S.R.A. News

Volume 28 · Issue 2 SNET RETIREES ASSOCIATION, INC Fall 2025

AT&T 2026 Health Care Benefits Overview

By **JoAnn Alix-Gagain**

The retiree associations participated in a call along with AT&T Benefit personnel to review 2026 benefit plans.

This article will highlight the major provisions but in no way reflects all aspects of any of the offerings from AT&T. You have the responsibility to read and ask your specific questions to AT&T healthcare vendors as well as your own caregivers regarding coverages.

Key Dates & Resources

- Enrollment: Oct. 20 – Dec. 5
- Virtual Education Sessions
- Full plan details available by 10/1 on UHC website
- att.com/benefitscenter or (877)722-0020

Grandfathered Retirees: The AT&T Medicare Advantage Plan will continue to be made available to eligible retirees,

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S.R.A. News

This is the official publication for SNET Retirees Association, Inc. members. It contains timely news and feature items of interest to all SNET retirees.

S.R.A. is a nonprofit organization. Readers are encouraged to send or phone news tips.

www.snetretirees.org

AT&T Has Cut Over 139,000 Jobs Since 2017 as it Spins Off DIRECTV, Warner Bros. & Leans Into AI

By **Luke Bouma**

The US telecom industry continues its dramatic downsizing trend as AT&T cut over 9,000 employees in 2024. This wave of layoffs comes amidst a backdrop of technological advancements, increasing automation, and a relentless focus on cost efficiency.

AT&T, led by CEO John Stankey, has been particularly aggressive in its workforce reduction strategy. Since taking the helm in 2020, Stankey has overseen a significant decrease in employee numbers. The company, which once boasted a workforce of 280,000 in 2017 (including the then-pending Time Warner acquisition), now employs just 141,000 people. This latest round of 9,500 job cuts follows a pattern of downsizing that began after the company's ill-fated acquisition of Time Warner in 2018, according to a report from Light Reading.

This all results in 139,000 fewer people working for AT&T since 2017.

While acknowledging the role of AI in driving efficiency, Stankey has emphasized that the technology is not solely responsible for the job losses. He points to other factors, such as the spin-off of WarnerMedia in 2022, which resulted in the immediate removal of 30,000 positions from AT&T's books.

AI and Automation: The Driving Force Behind Job Losses

While both companies cite various reasons for the job cuts, the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation in the telecom industry is undeniable. These technologies are transforming the way telecom com-

panies operate, enabling them to automate tasks, improve customer service, and optimize network performance with fewer employees.

Stankey, who has expressed enthusiasm for the emergence of lower-cost AI, highlighted its potential to enhance efficiency and reduce costs. He emphasized that AI is not just replacing jobs but also making existing employees more effective. AT&T is utilizing AI in various areas, including customer service, network optimization, and even code writing.

The Impact on Workers and the Future of the Telecom Industry

These widespread job cuts raise concerns about the future of work in the telecom sector and the impact on displaced employees. While AI and automation offer numerous benefits for businesses, they also pose challenges for workers whose skills may become obsolete.

The telecom industry's increasing

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dependents and surviving spouses at no monthly premium and no changes to their coverage. **However, new cards will be issued to all participants in the AT&T plans: One for Medical and one for Prescriptions.** This is due to reporting requirements to the Medicare division of the government. New cards only not new plans So you will need to update with your providers in 2026.

- Care Plus has no increased costing.
- No changes to Dental or Vision

Grandfathered Retirees can call UHC at 1-888-803-9234 or Website: retiree.uhc.co

Non-Grandfathered Retirees: **New cards will be issued to all participants in the AT&T plans: One for Medical and one for Prescriptions.** This is due to reporting requirements to the Medicare division of the government. New cards only not new plans So you will need to update with your providers in 2026.

- No changes monthly premiums. Basic plan will remain at $0 a month. Plus Plan remains at $50 per month per Separate Medical & Rx plans and two ID cards, but no change administratively.
- Will keep $125 medical deductible, $900 medical out of pocket maximum, and $590 Rx deductible
- Rx out of pocket max increase from $2,000 to $2,100 (per US government)
- CarePlus has no increased costing
- No changes to Dental, Vision or Hearing if you have the Plus Plan
- Reimbursement accounts that remain with balances can still be use for 2025 out of pocket expenses into 1 Q 2026.
- **If you want to move to Plus or out of the Plus plan you must call UHC to make any changes.**
- **If you prefer another plan other than the AT&T plan you must research that on your own and sign up for it on your own. AT&T no longer does that with Alight.**

Non-Grandfathered Retirees call UHC at 1-866-819-3448 or Website: retiree.uhc.com/att

PRE Medicare Medical Plan: Will move to a new administrator which will be Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. Participants will receive new cards

- This plan has 3 levels of coverage based on deductibles and monthly premiums for individuals and or family coverage.
- Enrollment Period is from October 20th through November 7th.

Web site and phone number for questions for non-Medicare folks is: www.includedhealth.com/att or 800-374-1009.

S.R.A. Response Team

The S.R.A. Response Team is active and ready to assist our members with problems relative to Health Benefits and Pension items.

Before placing a telephone call to a member of the Response Team, for assistance, be sure you have contcted the AT&T Benefits Cetner.

