



S.A.L.T. TIMES

September 2008



Online Safety Tips for Seniors

According to research by AARP, it is estimated that 27.3 million seniors are Internet users. Here are some tips from the WA State Attorney General's Office for seniors to stay safer online:

- Never trust a link sent to you by someone you don't know. By clicking the link you may be taken to a site that may look like your bank or credit card company, but isn't. One thing a criminal can't fake is the actual Web site address of a company or bank. Instead of clicking a link in an e-mail, search for the Web address using a search engine to find the real one. Use that to ask the company about the message you received, or call using the number listed on your statements. Mark the real site as a favorite in your browser so that one click brings you there safely every time.
- Never trust an e-mail that asks for your personal or account information (called a phishing scam). These usually seem convincing (the shabby ones have spelling errors, but the high quality scams look impeccable). No bank or reputable company is going to send you an e-mail asking you to correct your information, validate your identity, re-enter your password, and so on.
- The smarter scams often contain text warning you against fraud. They do this because many people believe that an e-mail that warns them to be careful must be legitimate. That is not always true. This also extends to sites that claim they have protections in place for your privacy and security. Anybody can make these claims, but only certain sites protect you.
- Never respond – or even open an e-mail with a deal that is too good to be true unless it is from a company that you know well and expect to get these kinds of offers from them. Scammers want you to react without taking time to think things through, so their e-mails frequently sound urgent, such as:
 - ...“if we don't hear by tomorrow your account will be closed” (and you'll notice that the date of “tomorrow” never is listed).
 - ...”this offer won't last, order now to ensure”...
- Never believe that someone you don't know is going to give you money.

Elderly Couple Scammed

Need a Ride?

Scam Alert!

A scam artist recently targeted an elderly couple, eventually duping them into sending him \$2,500. The Vancouver couple, who are grandparents, were at home when they received a phone call from someone who identified himself as their grandson. During this phone call, the suspect told them that he was in Canada and had been in a traffic accident involving alcohol and that he was now sitting in a Canadian jail. The suspect requested that \$2,500 be wired to a Canadian Walmart so that he could be bailed out of jail. The grandparents, who believed they recognized their grandson's voice, wired the money to Canada and within two hours received a second call from the suspect thanking them for the money. A few days later the victim's had contact with their son only to find out that their grandson was never in Canada and had not made the call. It's believed that the suspect was successful in duping the grandparents because they not only thought they recognized their grandson's voice, but the suspect also used their grandson's name. The suspect probably learned the grandson's name because the grandparents said the name early in the phone call.

This incident should serve as a good reminder that scam artists are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to steal your money. It is never a good idea to send someone money, or provide them with your personal information, as the result of a phone call, unsolicited email, or an unsolicited knock on your front door.

If you would like to attend a S.A.L.T. meeting or event but need a ride, contact the Outreach Unit at 397-2211 ext. 3380. We will get you in touch with someone from your area who can give you a ride. If you are able to offer a ride, then call us and we'll add you to the list of drivers. If somebody is giving you a ride, consider these ride sharing etiquette tips:

- Be ready! Don't keep your ride waiting.
- Offer to help pay for gas.
- Easy on the perfume/cologne.
- Exchange phone numbers.
- Verify with each other at least a day before the desired meeting that nothing has changed.
- Do not expect the driver to take you other places.
- Agree on a meeting place if your home is not convenient.

School Bus Laws



- Stop! All vehicles must stop on two lane roads when a school bus is displaying red flashing lights and the STOP sign. Stop at least 20 feet from the bus.
- Vehicles following the school bus must stop when red lights and STOP sign are displayed. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction on multiple lane roads need not stop, but should use caution when passing.

Be responsible. Watch out for children.

Public Safety Complex Open House

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Join us for the annual Open House on **Saturday, September 27, Noon to 4 p.m.**

It's a *free* community event that's fun for the whole family! There will be K-9, life flight, auto extrication, bomb squad and fire extinguisher demonstrations, fire engine rides and several emergency vehicles on display. You can enjoy free hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, pop, popcorn and snow cones. There will also be several exhibits with information about your local community and much more. Hope to see you there! **Public Safety Complex is located at 505 NW 179th St. Ridgefield, WA 98642.**



- Do not believe a person from another country who just needs you to “help transfer funds” and they need your bank account number to do so. Such scammers promise to give you a huge amount of money for helping them out. **The result is an empty bank account.**
- If you never entered a lottery, you did not win the lottery. Such scams ask you to provide your information and bank account number so they can transfer your prize money. Don't. **The result is an empty bank account.**
- Don't believe a really rich, famous person just wants to help you out... and that the celebrity also mysteriously needs your address, phone number, bank account information to do so. **The result is an empty bank account.**

Grandparents Day September 7, 2008

Grandparents are a wealth of information rich in history and knowledge that preserves the family heritage. Take time on Grandparents Day to pass on special memories, traditions, hobbies, music, celebrations...whatever you can share with your family that can be passed on throughout generations to come. Happy Grandparents Day!

Nobody can do for little children what grandparents do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle stardust over the lives of little children.

-- Alex Haley

Guard your information well. It is better to be rude than to be ripped off, so demand validation, verification, and authentication before giving your information to anyone. If you still feel uneasy, say no or check further.

To be placed on the mailing list to receive the FREE S.A.L.T. Times Newsletter, call the Clark County Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at (360)397-2211 ext. 3380.

The newsletter is now available electronically! Simply e-mail Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

Clark County Sheriff's Office
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Financial Abuse

Jessica W. Dimitrov, Dimitrov & Senescu, PLLC practice focuses primarily on cases involving the abuse of vulnerable adults, guardianships, probate and estate planning; was instrumental in the formation of the Clark County Vulnerable Adult Task Force and played a major role in getting the Washington Vulnerable Adult Protection Act amended in the 2007 Legislative Session to provide better, more economical protection for vulnerable adults needing immediate orders of protection against abuse, exploitation, and abandonment.

Bring a friend and come enjoy this presentation which is sure to be informative. As always, meetings are free and open to all seniors.

WEST S.A.L.T. Meeting:
Speaker: Jessica Dimitrov
September 15, 2008
11:00 a.m.
40 and 8 Community Rm.
7607 NE 26th Ave.
Vancouver, WA

EAST S.A.L.T. Meeting:
Speaker: Jim Senescu
September 22, 2008
11:00 a.m.
Camas Police Dept.
2100 NE 3rd Ave.
Camas, WA



For other formats: Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000 Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov