



The S.A.L.T. Shaker

Shaking Knowledge All Over
Tarrant County!

This S.A.L.T. is GOOD for you!!

"Seniors and Law Enforcement Together"



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THE SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

(I Wish I Could Have Been There!)

John Trumbull's painting, often described as the "Signing of the Declaration of Independence", actually shows the five man drafting committee presenting their draft on June 28, 1776 and is not the actual signing of the document which took place later.



John Trumbull's "Declaration
Of Independence"

The painting shows 42 of the 56 signers of the Declaration. Trumbull originally intended to include all 56 signers, but was unable to obtain likenesses for all of them. He also decided to depict several participants in the debate who did not sign the document, including John Dickinson, who declined to sign. Because the Declaration was debated and signed over a period of time when membership in Congress changed, the men in the painting had never all been in the same room at the same time.

Thomas Jefferson seems to be stepping on the foot of John Adams in the painting, which many think is supposed to symbolize their relationship as political enemies. However, upon closer examination of the painting, it can be seen that their feet are merely close together. This part of the image was correctly depicted on the two dollar bill version.

On the two dollar bill, 40 of the 47 figures from Trumbull's painting appear. Two other unknown figures are superimposed in the engraving, bringing the total number of figures on the Reverse of the two dollar bill to 42. John Dickinson is painted in the portrait, but was not actually present at the signing of the Declaration.

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Direct Deposit—the safer, easier choice.

If you could make life safer and easier for yourself or a loved one with just one phone call, wouldn't you?

Switching to direct deposit is a small but important way that people who receive Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) checks can improve their lives.

With direct deposit, you have:

- The safest method of receiving your payment.
- An easier, more convenient way to access your money.
- Control over your money and your time.



Signing up is quick and easy...call 1-800-333-1795 or sign up online at www.GoDirect.org

Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks and helps protect against fraud and identity theft. Furthermore, direct deposit provides people with immediate access to their money from virtually everywhere, which can be vitally important in the case of a natural disaster or a major life change.

"Go Direct" is a campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks to inform people who receive federal benefits about the advantages of direct deposit and help them sign up for it.

If you or those close to you are still receiving Social Security or other federal benefits by check, please consider switching to the safest, easiest option—direct deposit—today!



What You Should Know About the National Do Not Call Registry

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls. "Most" telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint. To register or file a complaint go to the website www.donotcall.gov or call (toll free) 1-888-382-1222.

Your registration is free and will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008.

If for some reason you do not want to register with the National Do Not Call Registry, here's something to remember. Unsolicited phone calls are a very real danger to Texas senior citizens. These are calls from someone you don't know who claims to be someone who has real business with you. They may even say they are with your bank, credit card company, a state or federal agency or any other organization with official credibility or a reputation you trust. A definite red flag is when the caller asks for personal information such as your credit card or bank account number, date of birth or Social Security number. The simply strategy to stay safe? JUST HANG UP!



Federal Trade Commission Warns of Oil Spill Scams

It's no secret that scam artists follow the headlines, and the daily news of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is no exception. The FTC, the nation's consumer protection agency, cautions consumers and business to be on the alert for fraudulent activity related to the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and the resulting spill—and to report their experiences to federal and state authorities. British Petroleum (BP) leased the rig, which was owned and operated by Transocean.

The FTC says it is likely that scammers will use emails, websites, door-to-door collections, flyers, mailings and telephone calls to make contact and solicit money. Some may claim they are raising money for environmental causes or offer fraudulent services—like remediation services—related to the oil spill. Others may claim they can expedite loss claims for a fee. Still others may knock on your door and talk about placing booms or checking for oil on your property. Chances are, they are trying to gain your trust to get inside your home or get access to your personal information.

The FTC says that at the very least, you will want to do some homework before making a donation or entering into an agreement for services.

Some people may misrepresent an affiliation with an environmental organization when they ask for donations via email or social networking sites. If you are tempted to contribute, check out the charity at www.bbb.org/us/charity, the website of the Better Business Bureau.

SHRED IT!



Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America today. You can lose your money, ruin your good name, have your credit destroyed and find yourself deep in debt, all through no action of your own.

Identity theft often begins when someone obtains key personal financial information such as your Social Security number or bank account number.

Be careful that you are not helping identity thieves by discarding papers with your personal information whenever you throw away old bank statements, cancelled checks, or other financial documents. In addition, many consumers routinely receive "pre-approved" credit card offers which a thief could take from your trash.

You can protect yourself by shredding all documents that contain personal information, including the pre-approved credit card or loan offers, insurance forms and any other financial statements. The information contained in these documents could be used by a thief to open accounts and charge up debts in your name.

Crosscut shredders are now very affordable. Obtain one and keep it near where you open your mail. That way, you are always reminded to SHRED, SHRED, SHRED!

S.A.L.T. Council of Tarrant County
P.O. Box 1562
Hurst, TX 76053

LAUGH LINES

Two elderly gentlemen are playing cards on Saturday evening just as they have for the past 50 years. Gus, the elder, had been having problems remembering what cards were what and usually needed help from his wife. At the end of the game, Red said to Gus "You did very good tonight. You didn't need any help at all. Why is that?"

Gus replied, "Why, ever since my wife sent me to that memory school, I haven't had any memory problems at all."

"Memory school? What memory school?" asked Red.

Gus thought for a moment, "Oh what's that flower that's red and has thorns?"

"A rose?" asked Red.

"Yeah, that's it!" Gus turned to his wife and asked "Hey Rose! What's the name of that memory school you sent me to?"



Flash Gordon at 80!



**Never hesitate to
call 9-1-1 when
you need help!**

S.A.L.T. Speakers Bureau

If your group would like to have someone from the S.A.L.T. Council come to speak at a meeting on one of the following topics, please call **817-392-4126**. Leave a message and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

- *Identity Theft
- *Gun Safety
- *Cons & Scams
- *Domestic Violence
- *Neighborhood Watch
- *Personal Safety
- *Auto Theft Prevention
- *Residential Security
- *Personal Safety Involving An Alzheimer's Patient

If the topic you are interested in does not appear on this list, call anyway. We are here to serve you and make your life as safe as possible.

**Please visit our website:
www.saltoftarrant.org**



DON'T FORGET!

We are still collecting cell phones (and their chargers) as a fund raiser for S.A.L.T. and to provide a 9-1-1 cell phone (free of charge) to senior citizens.

How Do I Get Involved With S.A.L.T.?

Membership to the S.A.L.T. Council of Tarrant County is open to anyone with an interest in improving the lives of senior citizens.

This group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street in downtown Fort Worth. Meetings are open to the public.