The S.R.A. Response Team Members ready to assist you are:

JoAnn Alix-Gagain 203-217-8880 (jagagain@snet.net)

Frank Pagerino 203-929-7487

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reliance on technology and the resulting downsizing trend underscore the need for workers to adapt and acquire new skills to remain competitive in the evolving job market. As AI and automation continue to reshape the industry, the ability to leverage these technologies will become increasingly crucial for both companies and employees.

The future of the telecom workforce will likely be characterized by a greater emphasis on specialized skills, digital literacy, and the ability to work alongside AI-powered systems. While the transition may be challenging, it also presents opportunities for workers to upskill and contribute to the industry's ongoing transformation. This also comes as AT&T and others are focusing more on their core business.

In the News

- Last month, AT&T CEO John Stankey raised eyebrows when he sent a stern memo to employees. The memo was in response to a companywide survey that revealed only 79% of over 9,000 AT&T employees said they felt committed and engaged with their work, falling short of previous expectations. In the memo, Stankey doubled down on the company's new return-to-office policy, giving workers a harsh ultimatum. "We run a dynamic, customer-facing business, tackling large-scale, challenging initiatives," said Stankey. "If the requirements dictated by this dynamic do not align to your personal desires, you have every right to find a career opportunity that is suitable to your aspirations and needs. That said, if a self-directed, virtual, or hybrid work schedule is essential for you to manage your career aspirations and life challenges, you will have a difficult time aligning your priorities with those of the company and the culture we aim to establish."

- The AT&T Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of $0.2775 per share on the company's common shares. Dividends on common stock as well as Series A and Series C preferred stock are payable on November 3, 2025.Dividends on the common stock and Series A and Series C preferred stock are payable on November 3, 2025, to stockholders of record of the respective shares at the close of business on October 10, 2025.

- Members of CWA Local 1298 at Frontier Communications voted on Tuesday to ratify a new contract. The new three-year contract guarantees wage increases, including retro pay going back to September 2024. The bargaining team was also able to maintain retirement benefits and call center worker protections. CWA Local 1298 President David Weidlich remarked, "After more than a year of bargaining, and with the patience and support of our members, the CWA Local 1298 bargaining committee was able to deliver a contract that secures jobs, maintains affordable healthcare and pensions and increases wages, including one year of retro pay. It was critically important to maintain our job security as we continue to prepare for a transition to Verizon."

- Mass 911 outages that swept across parts of Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama on Thursday afternoon were caused by fiber cuts made by "third parties," according to a statement from AT&T. Initial reports of outages were circulating around 2 p.m. in Mississippi. By 4:45 p.m., AT&T reported service had been restored in all three states. "911 service continues to operate normally across previously affected areas in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama," the AT&T statement said. "We understand how important these services are and apologize to our customers for the inconvenience." AT&T also said the outages were "at no time statewide," contradicting some reports from local authorities. (See another article on this topic in this newsletter.)

AT&T Improves Wireless Discounts

AT&T has informed the retiree organizations that they are now offering a 50% on two (2) of the cell phone plans they offer. The plans for this discount beginning in with your November bill are: AT&T Unlimited Premium Extra and STARTER plan.

If you do not have one of those two plans your discount will remain at 30%.

Before you switch over to get that 50% be sure to compare your legacy plans. The prices may not be worth the switch. Buyer beware…

Do your homework on minutes, data, current senior plans, family plans etc. Once you switch from a legacy plan you cannot go back as I understand.

Also, AT&T has updated the other companies who also offer discounts on their products. You can see the entire list of discounts available to you at the AT&T Benefit web site and using the Retiree Discounts Options tab.

CT Regulators Give Final Approval of Verizon's Acquisition of Frontier

By Luther **Turmelle**

State utility regulators on Wednesday (6/11/25) unanimously approved telecommunication giant Verizon's acquisition of Frontier Communications' Connecticut operations.

The Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority had given its tentative approval to the deal on May 14. Verizon announced its proposed $20 billion acquisition of all Frontier's operations in September.

Even with PURA's approval of the acquisition of the Connecticut telecommunication franchise, the full $20 billion transaction in which Verizon acquires all of Frontier's local telephone networks around the rest of the country won't be completed until later this year.

Prior to the vote, PURA Commissioner David Arconti Jr. praised Verizon for working with Communications Workers of America Local 1298 to resolve concerns the Hamden-based union had regarding the company's acquisition of Frontier's Connecticut franchise.

"I hope that Verizon demonstrates continued commitment to front line workers," Arconti said.

Officials with Verizon and Frontier were not immediately available for comment Wednesday on PURA's approval of the deal.

Because Verizon's full acquisition of all of Frontier's local telephone networks won't close until later this year, Local 1298 is in the midst of negotiating a new labor agreement with Frontier. The current contract is set to expire on June 28, according to union officials.

Once Verizon's acquisition of Frontier is complete, the New York City-based company will inherit the terms of the agreement Frontier and Local 1298 negotiate.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said the deal approved by PURA "gives Verizon the telecom assets to serve every customer across the state."

"This is a huge business and a significant acquisition thatv warrants strong consumer protection measures and ongoing oversight, reflected in PURA's final approval today," Tong said. "We will continue to scrutinize Verizon's practices in Connecticut and expect that they will faithfully honor all commitments and obligations to customer service, low-income consumers, cybersecurity, and local control."

Claire Coleman, Connecticut's Consumer Counsel said the actions of her office and PURA in the case were important because "the federal government is dismantling protections for telecommunications consumers."

