

## June Radford TRIAD News

Radford City TRIAD members gathered at the Radford Recreational Department on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, to talk about charity and magazine scams and to meet the Radford News Journal's editor, Marty Gordon. TRIAD coordinator, Shonna Williams, opened the meeting and then turned things over to Mark Armentrout, Radford City Sheriff. Sheriff Armentrout introduced Marty Gordon who gave a brief biography of himself and described his plans to reintroduce Radford readers to a hometown style newspaper.

Marty Gordon came from Wytheville, Virginia, in 1982, to attend Radford University. Mr. Gordon's first job was with WRAD and that job soon parlayed into a job with the Radford News Journal where he was the sports and general editor. After moving around a bit, working for other newspapers outside of Virginia and as the NASCAR news representative for Coca Cola, he ventured into minor league sports. Mr. Gordon was the general manager for most every sports team, seven to be exact, from Pulaski to Salem. For the past several years he has been employed with Larry Linkous as a full time auctioneer.

But, as fate would have it, Mr. Gordon has now returned to the Radford News Journal, as the editor where he plans to go back to the hometown style newspaper that made the Radford News Journal so successful. Mr. Gordon wants to know what's happening in Radford! Is someone retiring? Do you know someone who has a special birthday an anniversary a wedding or birth announcement? You can, free of charge, publish those events in the Radford News Journal. If you have any questions or would like to make a submission to the Radford News Journal, you can e-mail Marty Gordon at [www.mgordon@mainstreetnewspapers.com](mailto:www.mgordon@mainstreetnewspapers.com).

Today's TRIAD meeting also included a brief presentation which provided TRIAD members with information regarding magazine subscription and charity donation scams. Unfortunately, annoying phone calls are often more than just an inconvenience. Phone calls by solicitor offering great deals on magazine subscriptions or renewals might be con artists trying to trick you into spending more than you realize or paying for magazines that you will never receive. Imposters may be pretending to call on behalf of magazine publishers selling subscriptions or asking that you renew a subscription to your favorite magazine, when in fact, they have no connection with the publisher.

If you are interested in a magazine subscription it is suggested that you ask the caller for written information, a legitimate company will send you the details, and never insist that you act immediately. Beware of the "free prize". If you have to buy a magazine subscription, it isn't a free prize.

Know the company's cancellation policy and check the prices, it may be cheaper to buy the magazine directly from the publisher rather than through a subscription service. If you are not interested, tell the caller no and to put your name on the company's "Do Not Call" list and unless you are making a payment, do not give your credit card or bank account information to the caller. There is no reason that a company would need your banking information for any other purpose than for a payment.

Charity organizations are working extra hard to maintain donations through campaign incentives, mail correspondence and solicitations. Most states require charities to register, so if you are approached by

an unfamiliar charity, check it out by calling 703-276-0100 or call the Better Business Bureau. You can also go online to [www.give.org](http://www.give.org). and verify the legitimacy of the charity.

Beware of sound-alikes; some scammers will try to fool people by using names that are very similar to those of legitimate or well known charities. Inquire as to the relationship of the caller and the charity; the caller may be a professional fundraiser so ask what percentages of donations go to the charity.

Watch out for fraudulent fundraisers claiming to be raising money for state and local police or firefighters. Contact your local police or fire department to verify the fundraising campaign and if your local departments will receive a percentage of the funds raised. Be especially cautious after a natural or other disaster. Fraudulent charities will try to trick people who want to help victims. If you are not sure if a charity is legitimate, contact the Better Business Bureau.

Sheriff Mark Armentrout and TRIAD coordinator Shonna Williams would like to thank Marty Gordon, Editor of the Radford News Journal, for speaking and would like to invite everyone to the next TRIAD meeting. The July TRIAD meeting will be on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at 10:30am, at the Radford Recreational Department in the large meeting room. TRIAD meetings are free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The July TRIAD meeting coincides with the fourth annual TRIAD cookout! If you would like to attend the meeting and the cookout please contact Audrey Caldwell, Senior Coordinator, at 731-5517 to reserve your spot. Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Shonna Williams, Radford City Sheriff's Office, TRIAD Coordinator