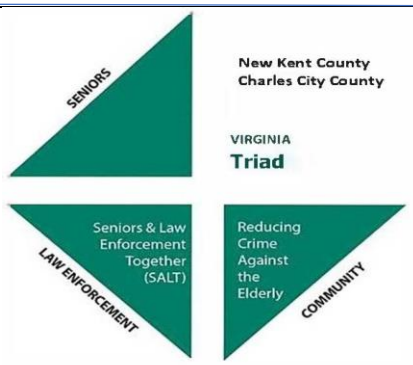

Chickahominy Area Triad

Scam/Fraud Alert Bulletin #25

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 an email regarding her renter's insurance policy, indicating her policy was due to expire and needed to be renewed. The victim called the number listed in the email and provided her policy number. She explained to the agent that her policy was not due to expire until October and was uncertain about the situation. The agent insisted that if the victim did not pay, her policy would be canceled and requested her debit card number. Monica provided this information, and the following day, there was a charge of $131.00 from Florida on her account. Additionally, the victim then received a text from a different phone number stating that her vehicle insurance policy was expiring and requesting her bank information. Monica found this suspicious and contacted the official 1-800 number for GEICO and the customer service representative informed her that the person she spoke with was not an employee and advised her to contact her bank to initiate an investigation and contact the Sheriff's Office to file a report. An attempt to contact both these phone numbers resulted in the lines being disconnected, and the calls are unable to connect.
Fraud: SCAM	The victim advised that she had received an email indicating that a PayPal account had been opened in her name and that she owed approximately $10,000. The victim contacted the number provided in the email and was eventually connected with a person who identified himself as "Richard J. Smith". "Mr. Smith" told her that the money had already been taken out of her account and that he could help her get it back. "Mr. Smith" provided the victim instructions to purchase gift

	cards. Per their instruction, the victim proceeded to a CVS to purchase Apple gift cards. The victim advised that she could not find Apple gift cards but instead purchased $2,000 worth of Disney gift cards. She told "Mr. Smith" about her purchase and said he became upset that they were not Apple. She was then provided instructions to proceed to Walmart and purchase additional Apple gift cards. The victim went to Walmart and purchased $1,500 worth of Applebee's gift cards, she advised this was the closest thing she could find to Apple. With $3,500 worth of gift cards in hand, the victim proceeded home where she continued to follow instruction from "Mr. Smith", instructing her to log on to her laptop, providing "Mr. Smith" remote access. With "Mr. Smith" now in control of her computer, he accessed her web camera so she could provide him with the security codes for each gift card. The victim scratched off each security label and held the codes up to her camera for "Mr. Smith." Several days later, the victim noticed a withdrawal of approximately $7,000 from her personal bank account, also believe to have been withdrawn when "Mr. Smith" had remote access to the victim's computer, accessing the victim's account.
Fraud: SCAM	The victim received a text message from what appeared to be Amazon. The text message stated the $499 Apple MacBook that he ordered would be delivered tomorrow. The victim contacted the phone number associated with the text message, 769-223-8634, to inform them he had not placed an order. A male answered the line, who identified himself as "Austin Slyter" with the U.S. Marshalls and that his badge number was AS50021. "Austin" advised the victim that the U.S. Marshalls were investigating him in Texas for money laundering and his Social Security number and identity had been stolen and compromised. The victim received an additional phone call from 510-229-3040, where a male advised his name was "Christopher Kyrtz" with the U.S. Marshalls and that his badge number was CR795141. "Christopher" advised the victim, in order for his identity to be maintained and for a new social security card to be issued,

	he had to purchase Apple gift cards and send them to the two U.S. Marshall officers. “Austin and Christopher” advised the victim that he needed to clean out his bank accounts to keep his money safe. “Austin and Christopher” stated if the victim purchased Apple gift cards with his money, they would then transfer that money to a credit card for the victim. The "officers" also informed the victim they would be coming to his house the following day to provide him with a temporary Social Security card. The victim advised he received a call from 425-242-8018, advising him they were the credit card company that he would be dealing with. The victim then purchased a total of four (4) Apple gift cards, total of the $4,470. The victim provided these "officers" with all the gift card numbers belonging to the gift cards that he purchased.

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 a Northern Virginia Sheriff’s Department or the Better Business Bureau (BBB) within the past month. Stay alert, do not become a victim, as you can see it can be costly and do not think that it could not happen to you.

Meta: Chickahominy Area Triad Scam Warriors
www.chickahominytriad.org

Meta: Chickahominy Area Triad