"It is up to states to step in and protect the public," Coleman said. "Due to my team's efforts in this case, PURA's decision eliminates junk fees, expands low-income broadband discounts, safeguards vulnerable populations, and holds Verizon accountable for network reliability and public safety. I am pleased that our regulator saw the merits of our proposal that secures real savings, real protections and real accountability for Connecticut residents."

Frontier has operated Connecticut's landline telecommunications network since it acquired the franchise from AT&T in October 2014. At the time, Frontier was headquartered in Norwalk, before the company announced on Sept. 13, 2023 that it was relocating its base of operations to Dallas, Texas.

Verizon and its predecessor companies have had a small presence in Connecticut's landline market for more than a century.

A predecessor of Verizon began serving a portion of Greenwich after winning a franchise which had boundaries within a 50-mile radius of New York City's Times Square. Subsequent successor companies continued to serve Greenwich until Verizon began the brand's formal presence there in 2000 after the merger of Bell Atlantic and GTE.

Common Scams That Target Seniors

From: **SeniorLiving.org Team**
Edited by: **JAG for SRA**

Scams targeting older adults are all too common in today›s world. Many scammers think of seniors as prime targets because of their retirement savings or because they may live alone. Many outdated and downright inaccurate stereotypes about older adults make them popular targets.

Luckily, there are plenty of ways to stay ahead of the fraudsters and avoid getting scammed. In this guide, we'll walk you through the most common scams that target older adults, so you know exactly what to look out for.

This guide covers the various fraud tactics that scammers commonly use, followed by more detail on each type of fraud. Last but not least, if you suspect that you or someone you know may be a victim of a scam review the resources you can turn to.

Expert Insight on Senior Scams

Before delving into the common scams that target older adults, let's take a look at some insight that experts have to share about the topic:

Common Fraud Tactics Used on Seniors

Con artists employ a wide variety of tactics to get older people to fall for their schemes. Below are some to be cautious of:

- Being friendly, approachable, and sympathetic so that the victim feels like the solicitor is on his or her side
- Instilling fear or giving a sense of urgency so people don't have much time to think or act rationally
- Appearing to be helpful to gain someone's trust and make that person feel inclined to return a favor later on
- Using emotional arousal to skew proper judgment; not long ago, researchers at Stanford found that when senior individuals are in a state of high emotional arousal, they become more interested in buying things that are falsely advertised
- Pretending to be associated with a credible company, government agency, or charity to fake legitimacy
- Being ambiguous about the subject or changing it throughout a conversation to distract the victim

Popular Scams Targeting Seniors

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) lists the following scams that are most commonly targeted at seniors. Review each type below so that you can identify a potential scam. A few other kinds of scams are covered as well.

Health Insurance Scams

Every citizen who is 65 years or older qualifies for Medicare benefits, making seniors an easy target for medical-related scams. Because scammers don't have to do extensive research on seniors' insurance providers, they can carry out fraudulent schemes pretty easily via the phone or even at the door. These solicitors typically claim to be a Medicare representative, for example, and do the following:

- Tell a senior that he or she needs a new Medicare card, and to be issued one, would need to provide a Social Security number
- Tell an older adult that he or she needs new supplemental policies
- Gather personal information provided to bill Medicare and take the money for themselves

Quick Tip

If you're shopping for a Medigap plan, and you want to avoid being scammed, visit our list of the best Medigap plans for older adults. All of the companies on our list are well-known, reputable insurance providers, so you can rest easy knowing you won't be scammed.

Telemarketing Swindles

Telemarketing scams are one of the most common scams to happen to seniors, due to no face-to-face interaction and convincing charades of being an authority figure.

Scammers can hook seniors by pretending to offer:

- Free trials
- Extended warranties
- Can't-miss investment opportunities
- The chance to travel for cheap or free
- Incredible prizes
- Advance loans

Scammers may also get seniors' money by representing themselves as:

- IRS agents
- Investors
- Bank officials
- Family members

One of the worst parts of a telemarketing scam is that if it is successful, the victim's name will likely be passed on to other con artists as an easy target to prey on.

The best way to prevent falling victim to any telemarketing scheme is to know that any legitimate financial institution or large corporation along with agencies, such as the IRS, will not call and ask for personal information over the phone. Should you receive such calls, it's best to hang up immediately and find the direct number to the company claiming to require your information. Then, call to see if it is actually trying to reach you. Below are a few of the most common scams over the phone.

The Pigeon Drop

A pigeon drop is when a "suspect offers a larger sum of money to the victim in exchange for a smaller sum of money". There is usually a second or third person in on the scam to act as a lawyer or 'innocent bystander' to make the scam more convincing. These are often done in person at tourist spots, but they also occur over the phone often.

If someone contacts you saying that he or she recently inherited money from an uncle but needs a smaller amount of money from you to transfer the inheritance, this could be an example of a pigeon drop. You would be promised something like half of the inheritance.

The Fake Accident Scenario

Scammers will call and claim that someone related to or known by the victim has been injured. They'll also say that the person is currently in the hospital and needs money to be sent immediately. The scammer often pressures the victim to send the money before verifying the

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validity of the injury and their relation to the person who is injured. Another con artist is often involved in acting as the police officer, doctor, or lawyer at the scene of the “accident.”

Robocalls

A scam that seems to have arisen in 2017 uses pre-recorded robocalls to get the victim to say, “Yes.” Questions such as, “Are you there?” tend to prompt this answer, and scammers who have someone’s “yes” reply recorded may be able to use that voice signature to put charges on credit cards and the like.

