

# THE INSIGHT

Quarterly Newsletter for the Seasoned Adult



3rd Quarter 2024



## Recognizing Scam Calls & Mail

Did someone supposedly spot fraud or criminal activity on one of your accounts? Did they offer to help “protect” your money by moving it from your bank, investment, or retirement account? Maybe they even asked you to share a verification code? If anyone did any of those things, it’s always a scam. So, what do you do next?

**Never move or transfer your money to “protect it.”** Your money is fine where it is, no matter what they say or how urgently they say it. Someone who says you have to move your money to protect it is a scammer. Period.

**Never share a verification code. Ever.** Banks and retirement and investment companies use these codes for online accounts to prove you’re really you. If you share that code, the scammer can use it to prove they’re you. No caller — especially someone from your bank or investment company’s fraud department — will ever ask for the verification code. That’s always a scam.

Stop and check it out. If you’re worried, call your real bank, broker, or investment advisor. Use the

number you find on your statement — never the number the caller gave you, which will take you to the scammer.

If you get a call, text, or message like this, tell your bank or fund right away. Especially if you moved money or shared a verification code. Then tell the FTC: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). Now that you know, share this advice — it could help protect your buddies and their life savings.

People are also getting letters in the mail from a law firm saying that one of their clients has died and they’re looking for the heir. You are, they say, that heir! (Spoiler alert: you’re not.) The letter goes on to explain their offer: they want to split the proceeds between you, some charities, and their law firm. But what’s really going on?

This is not a lawyer — it’s a scammer. That’s the most important thing to know. But the letter sounds convincing, explaining that the firm has tried to contact family members. No heir, they say, has come forward to collect the multi-million-dollar life insurance policy or inheritance. It might be tempting to reply, just to see if you really can get some of the money. If you contact them, they’ll try to get your personal and financial information, like your Social Security or bank account numbers, your money — or all of the above. Oh, and that life insurance policy or inheritance? It doesn’t exist at all. It’s a scam.

### Here’s what to do if you get one of these letters:

- Don’t respond. Keep your money and information to yourself. Never send money or information to a stranger who promises big rewards. That’s always a scam.
- Pass this information on to a friend. You probably throw away these kinds of letters. But you also probably know someone who could use a friendly reminder that these are scams.
- Report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

\*Information provided from <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/what-know-you-wire-money> & [https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/06/contacted-about-long-lost-relatives-life-insurance-policy-or-inheritance-its-scam?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/06/contacted-about-long-lost-relatives-life-insurance-policy-or-inheritance-its-scam?utm_source=govdelivery)

If you or a loved one suspects scam or fraud, please **contact us immediately.**

Millington - (901) 872-4545

Brownsville - (731) 772-1201

Atoka - (901) 837-9675

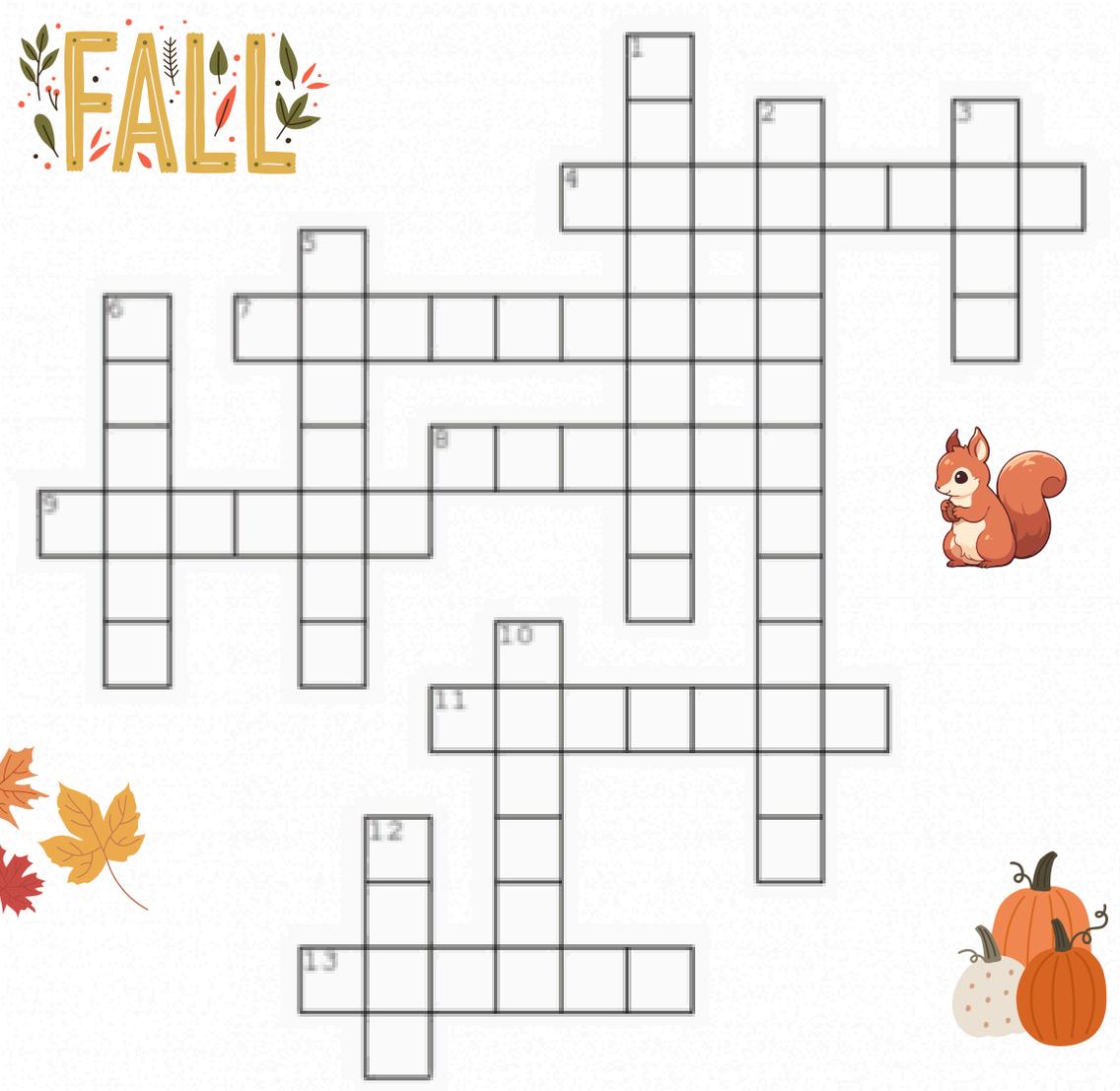
Memphis - (901) 747-5555

Covington - (901) 476-3330

Jackson - (731) 574-2500

## *fun fall activities!*

- Bake a pie
- Go for a scenic walk or drive
- Pumpkin picking at a pumpkin patch
- Pumpkin carving or painting
- Have a backyard cookout
- Decorate for Halloween
- Watch a scary movie
- Enjoy a board game night
- Visit a farmer's market
- Go on a hayride



### **Across**

4. Jewish Holiday, Rosh \_\_\_\_\_
7. Scary Holiday
8. Fall from oak trees
9. Change colors
11. For carving and pie
13. Color

### **Down**

1. Used to frighten birds
2. Feast Holiday
3. Tool to clean the grass of leaves
5. Marks the end of the growing season
6. Squirrel
10. Another name for Fall
12. Grows on stalks