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TO: ALL SENIOR CITIZEN GROUPS
FROM: PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH
DATE: AUGUST 28, 2007

Please let the senior citizens in your group know about this con artist scam at your next meeting.

CON ARTIST ALERT TO ALL SENIOR GROUPS

Be Careful Opening an E-mail Card

If you've recently been bombarded with greeting cards in your e-mail inbox, don't get excited about having a host of secret admirers. They're the latest method of sending computer viruses.

You've probably seen one – or 100 – e-mail notifications that inform you that you've received a card from a "classmate" or a "friend." However, if you've ever received a legitimate e-card, you'll recall that the e-mail states "A Hallmark E-card from (name of sender)" or "I sent you an e-card from AmericanGreetings.com."

If a recipient opens the e-mail and clicks on the link, a variant of the Zapchast Trojan virus will launch. It installs an Internet Relay chat client (IRC), which causes a computer to connect to an IRC channel, allowing hackers to remotely command the computer.

Just to be on the safe side, you should use the E-card pickup feature, which is available on both greeting card Web sites.

If you do receive one of these e-mails, do not open it. You can forward them to abuse@hallmark.com or security@americangreetings.com. You may also report it to the Internet Computer Crime Center at www.ic3.gov.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts and other useful information from my office, please call (330) 643-2796.

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.