Apps to Help Protect Against Telemarketing Scams

Several free smartphone apps use crowdsourcing to identify phone numbers involved in scams or frauds and that can be automatically blocked. Here are a few of the top caller ID and scam-blocking apps for both Android and iOS.

Hiya – Hiya is one of the most widely used apps for caller ID and blocking spam calls. You can set it to automatically block calls from numbers that have been reported as a scam or spam repeatedly, and block new numbers that scammers use. You can also report the number so others using the app know to avoid it.

Truecaller – This is another reliable and popular app to protect yourself against unwanted calls and to know immediately if a new number is a scam as reported by others who received the same call.

Whoscall – Whoscall has over 1 billion numbers in its database, and the figure constantly increases as users of the app report more and more unknown numbers as spam and scams. Hopefully, this app helps you know when you’re receiving a call from a legitimate business or a scammer.

To safeguard against robocall and telemarketing scams, join the Do Not Call Registry. When you sign up, you’ll be protected from legitimate telemarketers. This way, if you get questionable calls, you’ll know that they are more likely to be scams.

In addition, when you get a question such as, “Do you hear me?” just hang up. Some callers may encourage you to press “1” to be removed from a call list or to speak with a real person. Don’t do this. It just shows the scammers that you are responsive. Your aim is to avoid engaging at all.

Charity Scams

These scams are unfortunate as they prey on the goodwill of others. Scammers either call or approach a senior in person, saying they are looking for donations to a worthy cause. In reality, the perpetrators have nothing to do with the charity or cause and are looking to take the victim’s money for their own gain.

Did You Know?

Security systems can keep you protected in your home and monitor who shows up at your door, so you can avoid scammers who visit your home. Read our guide to the best home security systems for more details.

Sometimes the goal is to steal the victim’s identity as well. Charity scams tend to happen most after natural disasters on the international level like a major hurricane or on a local level like helping to fund local firefighters.

Internet Fraud

The internet has been rife with scams targeting seniors since its inception. Examples include fake-virus pop ups to trick the victims into paying money, real viruses that may hold victims hostage until they make a payment, phishing scams, and attempts to steal identities through fake websites and emails.

Phishing Scams via Email – Phishing is the main internet method scammers use to get personal information from unsuspecting people through email. The scammer creates an email address and template that looks like an official email from a bank, credit card, or other business. The email looks legitimate and claims that your password, banking number, or other personally identifying information is needed to fix an issue.

Pro Tip

Identity theft protection services can help you avoid becoming a victim of online scams and alert you to potential fraud attempts. We’ve put together our picks for the best identity theft protection services to help you find the one that›s right for your needs.

A related scam is to suggest downloading software like a “Free VPN” or “Free Virus Checker”. This software may actually be designed specifically for hackers. Legitimate VPNs and antivirus software are useful tools, here are some resources for selecting a VPN or software used for protection from identity theft and viruses.

No bank or other business will ever ask for any personal information through an email. If you are concerned about your account, you can go to the website directly (don’t click on any links in a suspected phishing email), and check your account information there, or call your bank directly.

Tech or Computer Support Scams

Tech or computer support scams tend to be the most successful. In some versions, seniors get a call from someone who promises to do tech support on their computers/devices or to clear their computers of viruses, malware, and the like. To sweeten the pot, scammers may offer this so-called service at a senior-citizen discount. Later, the scammers do rudimentary work such as installing free security programs, and seniors may never realize they have been scammed. In other versions, scammers use internet ads to entice older adults to contact them for help.

Did You Know?

Many internet providers offer security suites to protect your computer from viruses and other scams. Head to our list of the best internet providers for seniors to learn more. You can also visit our guide to internet services for seniors for our top online safety tips.

The primary aim of many scammers doing tech or computer support schemes is to access bank account passwords and other sensitive financial information. Because they pose as tech support personnel, they may get permission to link their computer with the victim’s. Sometimes, the scam turns mean immediately when a scammer locks the victim out of his or her

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computer until a fee is paid. Disengaging from the scammer and restarting your computer may solve the issue sometimes.

Lottery and Fake Prize Scams

Thousands of seniors are tricked into believing that they won a large sum of money but are told that they have to wire money in "taxes and fees" or to free the grand prize up from customs officials. After going through with this and receiving a check that doesn't clear, the victim realizes that he or she has been scammed.

Unfortunately, once people fall for this scam, they are at higher risk of getting more lottery and fake-prize scam calls, emails, and offers. Astonishingly, a scammer may even call the victims and claim to be a police officer or detective investigating possible lottery and fake-prize scamming. To investigate, the detective needs to know the victim's financial information. On it goes. According to the U.S. Attorney General and the Solicitor General of Canada, this mass-marketing fraud takes about $1 billion a year!

Counterfeit Prescription Medications

Since many older people are on a fixed income or living off retirement funds, it's only natural that they are often on the lookout for cheaper drug alternatives to save money. Unfortunately, scammers are fully aware of this, and they prey on seniors› vulnerability. Criminals use the internet to operate these scams, offering "better prices" on prescription medications that are counterfeit and often detrimental to one›s health. Older adults should consult with their loved ones before buying any type of medication online to be extra safe.

