



Happy Spring

From Your MRSPA Consumer Education Committee!

This April, AARP is showing up in your community with free local scam-fighting events—including fraud-prevention workshops to help you better protect your money and personal information.

Go to aarp.org/fraudsafety to learn more and find events near you.

2025-2026 MRSPA CONSUMER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson - Alana Turner, Talbot County, *Connection* Editor

Area I West - Vacant

Area II South – Brenda Barnes & Lorraine Johnson
Prince George’s Co., Nancy Lewis, St. Mary’s Co.

Area I East - Debra Berner, Montgomery Co.

Area III North - Betty Weller, Kent Co.

Area II North - Tillie Barckley, Anne Arundel Co.

Area III South— Vacant

SCAM ALERT!

Do These 9 Things to Feel Safer Now!

Update your passwords—including home Wi-Fi, and don't use pets' or grandkids' names. Instead, try a passphrase you'll remember, but substitute a symbol for a letter.

Change your settings on your smartphone to send all unknown numbers to voicemail.

On social media, do a privacy checkup. Under Settings, choose Privacy, and check to make sure only people you choose see your social media posts.

Freeze your credit. This will prevent crooks from stealing your identity and opening new credit cards and other accounts in your name. Unfreeze it when necessary to allow a credit search.

Take your Social Security card out of your wallet, and put it in a safe place.

Review your bank and other financial accounts right now for suspicious activity. Do this daily, weekly or monthly, especially for bank and credit card statements.

Delete apps not in use, including those with saved passwords.

Go into your device and log out of all of your apps to avoid unauthorized access.

Add the AARP Fraud Watch Network (877-908-3360) to your contacts for quick access if needed.

Great advice from AARP.



Spring is a great time for free shredding events!

Just google “free shred events near me” and you will find some great shredding events sponsored by banks, community associations, etc. Most limit the number of boxes that you can bring, but it’s a great way to get rid of sensitive documents. You should be able to find these events both in the Spring and Fall.

Beware of Spring Scammers!

Be aware of someone approaching you, offering to do a job with “leftover” materials at a great price! If it seems too good to be true.....it usually is! Ask for references where they performed the job and don’t give out any of your information, especially credit card information, if they offer to do the job at a super low price by obtaining a deposit from you. Many scammers will tell you that the offer is **only good that day**. Don’t be pressured! Any work that you need done should be checked out in advance.



Also be wary of strangers coming to your door offering to clean up your yard and asking permission to come inside. If you don’t know them, **don’t let them in**. Don’t open your door and give anyone an opportunity to push past you.

It’s Yard Sale Season!!

You can check out yardsalesearch.com

Or [garagesale finder.com](http://garagesalefinder.com)

Simply enter your zip code. They will give you a list of sales, addresses, times and sometimes photos. Happy shopping!!!





Saving money on gas.....

- Join a gas station rewards program
- Get a warehouse club membership
- Use GasBuddy.com or other gas price comparison tools
- Carpool whenever it's convenient
- Maximize your regular routes
- Drive with fuel efficiency in mind
- Buy a more fuel-efficient car on your next car replacement cycle.
- Keep your car tires properly inflated—making sure your tires are properly inflated can **boost gas mileage by 3%** according to the US Department of Energy. At current prices that could **save you about 15 cents per gallon.**
- Drive the speed limit—especially on the freeway. Fuel economy drops sharply once you start driving faster than 50 mph.
- Ease up on acceleration (Jackrabbit starts) when a car lurches forward very quickly are a major gas waster.
- Consider bicycles, public transit and electric vehicles



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It's Tick Season in Maryland!

Deer ticks are present in Maryland. The black-legged tick, also known as the deer tick, is prevalent in the state, particularly in areas where white-tailed deer are found. These ticks can transmit diseases such as lyme disease, and other serious illnesses. Be aware of tick activity, especially in wooded and grassy areas.





Wednesday, April 22nd is Earth Day.

Do something kind to help the earth this spring. Think about our endangered bees when making selections for your flower garden. Bees bring us countless fruits, vegetables and nuts as well as 1/2 of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials; they prevent soil erosion and increase carbon sequestration.

You can help by providing food sources and nesting sites for bees; limit the use of pesticides around your home; leave some weeds for the bees; spread the word—we need bees!!!



You can also help by recycling that bottle, can or clean paper material (clean fast food materials, etc.) rather than throwing it into the trash. Keep the recyclables out of the landfill so that they can be used to create other products.



**Saturday,
April 26**
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
DEATakeBack.com



We say it so much because it's just that important! Do your part to rid your home of unused prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Many communities are holding take-back days on April 26th. Most communities also offer drug take-back throughout the year at local police stations.

**Use the DEA website to locate a drug disposal facility near you.
You only need to enter your zip code:**

<https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/>



It's Annual Business Meeting Time!

**If you're attending, stop by our table for some great information
provided by the committee.**

Your MRSPA Consumer Education Committee Cares About You!