



## The Triad Tribune

Triad is a three-pronged approach between law enforcement, senior citizens, and service providers to address crime prevention for seniors. The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community. There are currently 91 local Triad agreements encompassing 227 cities, counties and towns.

<http://www.oag.state.va.us/CONSUMER/TRIAD/index.html>

[seniors@oag.state.va.us](mailto:seniors@oag.state.va.us)

Monday, June 8, 2009

***A Message from the Director...***

***Well the Tribune returns after 10 Triad Senior Days/Senior Expos, an Elder Abuse training conference, 2 presentations at Senior Citizen Police Academies, a Triad Fish Fry, and 1500 miles of total travel ~ Whew! Triad is booming this summer and it's just wonderful!!! You can read below about several of the Triad Senior events that took place last month.***

***Remember, if you would like your Triad event or announcement to be included in the Tribune please just send me an email with the information and/or photo, and we'd be happy to use it in future editions!***

***A reminder for Triad groups which currently have a Grant from our Office...the grants will expire at the end of this month. Next Monday, June***

**15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit your reimbursement requests. This deadline will be enforced! You have until the end of July to submit your final narrative and financial reports.**

**The OAG has approved another year of local grants – please be watching your emails over the next week with further information on how to apply.**

**This week I will be traveling to Fluvanna for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Senior Safety Day where we will re-signing their county onto Triad thanks to the hard work by Sheriff Ryant Washington! I also will be visiting the Spotsylvania-Stafford Triad meeting!**

**Have a great week & stay safe! 😊 Now, we have a lot of news to catch up on so let's move to the headlines!**

*~ Jennifer*

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## **Triad Headlines**

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**Photo of the Week: Henrico Triad**



**April 2009:** From left to right: Judy Schwerdtfeger (President), Col. H. W. Stanley, Jr., Attorney General Bill Mims.

On Tuesday, April 7, the Henrico County S.A.L.T./Triad presented Chief Stanley a plaque in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Henrico County Police. It was a momentous meeting with over 50 members in attendance. It was also significant because this is the tenth anniversary of the first graduating Senior Citizens Police Academy in Henrico. The plaque read: *HENRICO COUNTY S.A.L.T./TRIAD ACKNOWLEDGES THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HENRICO COUNTY DIVISION OF POLICE. We thank the Department for their Dedication and Support, April 7, 2009.*

Several events were planned to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Division. On May 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., there was an open house at the Henrico County's Public Safety Bldg., 7721 East Parham Road. There were games, food and entertainment for the whole family with an opening ceremony at 10:00 a.m. On May 13, there was a Memorial Ceremony at 12 noon in the Memorial Gardens across from the Administration Bldg., and at 7:00 p.m. there was a Memorial Service held at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church, Creighton Road.

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## **Triad Anniversaries**

This week we have several Triad Anniversaries to acknowledge:

- 10<sup>th</sup>: Greenville/Emporia 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 13<sup>th</sup>: Virginia Beach Triad 14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Rappahannock County Triad 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

We wish you well for another successful year. As always, the Virginia Triad Office is here to assist you in any way to help ensure your success and commitment to helping seniors.

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## **Wanted: Additions to the Triad Speaker's Bureau**

Virginia Triad is in the process of updating our Speaker's Bureau over the next few months. This information will go on our Triad webpage so that all our groups can utilize this information.

I am looking for dynamic speakers who will do presentations free of charge; enjoy speaking to senior groups; have expertise on the subject matter in which you present; and do not collect senior's contact information or give sales pitches on product(s) to seniors. If you would like to be added to the Triad Speaker's Bureau please send an email to [seniors@oag.state.va.us](mailto:seniors@oag.state.va.us) and include the following:

- Name & Title
- Agency or Organization you represent
- Contact Information (phone and email)
- Title of Presentation/Topics on which you Cover (can provide more than one)
- If you are able to Travel Statewide or Regionally (denote part of state you cover)

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## **Petersburg Triad's Moment for Seniors**

*The Progress Index ~ Jay Scarborough*

The third annual Petersburg Triad senior resource day and fish fry attracted hundreds of local seniors and 50 vendors to the Good Shepherd Baptist Church on Crater Road yesterday (*date of event May 21<sup>st</sup>*).

Triad, a national community policing initiative committed to meeting the crime-safety needs of seniors, aims to reduce crime against the elderly and reduce fear of crime that some seniors can experience.

The event was sponsored by the Petersburg Sheriff's Office and by the Petersburg Parks and Leisure Services and the Crater District Area Agency on Aging. The theme for the day was "Seniors Going Green" which was printed on reusable bags given to seniors entering the building.