Fake Anti-Aging Products

Speaking of counterfeits, fake anti-aging products are another big focus of scammers who target seniors. The NCOA states that seniors often feel pressured to look younger to keep up in social circles or to fill a void in their lives. This results in them seeking out new treatments, medications, and products that will help them achieve "youth." Perpetrators prey on this and capitalize on this demand. The scam can be executed in different ways, such as offering costly treatments that turn out to be either harmful or simply homeopathic remedies that do nothing but cost money.

The "Grandparent Scam"

This scam usually entails a perpetrator calling or emailing seniors pretending to be a family member in trouble or an authoritative person representing the relative (a lawyer, for example). The "relative" then asks for money to be wired to him or her to pay rent, lawyer fees, medical bills, or some other fake expense. The victim is often asked to not tell anyone, such as other family members, because the caller wants to keep the problem from being known. The older adult never hears from this "relative" again and is out of hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars.

Variations of this scheme include scammers contacting seniors through online dating sites or social media platforms such as Facebook. A senior with a legitimate profile or account chats with a scammer, who builds trust and perhaps romantic interest. When the request for money comes after an "emergency," the senior is all too happy to indulge. Sometimes, scammers may even pretend to be lonely U.S. soldiers serving overseas.

Investment Schemes

Con artists know that seniors may have planned for retirement for years. So, scammers take advantage of retirees by acting as financial advisors to gain access to their savings and account funds. Once they get the information they need for access, they take the money and run.

Another type of investment scheme entails the scammer taking advantage of the senior citizen's religious affiliation or other essential part of his or her identity. For example, for just $500, the senior citizen could invest in an illustrated Bible for children and earn part of the royalties.

Investment schemes can also be about property and timeshare deals. They often use a sense of urgency and/or the promise of free gifts. If you have only a few hours to make an investment decision and can't call anyone about it, it's probably a scam.

Pro Tip

Check out our crime prevention guide for seniors for more tips on how to avoid cyber crimes, financial scams, and more. We also cover what to do if you fall victim to a crime.

Mortgage Scams

Many older adults own their homes, which makes them an increased target for scammers. Con artists send out official-looking letters from an office such as the county assessor. The letters claim that the homeowners can reduce their property tax burden, but only after paying a fee. The letter does not have any information that is not available to the public, so that is one giveaway of it being a scam. If homeowners believe there is any validity to a letter, they should call the county assessor's office directly.

Homeowners who are doing a reverse mortgage are also a target of con artists, as the reverse mortgage is a sign of unlocked equity that can be taken advantage of.

Funeral Fraud

Sadly, there are con artists who try to take advantage of grieving widows and widowers at funerals. Con artists keep track of obituaries to find their targets and either show up at the funeral or get the contact information of the surviving family members to say the recently deceased had outstanding debts that must be paid off.

Another funeral-related scam is by the funeral house itself. People generally don't go through funerals often and are unaware of the costs associated with one. Dishonest funeral homes tack on additional charges, so it is important to be aware of what a funeral should actually cost.

Bogus Magazine Sales

This type of scam entails young people knocking on doors to sell magazine subscriptions to "raise money" for a good cause, a school trip, or some other charity that older adults are likely to fall for. Once the victim gives money, he or she will not receive any magazine subscriptions nor know where the money went.

IRS Impostor Scams

One of the most common scams is when someone pretends to be an IRS agent. This can happen over email, mail, phone, or in person.

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Dallas Law Enforcement, AT&T Tackle $4M Copper Theft Surge

Dallas law enforcement officials met with AT&T leaders on September 26 to address a surge in copper theft across Texas, which cost the telecommunications company $4 million last year.

AT&T executives and prosecutors discussed the widespread impact of the thefts, which often disrupt critical services. Michael Peterson of AT&T noted that the crimes go beyond financial losses. "You have a lot of senior citizens who get their healthcare over that copper line, sometimes a fiber line," Peterson said, according to NewsRadio 1080 KRLD.

As The Dallas Express previously reported, Peterson has also pointed to homeless encampments and related crime as contributing factors to copper theft in Dallas.

Dallas District Attorney John Creuzot said copper theft leaves communities vulnerable. "If something is stolen and it shuts down, for example, Internet, or it shuts down communications to a critical infrastructure facility, to the police, to 911, things like that, then we are left in a void for servicing the citizens of the community," Creuzot said.

Creuzot helped draft recently passed legislation to make prosecutions more straightforward. He explained the new law unites enforcement rules into one package, giving prosecutors a clearer path to hold thieves accountable.

AT&T also announced monetary rewards for information leading to arrests and convictions. The company is offering $20,000 in California and $10,000 each in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Missouri for tips about copper theft or illegal copper sales.

Copper theft has increased alongside higher prices, which range from $3.20 to $4 per pound depending on purity. Criminals sell stolen copper to recyclers for cash, according to Mobile World Live. AT&T said thieves sometimes mistake fiber lines for copper, damaging them and creating more outages.

Security measures now reinforce entry points, lock or weld manhole covers, and place wires inside metal casings. AT&T said it will retire most of its copper lines by 2029 as part of a fiber network upgrade.

The crackdown on copper theft comes as AT&T faces broader questions about its downtown future. As The Dallas Express reported on Sept. 22, the company has not affirmed on the record that it intends to remain at Whitacre Tower, even as reports suggest it has toured suburban campuses.

