

Dear Members,

As we leave behind the long – and often lonely – winter, we are heartened to see the budding of spring flowers and the warmth of the sun. We hope you are enjoying the new season and all the promise it brings!

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

As you are likely aware, in Pennsylvania everyone age 16 and over will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine as of April 19<sup>th</sup>. (Note: Pfizer is approved for age 16+, Moderna and Johnson&Johnson are approved for age 18+). While this is very good news, it remains true that the registration process can still be challenging.

**Register On-Line:** If you have online access, please visit the Allegheny County Health Department registration site at <http://vax4.alleghenycounty.us>.

**Register By Phone:** Call 2-1-1 any day between 9am-12 noon for registration assistance.

**Need Help?** Call Vintage at 412-361-5003 ext. 103 and one of our staff will assist you.

**Not Sure?** If you are hesitant about getting vaccinated, we encourage you to consult with your health care provider for guidance.

### **Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community**

The Vintage organization is participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. This online fundraiser and virtual walk will be open until July 15<sup>th</sup>. Want to get involved? Please contact Jennifer Collins at 412-361-5003 ext. 130.

### **Amazon Smile**

Each month nearly 200 million people shop on Amazon – are you one of them? If so, you can do your online shopping and support Vintage at the same time! Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile:

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations (we hope you select Vintage!)

### **Farmers Market Vouchers**

With the nicer weather finally upon us, thoughts are turning to the Farmers Markets. No announcements have been made regarding the distribution of vouchers for this year. However, we anticipate this will be done by mail similar to last year. Once we have information from the County, we will send it out in a mailing.

Vintage is not yet authorized to reopen for group activities – please see enclosed flyer for additional details. However, we have been approved to schedule individual appointments in the senior center.

- ☐ Food and Donated Items, contact Tom Sturgill at 412-361-5003 ext. 104.
- ☐ Technology Assistance, contact Michael Smith at 412-361-5003 ext. 108.
- ☐ Information Services, contact Cheryl Schell at 412-361-5003 ext. 102.

Best Regards, *Vintage Staff*

**See Enclosed Flyers For Other Important Information**



## **“WHEN WILL VINTAGE RE-OPEN?”**

As you might image, we get asked this question a lot! We wish we had a better answer than “we don’t know”. However, we would like to share what we do know:

- ☐ Vintage falls under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging.
- ☐ Our understanding is that consideration will be given to re-opening senior centers when the County’s positivity rate is below 5% for two consecutive weeks.
- ☐ The percent positive is exactly what it sounds like: the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive. A low positivity rate means that the level of community virus transmission is low.
- ☐ Here is the Allegheny County positivity rate for the past several months:
  - First week of December: 12.6%
  - First Week of January: 11.2%
  - First Week of February: 6.0%
  - First Week of March: 5.4%
  - First Week of April: 8.8%
- ☐ As you see, we are currently on an upward trend; experts believe this is driven by too many people (especially younger people) thinking “Covid is over” when it’s really not.
- ☐ When senior centers are approved to re-open, we will send out a mailing to all members. Please be aware that, even when we re-open, we will not immediately be able to operate in our old normal way. We will be restricted in terms of the numbers of people permitted in the building, and the types of activities we can offer.



## **DO YOU WANT TO LEARN BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS?**

**SIGN UP FOR FREE SENIOR TECH SUPPORT AT VINTAGE!**

**DON'T HAVE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT? YOU CAN BORROW IT!**

During the COVID-19 crisis, it has become clear to us how critical it is to have access to online resources, such as email, online shopping and online banking. If you would like to learn or improve your computer skills as a way to stay connected and to access services and resources, Vintage would like to help.

- ☐ **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COMPUTER OR INTERNET ACCESS AT HOME**
  - Contact Michael Smith at 412-361-5003 ext. 108 to learn about our Lending Library and free coaching.
  
- ☐ **DO HAVE EQUIPMENT AND INTERNET BUT WOULD LIKE TO BUILD YOUR SKILLS?**
  - Contact Michael Smith at 412-361-5003 ext. 108 to learn about our free coaching.



# FRAUD SQUAD ALERT

3-31-21  
Vol. 3-4

## RED FLAGS - How to Recognize a Scam

Imposter scams are on the rise again. The criminals trying to convince you they are someone they're NOT can be very convincing. Covid vaccine appointment scams, Covid vaccine survey scams, and stimulus check scams are among the most common. If you become familiar with what to listen and look for (**RED FLAGS**), you can avoid becoming a victim.

### **PHONE RED FLAGS**

1. If you don't recognize the phone number, it could be a scam. **DON'T ANSWER!**
2. If caller ID says, "Social Security, Internal Revenue, Medicare, UPMC, Duquesne Light," it is most likely a scam. **DON'T ANSWER!**
3. If the caller asks for personal information, it's a scam. **DON'T GIVE IT.**
4. If the caller threatens you, it's a scam. **HANG UP!**
5. If the caller pressures you, they're trying to take advantage of you. **HANG UP!**
6. If what the caller is offering is 'too good to be true,' **IT IS!**

### **EMAIL RED FLAGS**

1. If the sender's email address includes a series of letters & numbers or doesn't match the message, it's probably a scam.
2. If there are misspellings, grammar errors, or other odd symbols in the message, it's most likely a scam.
3. If message wants you to "CLICK HERE," beware! There are often many places in scam messages to "CLICK HERE," including 'unsubscribe.' **DON'T** click on any links unless you are absolutely sure that the message is not a scam.
4. If message asks for personal information, it's a scam!
5. If the message is pushing an offer that sounds 'too good to be true,' **IT IS!**

### **BEST PRACTICES**

1. **DON'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE** unless you recognize the phone number. Program important numbers (*family, friends, medical professionals, etc.*) into your phone. Let all unfamiliar calls go to voicemail. For emails, **DON'T CLICK HERE!**
2. **Don't trust your caller ID.** Criminals can "spoof" the number to look any way they want.
3. **Look up the number or email address** before responding.
4. **NEVER GIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION** to caller, email sender or texter.
5. Report scam to the FTC. (*Optional, but recommended*) 1-877-382-4357 or [ftc.gov](http://ftc.gov)
6. Call someone reliable if you're not sure of what to do.

Questions? Contact one of your District Attorney's **SENIOR JUSTICE ADVOCATES:**

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|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| ◆ <a href="#">Cyndie Carioli</a> | (412) 983-0729 | <a href="mailto:CyndieatDA@gmail.com">CyndieatDA@gmail.com</a> |
| ◆ <a href="#">Joe Giuffre</a>    | (412) 427-3770 | <a href="mailto:JoeatDA@gmail.com">JoeatDA@gmail.com</a>       |
| ◆ <a href="#">Dick Skrinjar</a>  | (412) 512-3491 | <a href="mailto:DickatDA@gmail.com">DickatDA@gmail.com</a>     |