Highlights of the day included the fish fry, vendors who provide services and products specifically for seniors, a guest speaker – David Browning as the Mayberry Deputy, and a raffle of more than 50 prizes.

Petersburg Sheriff Vanessa R. Crawford said that there were probably more than 500 in attendance and that she expected to do the event again next year.

“I’m excited that we were able to sponsor this event again this year,” Crawford said. “The Sheriff’s Department loves to serve the senior population...we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for area seniors.”

Guest speaker Rod Wheeler, a senior crime and law enforcement analyst for FOX News, said the event had an excellent turnout. Wheeler also said that any kind of event that brings the community together with law enforcement is a good thing.

The Petersburg Triad was formed in 2006 by the Sheriff’s Department and the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together Council which is made of up seniors. Statewide there are more than 216 active Triad organizations.

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## **Mathews County Triad’s Senior Safety Fair**

*Gloucester Mathews Gazette Journal*

Senior citizens attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Safety Fair, sponsored by the Mathews County Triad. The event ran from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM on Tuesday, May 12 at the Piankatank Ruritan Club in Hudgins.

Jennifer Aulgur, director of Triad for the Virginia Attorney General’s Office, was the keynote speaker. Captain Sid Foster with the Sheriff’s Office was the coordinator for the event.

Guest trainers were Maryann Johnson of the Alzheimer’s Association, Amber Whitaker of Project Lifesaver, and the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Barbara Williams and Bob Draper presented “Oldies but Goodies” to entertain the crowd, and information was available on subjects such as health, art, finance, insurance, and the environment. Additionally, there were gift bags handed out to the 130+ seniors who attended. Lunch was provided with the \$3 bargain price with a menu of baked chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, baked apples and a roll. Drinks were also provided.

This year’s fair was very successful and the Sheriff’s office is looking forward to planning 2010’s event!

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## **Chesterfield Triad to Hold Training for Seniors**

Chesterfield Triad will be holding the following FREE seminar for older adults to educate and inform them about today's safety issues:

**Personal Safety**  
**Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 AM to Noon**

Learn how to better protect yourself while in your home, in your car, and out and about. The class will be led by Career Officer David Zeheb with Chesterfield County Police.

For information on TRIAD, contact Sergeant Lawrence Taylor, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office at (804) 717-6266, or Debbie Leidheiser, Chesterfield Senior Advocate at (804) 768-7878.

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## **Page County Holds 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Triad Conference**

*Page News & Courier ~ Ben Weathers*

Bill Mims says he considers Page County home.

The newly elected state Attorney General grew up not too far away in Harrisonburg and has fond memories of spending time in Page as a child. "Anytime I pass through Page County, it has a very special place in my heart," Mims told a crowd of about 100 at the Luray Moose Lodge last Thursday. I'm just awfully proud to be home." Likewise, the crowd seemed pleased to offer Mims a welcomed homecoming.

Mims was the keynote speaker at this year's Page County Triad Conference. Currently in its ninth year, the conference seemed to be a success, with seniors from all over the county filling the dining hall of the Luray Moose Lodge.

Triad, a national organization that partners with law enforcement, public safety agencies, aims to reduce crime against seniors by creating awareness of scams that target them. Since it's inception in 1988 in Louisiana, the group has spread to 47 states, not to mention Canada and England. It arrived in Virginia in 1995. Since then a total of 226 municipalities have signed Triad agreements. State Triad director Jennifer Aulgur also spoke at this year's conference commending the county's chapter for its steady growth. "I'm pleased that Page County's Triad has continued to grow," Aulgur said. "It seems to get stronger each year." Aulgur argued that Triad's objective was even more important given the current economy.

"When the economy is down, the con-artists get smarter," Aulgur warned.

Mims spoke about the social contract the public shares with law enforcement. Mims, a Republican, quoted former president Bill Clinton and referred to law enforcement as the "thin blue line" that protects society from chaos.

“Everyone in this room has agreed to that social contract. However they are there are those in our society who do not abide by that contract and commit violent crimes that rob us of our dignity,” Mims said. “We rely on that thin blue line as our first line of defense.”

Mims went onto urge the public to be pro-active rather than passive.”

“The Triad program is the most successful example of community policing,” Mims said. “You are very much an active partner in that endeavor.”

After Mims’ speech, Capt. Jason Pettit of the Page County Sheriff’s Office, provided seniors with some helpful tips to avoid scams. Pettit encouraged seniors to check their monthly bank statements regularly, not to open suspicious mail or provide personal information over the phone and not let strangers into their home.