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So-called IRS agents say that you owe taxes and demand that you pay immediately or face consequences such as jail time or hefty fines. In many cases, they say that the IRS has contacted you via mail or email already and never heard back, hence the need for dire measures now.

In some cases, they'll instead say you are owed a tax refund. In both scenarios, the goal is to get your credit card numbers or other financial information, and sometimes, money transfers.

If this happens via phone, hang up. If you feel the contact could be valid, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to ensure you are speaking with someone legitimate. Signs of an IRS scam include:

- Arrest threats
- Rude language and behavior
- Requests for credit card or debit card payments over the phone
- Requests to pay with gift cards or prepaid cards
- "Agents" refusing to give badge numbers and other ways to verify their legitimacy
- Demands for payments right away

Did You Know?

Many cell phones come with built-in scam blocking protection to help you avoid falling victim to phone scams.

Are You a Victim of a Scam?

If you think you might be a victim of a scam, reach out to someone you trust such as a close friend or family member. Don't be afraid to talk to someone because doing nothing could make the situation worse.

Unfortunately, once money has been wired out, it is more than likely gone. However, that does not mean that there's nothing left for you to do. Other senior victims are counting on you to report the details so that the scams can be shut down. The AARP breaks down a handy list of resources that are useful to keep readily available. Additionally, keep the phone numbers for your local police station and bank close by.

Conclusion

Con artists and scammers who prey on seniors rely on two key things: The assumption that older adults are unfamiliar with modern technology and that they are unaware of all the different ways to have their personal information stolen.

This guide covers most of the scams that target seniors, but it always helps to be aware of anyone and anything trying to get money or personal information out of you.

Whenever you feel the least bit suspicious of an email, phone call, personal visit, or anything else, you can try a simple Google search about your suspicion. If the search pulls up something, then you'll know for a fact it is a scam to report and then ignore. If nothing comes up, it could be a new scam or one that hasn't been well documented. Be safe and aware!

Names for Pictures

1. John Bayusick & Fred Page
2. Jeanette Craine & Sharon Carney
3. Tom & Barbara Puffer
4. Barbara Marcelynas, Gail Gunnoud & Jennifer Hunihan
5. Bob Rossetti & Ed Vitka
6. Charlie Rogers & James Casey
7. Sue Sirica & Susan Dubay
8. Sherrie & Spike Becker
9. Mike Prete & George Braun
10. Mavis Murphy & Carrie Bernabe
11. Al Lindsay
12. Eddie & Pearl DeMarzio
13. John Sullivan & Bob Britt
14. Diane & Lee Russell
15. Ellen Cramp
16. Annette Cianci & Carol Marold
17. Rick Blake & Joe Szczech
18. Ken McIntrye & Rick Evans
19. Willard Revaz with Angela & Norbert Theriault
20. Elaine & Eddie Ariola
21. Cliff Potter & Bill Kane
22. Karen Sabal-Ciccone, Linda Wallinger & Ilona Quimbaya
23. Ed O’Connor with Larry & Elaine Beck
24. Joe Fetcho & Gary Jobst
25. Mike Keller, Joe Cordova, Bill Minihan, & Tom Lionetti
26. Pat DeMichele, John Badyrka, & Steve Slayton
27. Tom DeMichele
28. Roxanne Fusco
29. Lucille Grecio

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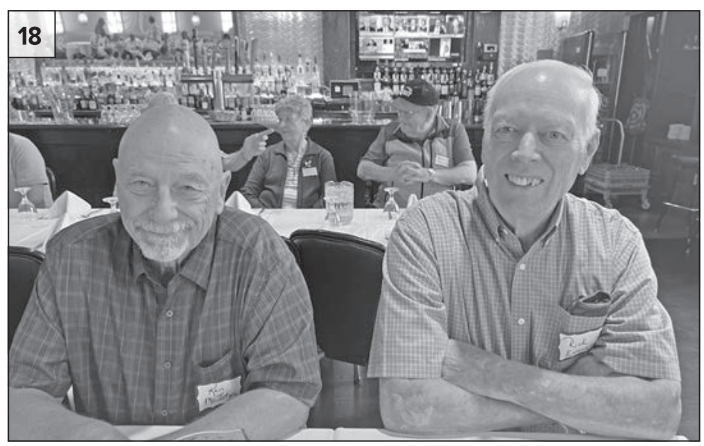

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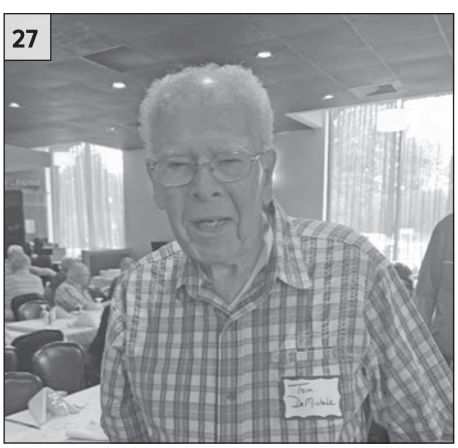
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2025 SRA Annual Meeting & Picnic Attendees

The following retirees and their guests paid to attend.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	GUESTS
JoAnn Alix-Gagagin	Linda Wallinger
Mary Fontana	

