



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Chatham County Police Department Launches Scam Awareness Campaign

Chatham County, GA (April 22, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department is launching a scam awareness campaign designed to educate residents and make them less likely to be a target for people who want to cheat them out of their money.

“Scammers have cost people in our jurisdiction nearly \$850,000 so far this year,” said Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley. “Last year, the figure topped more than 3 million dollars. We hope to stop people from being victimized by arming them with knowledge of what to look for and how to act when they are approached by a scammer.”

The Chatham County Police Department will use the slogan “STOP. CHECK. PROTECT.” in educational materials, promotions, and seminars that will take place around the area in the coming months.

STOP: Pause long enough to take a breath and calm down when you are approached. Many scammers rely on a sense of urgency or fear to lower the guard of their victims. Stopping the interaction for a few moments will help you calm down and think more clearly.

CHECK: Independently verify what you are being told or what you are reading. You should never have to make an immediate decision – no matter what financial “emergency” the scammer insists is happening.

PROTECT: Guard your personal and financial information, and never give any of it out to an unexpected caller or through an unsolicited text or email.

“We need people to become skeptical any time someone brings up money or personal information,” continued Hadley. “We want STOP.CHECK.PROTECT. to be the three words that go through their mind before they make a decision that could cost them.”

The Chatham County Police Department will hold its first STOP.CHECK.PROTECT. scam information session on Thursday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m. in conjunction with the Garden City Police Department. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at Garden City Hall located at 100 Central Avenue in Garden City.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A photo of CCPD STOP.CHECK.PROTECT. materials is attached. These items will be handed out to the public when they attend an information session or receive educational material from us regarding scams. These mousepads and credit card holders are designed to be seen during those crucial moments when someone is about to give their money to a scammer. The goal is that they will see this message and stop the transaction before they become a victim. Photo credit: Chatham County Police Department

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