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## **Isle of Wight Triad’s Annual Conference**

*Annual Triad meeting addresses senior concerns*

*Diana McFarland ~ The Smithfield Times*

Diabetes, H1N1 flue and unclaimed money highlighted the annual Triad conference held May 4 at the Smithfield Center.

About 340 Isle of Wight seniors attended the event sponsored by the towns of Smithfield and Windsor and Isle of Wight County. The theme this year was “Home Health and Security Starts With You.”

“It’s really our primary outreach effort through the year to build the relationship between law enforcement and seniors so they can take a proactive stance in their lives,” said Chief Robert Porti with the Windsor Police Department, who chaired the conference. It helps seniors to not be afraid of crime that doesn’t exist and to be prepared for crime that does, Porti said.

Melinda Barbish, an auditor with the Virginia Department of Treasury, was on hand to show seniors how to find unclaimed money. By the end of the day, about \$30,000 had been recovered. Isle of Wight County Sheriff C.W.”Charlie” Phelps said he received about \$200 he didn’t know he had.

C. Larry Pope, president and CEO of Smithfield Foods, talked to the group about the economy, local business, and of course, how the H1N1 (swine) flue has affected business. Judy Walls with the Simpson’s Pharmacy talked about diabetes and Pamela Witt, nurse coordinator with the Western Tidewater Free Clinic, spoke about the clinic, its services and client eligibility. A representative from the Attorney General’s office came to talk about crime prevention and Isle of Wight Commissioner of Revenue Gerald Gwaltney reviewed the county’s tax relief program. And, as always, Mrs. Butterworth

(played by Davis Minns) entertained the seniors while providing education about crime and fraud.

In its 10<sup>th</sup> year, Triad is a cooperative effort between the Isle of Wight Sheriff's Office, the Smithfield and Windsor Police Departments, AARP, Ruritans, the Attorney General and other agencies.

"I'm proud of the program because I'm the one who started the program here," Phelps said.

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## **Senior Citizen Anti-Scam Bill Introduced**

*Posted: April 22, 2009 01:36 PM EDT*

WASHINGTON (WKOW) -- Three Congressional representatives, including Wisconsin's Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), introduced a new bill today to protect senior citizens from scams, fraud, and abuse.

The representatives involved say more than 5 million seniors are targeted by scammers and con artists each year. The bill would give state and local governments more resources to combat elder abuse.

They hope to bring some federal legislation to help protect them.

The written documents from the representatives outline some measures included in the bill:

- Establish an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the coordination of activities of the Federal, State, local and private agencies and entities relating to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Improve the quality of information and research related to elder abuse.
- Create new forensic expertise in elder abuse (similar to that in child abuse) that will promote detection and increase the capacity to prosecute offenders. New programs will train health professionals in both forensic pathology and geriatrics.
- Establish penalties and prosecution for failure to promptly report crimes in long-term care facilities. The act will require reporting of crimes in nursing homes on an official federal website.
- Provide a first-time direct funding stream for Adult Protective Services (APS) - \$100 million a year for four years.
- Establish an advisory board to create a short- and long-term multidisciplinary strategic plan for the developing field of elder justice.
- Authorize \$72.5 million over four years for national organizations or states that represent or train long-term care ombudsman representatives to provide training, technical assistance, demonstration programs and research to improve

ombudsman effectiveness in addressing abuse and neglect in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

- Authorize \$67.5 million over four years in grants to enhance long-term care staffing through training and recruitment to establish employee incentives including career and wage benefit ladders and programs to improve management practices.

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## Great Reading Resources for Triad

As a dedicated TRIAD member (Hanover/Ashland), I know that you are always looking for new and helpful information for the senior citizens in your community. Listed below are two outstanding resources that have been tried and tested and utilized by other TRIAD groups. Please go to our website to see how beneficial these resources would be to your citizens and suggest that other members of your TRIAD group do the same. Some comments and uses of the book are listed below.

Gene Saunders, Chief Director General, Founder & CEO Project Lifesaver International, “I have received your book, thank you. I am impressed with it and feel anyone dealing with Dementia should have a copy”. Project Lifesaver International actively promotes this book.

Sgt. Jim McLaughlin, of the Hanover County, VA TRIAD, has recommended that caregivers for people with Alzheimer’s obtain a copy of “A Turn for the Better! – What Every Alzheimer’s Caregiver Needs to Know”. Dawn Beninghove, a TRIAD member and owner of a home health company, has provided copies of this book to the caregivers of her clients.