MEMBERS	GUESTS
Dan Adams	
Janet Adams	
Ed Ariola	Eliaine Ariola
Royal Ayers	
John Badyrka	
Bob Banet	
Mike Barbera	
John Bayusik	
Elaine Beck	
Larry Beck	
Spike Becker	
Sherrie Becker	
Carrie Bernabe	
Rick Blake	Catherine Blake
George Braun	
Bob Britt	
Sharon Carney	
Jim Casey	
Linda Cavallaro	Joseph Tomczyk
Don Chatfield	
Jeanne Chatfield	
Dave Chauvin	
Annette Cianci	
Steve Cohen	
Charlie Colaresi	
Joe Cordova	
Jeanette Craine	
Ellen Cramp	
Larry Cramp	
Ed Cucchiarelli	
Eddie DeMarzo	Francesca Burton Pearl DeMarzo
Pat DeMichele	
Tom DeMichele	
Susan Dubay	
Dave Dudley	
Rick Evans	Ken McIntyre
Michael Faherty	
Joe Fetcho	
Roxanne Fusco	
Lucille Grieco	
Gail Gunnoud	
Sue Hamel	
Bill Harlan	
Ken Hendren	
Joseph Hoefflinger	
Linda Houle	
Jennifer Hunihan	
Gary Jobst	
Heide Kapral	
William Kane	
Bill Kegeles	
Mike Keller	
Tom Lionetti	
Jeff Linden	
Al Lindsay	
Barbara Marcelynas	
Carol Marold	
Rae Messenger	
William Minihan	
Frank Moynihan	
Mavis Murphy	
Ed O'Connor	
Richard O'Dea	Ann O'Dea
Fred Page	
Tony Palermo	
Jim Pandaru	
Larry Pierce	
Cliff Potter	
Mike Prete	
Tom Puffer	Barbara Puffer
Ilona Quimbaya	
Ray Quintin	
Joe Raiola	
Willard Revaz	
Dick Robinson	
Charlie Rogers	
Robert Rossetti	
Sandy Rossitto	
Lee Russell	Diane Russell
Karen Sabal-Ciccone	
Susan Sirica	
Steve Slayton	
Sheilah Slattery	Patricia Brittingham
Anna Spardone	
Gregory Sterling	
John Sullivan	
Joe Szczech	
Angela Theriault	
Norbert Theriault	
Al Viglione	Zoli Farkas
Ed Vitka	
Helen Werns	
Norma Zenkus	

In Memory Of...

The name of the retiree is not listed until the family officially reports the death to the company, so at times you will see a date of death that is months old. The death of an active employee or a retiree can be reported by calling the Fidelity Service Center at 1-800-416-2363 and then following the prompts.

