Fraud: SCAM</b>	<p>The victim had been looking for a rental property for her and her fiancé and found a listing on Facebook Marketplace for a 3-bedroom, 1 bathroom property listed by "Anthony Salazar" for \$1100/month. The victim contacted "Anthony" about the property, and he sent her and her fiancé both rental applications to complete and return. "Anthony" had provided a phone number of 858-858-7501 for them to text and communicate through. "Anthony" instructed her to send him two (2) months of rent, \$110 for the application fee, and \$95 for the Stafford County fee. "Anthony" requested the payments to be sent through Zelle to "Jessica Mattison", who he stated was his case worker for helping him with rental properties. The victim sent a total of \$3,406 through Zelle in multiple payments of \$550. The victim was told she would have the keys to the property by June 24, 2024, and she would be able to move in by July 10, 2024. When June 24 came around, the victim had not received the keys to the property. She reached out to "Anthony", who said he had been in California for some family things, and advised the victim that he was unable to provide her with the keys due to his family pushing the date back. Still, "Anthony" advised the victim if she would send more money the victim could get the keys right away. The victim has not sent any additional</p>

	money and has not been contacted by “Anthony” regarding the rental.
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**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.



Meta: Chickahominy Area Triad Scam Warriors  
[www.chickahominytriad.org](http://www.chickahominytriad.org)



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