



Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

CONSUMER CONNECTION

A Publication of the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee

March—April, 2025

## Happy Spring from your Consumer Education Committee



**Earth Day is right around the corner—April 22, 2025**



**Make it a point to do something to honor our Earth this year.**

**Plant a tree, pick up trash on your street, recycle....whatever **small** thing you can do will do **much** for our earth if everyone does one small thing!**

**Celebrate Earth Day!!**

### 2024-2025 MRSPA CONSUMER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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Area II North - Phyllis Cherry, Carla Duls,  
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# Countdown to REAL ID Compliance: May 7, 2025

**REAL ID** <sup>★</sup> is here. Are you ready?



Visit the REAL ID Lookup Tool to Check Your Status.  
[www.mva.maryland.gov/realidlookup](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realidlookup)



Collect Your REAL ID Documents & Schedule An Appointment.  
[www.mva.maryland.gov/odg](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/odg)



Learn More About the federal REAL ID Act.  
[www.mva.maryland.gov/realid](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/realid)

**Have fun and save money this Summer....**

**Your Consumer Education Committee provide these websites for Summer fun!!**

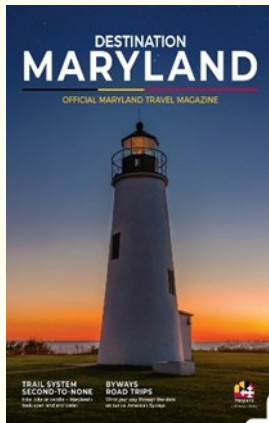
## **Maryland Park Service Golden Age Pass**

[Golden Age Pass - Maryland State Parks \(shopdnr.com\)](http://shopdnr.com)



Other travel brochures for destinations in Maryland

[Brochures | VisitMaryland.org](http://VisitMaryland.org)



You can also view these materials online at the

VisitMaryland.org website.

Other items of interest:

[Maryland Wineries Association - Visit, taste and explore Maryland wine.](http://MarylandWineriesAssociation.com)

DEA NATIONAL <sup>Rx</sup>  
**TAKEBACK**



KEEP THEM SAFE. CLEAN THEM OUT. TAKE THEM BACK.

**National Drug Take Back Day is April 26, 2025**

**We keep talking about it because it is SO important. Keep your loved ones safe by disposing of unused or expired medications.**

**Drug Take Back Sites accept:**

- **Capsules**
- **Creams**
- **Inhalers**
- **Non-aerosol sprays**
  
- **Ointments**
- **Patches**
- **Pills**
- **Vials**



**Pet meds are also accepted.**

**Drug Take Back Day results from October 2024:**

- Total Law Enforcement Participation: **4,425**
- Total Collection Sites: **4,644**
- Total Weight Collected: **629,953 lbs. (314 tons)**

**Total Weight All Time: 19,200,440 lbs. (9,600 tons)**

**Do Your Part—Take Them Back**

# The FTC reports that \$12.5 Billion was lost to scams and fraud in 2024 and older adults were hit hard.

## Don't Get Scammed.....

### Verify phone calls

If you receive a call and aren't sure if the company is legitimate or who you're speaking with, hang up. Search for a verified number on the company website. If someone calls claiming to be from your bank and you feel uncomfortable, hang up and call the number on the back of your card before providing any personal or financial information.

### Beware of urgency

Scammers notoriously apply pressure by saying your account is compromised, claiming they'll cut off your services or threatening legal action. Take a pause and tell a trusted friend or family member about the situation before making any financial decisions.

### Be cautious of upfront fees and guaranteed returns

If an opportunity seems too good to be true, it probably is. Look up reviews of the company to check its reputation and trustworthiness.

### Don't be pressured to pay with gift cards

Utility companies, banks, the IRS or any other government agency will **never** request payment in the form of a gift card. Don't share the number on the back of the gift card with anyone you don't know.





# Saving money in 2025!!

## Great deals to look for

### March

**March is National Frozen Food Month!! Expect to see discounts and coupons for frozen food brands. It's a great time to stock up your freezer!**

**Luggage—Look for mark downs between the holiday and summer vacation**

**Perfume and Candy—prices drop as low as 50% after Valentine's Day**

### April

**Athletic shoes get marked down 40-60% by some retailers and you can find clearance deals as much as 70-80% off.**

**Grill accessories—deals are on in April but for better deals on grills, you need to wait for Fall.**

**Mattresses—new models come out in June, so look for deep discounts in April and May.**



# Spring Cleaning

## for Fire Safety



### Inside The Home



Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.



Don't use electrical appliances with frayed cords.



Check for water around electrical appliances.



Clean debris from your clothes dryer lint trap and exhaust duct.

### Outside The Home



Remove dead leaves and other debris around foundations, decks, porches, and stairs.



Check grills for rust, worn parts, insects, grease, and other debris before use.



Grills should only be used when at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.