NAME	CITY	STATE	DATE
ANTHOS, FRANCES H	OLD SAYBROOK	CT	JUL 17, 2025
ASHBACHER, STEVEN N	NAPLES	FL	APR 17, 2025
AUGER, SUZANNE K	NICHOLS	CT	MAR 22, 2025
BACHIOCCHI, EDWARD J	OXFORD	CT	MAY 25, 2025
BAINER, THERESA H	PROSPECT	CT	JUN 21, 2025
BARNETT, BRENDA L	BRIDGEPORT	CT	MAY 23, 2025
BARTRAM, BARBARA B	SHARON	CT	MAR 03, 2025
BATCHELOR, RITA P	SHELTON	CT	MAY 05, 2025
BELL, VIRGINIA B	STRATFORD	CT	APR 02, 2025
BELTRANDI, MARY K	FAIRFIELD	OH	APR 18, 2025
BIONDELLO SR, PATRICK	BRANFORD	CT	APR 23, 2025
BOURQUE, LILIAN A	COCOA	FL	AUG 09, 2025
BOWDEN, FREDERICK W	EAST HAVEN	CT	AUG 13, 2025
BOYD, COURTLI H	EAST HAVEN	CT	APR 23, 2025
BROOKS, FRANCES R	NORFOLK	VA	MAR 19, 2025
BROWN SR, ROGER M	ISLE	MN	AUG 08, 2025
BURDICK, BRENDA J	BROOKLYN	CT	AUG 02, 2025
BUTLER, GAIL K	ABBINGTON	VA	MAY 23, 2025
COLE JR, MILLARD R	MT HOLLY	NC	JUN 02, 2025
CONCILIO, MADELINE	DERBY	CT	MAR 10, 2025
CONNELLY, BARBARA F	SOUTH WINDSOR	CT	APR 05, 2025
COSTANZO, LORI C	BROOKFIELD	CT	MAY 16, 2025
COTE, EDITH A	NORWALK	CT	AUG 12, 2025
CUNNINGHAM, JAMES T	SOUTH WINDSOR	CT	APR 12, 2025
DAVINO, BARBARA	HOBE SOUND	FL	MAY 30, 2025
DAYTON JR, LEWIS B	WINSTON SALEM	NC	JUL 26, 2025
DEANS, JOAN C	DANBURY	CT	MAR 25, 2025
DECKER, JANE L	WATERFORD	CT	APR 04, 2025
DEVINE, JOHN	SEYMOUR	CT	APR 13, 2025
DUCHARME, GEORGE P	BAREFOOT BAY	FL	JUL 05, 2025
DUNN, PAUL C	MADISON	CT	APR 15, 2025
EMMERICH, FREDERICK L	OCALA	FL	MAR 14, 2025
FRANCIS, CHRISTINE Q	BREWSTER	MA	JUL 02, 2025
FREED, ELIZABETH	HAMDEN	CT	APR 12, 2025
FRICK, RICHARD A	SALEM	VA	AUG 15, 2025
FRYER, JAMES A	BUXTON	ME	MAR 25, 2025
FULLER, BRADLEY T.	HANOVER	NH	JUN 16, 2025
GANGLOFF, RAYMOND R	OTIS	MA	JUN 10, 2025
GAVAGHAN, THOMAS F	GUILFORD	CT	MAY 29, 2025
GIAQUINTO, ELIZABETH	KILLINGWORTH	CT	MAR 12, 2025
GOLDSON, MARCIA E	HAMDEN	CT	MAR 07, 2025
GRAMOLINI, JAMES J	SEYMOUR	CT	MAR 23, 2025
GRAVELLE, SHIRLEY L	MIDDLETOWN	CT	AUG 13, 2025
GRIGGS, GEORGIA C	ENFIELD	CT	MAR 28, 2025
GURZENDA, JOSEPH R	MERIDEN	CT	MAY 30, 2025
HARAGHEY, MARGARET	HAMPTON	CT	AUG 18, 2025
HOROSKY, THOMAS	LAKE WALES	FL	MAY 05, 2025
HULL, TINA E	PORT RICHEY	FL	APR 11, 2025
KENNEL JR, KARL	NORTH HAVEN	CT	MAR 10, 2025
KORN, JERRY	HUDSON	FL	AUG 19, 2025
LIMOSANI, THERESA	NORTH HAVEN	CT	AUG 09, 2025
LOWE, ROBERT	MIDDLETOWN	CT	JUL 23, 2025
LUSCHENAT, KARL W	NORTH HAVEN	CT	APR 12, 2025
MAGRONE, JAMES A	FAIRFIELD	CT	APR 25, 2025
MARKS, GARY L	ABILENE	TX	JUL 17, 2025
MARSH, ROLAND C	GRISWOLD	CT	AUG 20, 2025
MASSARO, THOMAS P	MANCHESTER	CT	MAY 30, 2025
MATHER, SADIE P	PORT SAINT LUCIE	FL	JUN 05, 2025
MATYJASIK, CASIMER	MEDWAY	MA	JUN 06, 2025
MCDONNELL, MARIA A	NAUGATUCK	CT	JUL 23, 2025
MCKENNEY, JOHN P	PITTSBORO	NC	JUL 30, 2025
MONTANARO, JOSEPHINE	MILFORD	CT	MAY 04, 2025
MONTORY, ROSALIND M	WINCHESTER	VA	AUG 10, 2025
MOORE, STANLEY W	NAPLES	FL	JUN 04, 2025
MORGILLO, THOMAS D	EAST HAVEN	CT	JUL 01, 2025
NEWTON, KENNETH E	BOYNTON BEACH	FL	MAY 29, 2025
NICOLETTI, DEBRA A	WEST HAVEN	CT	JUL 29, 2025
NORELLI, ANTHONY A	BETHLEHEM	CT	MAY 25, 2025
ONEILL, JOAN A	HAMDEN	CT	MAY 09, 2025
PARADISE, CATHERINE	ORANGE	CT	MAY 18, 2025
PARISI, NELL O	NEW HAVEN	CT	APR 08, 2025
PIERSON JR, WALTER L	WESTBOROUGH	MA	APR 04, 2025
RAYE, GENEVA	RALEIGH	NC	MAY 22, 2025
REBERS, MARGARET	WATERTOWN	CT	JUL 16, 2025
ROULEAU, ANN MARIE	NAPLES	FL	JUN 20, 2025
RUFFIN, DEBORAH D	POCASSET	MA	JUN 10, 2025
SCHENZER, GARY R	NEW MILFORD	CT	JUN 16, 2025
SILVA, BERNADETTE M	BRIDGEPORT	CT	JUL 03, 2025
SIMPSON, RUTH P	WATERTOWN	CT	AUG 02, 2025
SINGLEY, EVELYN	NORTH HAVEN	CT	JUN 04, 2025
SISSON, DONALD R	PLAINVILLE	CT	MAR 26, 2025
SMITH, JANET A	WEST HARTLAND	CT	MAR 13, 2025
SUGGS JR, ROOSEVELT H	LEXINGTON	SC	JUL 22, 2025
THOMAS, DOROTHY D	STRATFORD	CT	JUL 08, 2025
TORELLO, CAROL A	MADISON	AL	JUN 05, 2025
TREANOR, RICHARD L	ARNOLD	MD	APR 30, 2025
TREVETHAN, JOYCE M	PALM COST	FL	MAY 19, 2025
TUTOLO, ROBERT J	PROSPECT	CT	JUN 10, 2025
TWOMEY, CATHERINE	CHESAPEAKE	VA	APR 10, 2025
VAN MARTER, ROBERT V	WALLINGFORD	CT	MAY 17, 2025
WAIDO, NANCY	EAST LYME	CT	JUN 21, 2025
WALLACE, HELEN C	GUILFORD	CT	MAR 21, 2025
WALRATH, DOROTHY A	NORWICH	CT	MAR 28, 2025
WELLS JR, JOHN J	BERLIN	MD	MAY 21, 2025
WOGAHN, SALLY	NORTHFORD	CT	APR 25, 2025
ZILINSKAS, LAURA J	BRANFORD	CT	APR 11, 2025

Please visit our website and view past newsletters, register yourself, membership application, news items, pictures, etc.

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"On this Veterans Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free."

— Dan Lipinski

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