The author’s father has been enrolled with the local sheriff’s department’s Project Lifesaver and this program is recommended in the book for anyone with Alzheimer’s to insure they are quickly found if they wander off.

**“A Turn for the Better! – What Every Alzheimer’s Caregiver Needs to Know”** is not only written by the daughter of a parent with Alzheimer’s, but she is also a member of a local TRIAD group. This book covers sundowning, depression, confusion, wandering, nighttime difficulties, insomnia, anger, fear, and hiding behaviors.

[www.windbornepress.com/featured\\_title.htm](http://www.windbornepress.com/featured_title.htm)

*No other book* on Alzheimer’s offers these more than four-dozen *non-medical* tips and techniques – ideas that can be used by any caregiver or family member – at home, in day care, or in assisted living settings!

Another great resource is a book for “Baby Boomers”. At a time when many mature adults are planning their long awaited retirement, they are ironically faced with the most

difficult time of their lives. Tens of millions of Americans are increasingly confronted with the prospect of setting aside their personal plans as they care for their aging parents. The role reversal can be confusing, relentless and fraught with guilt.

**Coping in New Territory - The Handbook for Children of Aging Parents by Suzanne Roberts.**

[www.windbornepress.com/publisher's\\_picks.htm](http://www.windbornepress.com/publisher's_picks.htm)

Learn coping skills that help you care for yourself as you care for your aging parents! You will learn how to deal with: Power Struggles, Control Issues, Setting Boundaries, Sibling Conflicts, Guilt, and Other Important Issues.

**Older citizens you support through your TRIAD group, who are trying to deal with Alzheimer's and other critical issues of aging, will appreciate the coping strategies presented in these two books.**

**A Turn for the Better! – What Every Alzheimer's Caregiver Needs to Know – only \$12.95 plus shipping and handling.**

**Coping in New Territory – The Handbook for Children of Aging Parents - only \$13.95 plus shipping and handling.**

Books can be ordered online and shipped the next day at [www.windbornepress.com](http://www.windbornepress.com) .

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## **Deal Made in Pastor's Embezzlement Case**

*The Roanoke Times*

A Roanoke pastor pleaded no contest Tuesday to embezzling more than \$60,000 from two elderly sisters.

The outcome of four felony charges against Richard E. Dent, pastor of Trinity Family Church on Ferncliff Avenue, will be determined when he is sentenced in June.

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Joshua Dietz said an agreement calls for Dent to be convicted of one count of embezzlement. Two more counts of embezzlement and a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses will be dismissed if Dent can pay back the \$63,340 he took, Dietz said.

The two victims were distant relatives of Dent but did not attend his church.

At a hearing in Roanoke Circuit Court, Dietz gave the following summary of evidence:

In October 2007, the younger of the two sisters, who was in her 80s, became critically ill and was placed on life support. Dent took the other woman, who was 91 at the time, to a lawyer's office and had her give him power of attorney over her finances.

Upset about her sister -- who died the next day -- the 91-year-old woman didn't fully understand what Dent was doing at the time, Dietz said.

Dent, who was executor of the younger sister's estate, ended up taking money from both women's bank accounts. Some of the money was spent on computers and a sound system for Dent's church.

Dent, 45, declined to comment Tuesday.

-- *Laurence Hammack (Roanoke Times)*

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## Virginia State Bar Offers Senior Citizens Handbook

The Senior Citizens Handbook is a resource for seniors, their families, and their caregivers to provide an overview of and contact information for opportunities and choices facing senior citizens today, with a summary of how specific laws affect Virginia's elder citizens and practical advice on issues such as Medicaid, Alzheimer's Disease, landlord-tenant relations, and much more. There is also an extensive list of community-service organizations that detail the various services available to senior citizens.

Production of the Senior Citizens Handbook is made possible in part with the generous support of the Virginia Law Foundation (Revised March 2009).

To inquire about receiving a copy please call the State Bar at 804-775-0500.

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## The Bottom Line: Math Dyslexia

**A worker returned from his visit to the doctor and a colleague asked him how he made out.**

**"Not bad. The doctor told me that I have Math Dyslexia."**

**The other fellow said, "Gee, that sounds bad."**

**"Actually, the Doctor told me not to worry, because 17 out of 5 people have it."**

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*The Triad Tribune is produced by the Office of Attorney General Bill Mims and sent weekly to those who have shown an interest in the safety and well-being of Virginia's seniors. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, simply reply to this e-mail with the word, "unsubscribe" in the subject line.*