



MAINE ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Your Real Estate Experts



SCAM: FRAUDULENT SELLERS:

MAR has been informed of a growing number of instances involving fraudulent sellers who try to sell properties in Maine that they do not own. We have also heard recent reports of similar situations happening across the country, most commonly involving vacant land listings with non-local owners.

We've had two instances reported this week. One of the scammers involved vacant land and one involved a single-family home that was "inherited". In the first case, the REALTOR® got as far as listing the property until the daughter of the property owner, a fellow REALTOR®, let it be known who the proper owners are and that the property is not for sale. In the second case, the REALTOR® realized she had been targeted when the FOREWARN app gave different name information and she completed extra due diligence regarding the property ownership.

For prospective sellers who are not physically located near you/the property, ask them to Zoom, Google Meet, Facetime with you for a first meeting – and ask them to show their identification on the screen. While scammers may also have fraudulent identification, they are likely to be unwilling to show their face on a screen.

For potential sellers who are nearby, always schedule first meetings with customers/clients in the office, verify their identity (take a photo of their driver's license), and introduce them to a colleague.

Use your FOREWARN app (a NO-COST member benefit provided by Maine Listings).

- Conduct a reverse lookup of the telephone number in FOREWARN and if it comes back with anything other than the expected person – investigate further.
- Conduct a reverse name search in FOREWARN and call the number(s) provided to confirm the person's identity and whether or not they did indeed contact you to list the property.

In addition, you should verify information about the listing

Quick Links

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

[National Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Listings](#)

[Maine Real Estate Commission](#)

Board Portal Links

[Greater Bangor Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Greater Portland Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

- Maine Commercial Association
- MAR Only Members
- York County Council

[Mid-Coast Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Acadia Council
- Waldo County Council
- Penobscot Bay Council

[Mountains to Shore Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Androscoggin Valley Council
- Lincoln County Council
- Merrymeeting Council
- Western Maine Council

MAR Leadership

property and owner with the town/municipal tax records and the registry of deeds.

Trust your instincts, be safe, and let law enforcement and others know about any suspicious and unsettling interactions. Always.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY IN MAINE:

Each year millions of dollars ("Unclaimed Property") are forwarded to the Maine State Treasurer's office from businesses and organizations that have lost contact with owners of financial assets such as bank accounts, pay checks, etc. [Check this website to see if you have property on this list.](#) There's more than \$303 million waiting to be claimed!

WORKSHOPS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

Six "how to" in-person and virtual workshops will be held by the Genesis Fund in conjunction with MaineHousing. These workshops are targeted for municipalities, community groups, and developers/builders in rural areas of Maine to help put together affordable housing projects.



These rural-focused workshops explain the project development process, various steps to present a project for approvals and financing, and how to assemble a project team. They're geared to municipalities working to attract projects to their communities, community groups interested in supporting the development of a housing project, and developer/builders who have some ideas and capacity but have never worked with MaineHousing or on affordable housing.

Workshop schedule:

- **Bangor:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3, Bangor Savings Bank branch at [24 Hamlin Way](#)
- **York:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Monday, February 13, York Housing Authority at [4 Pine Grove Lane](#) (off Long Sands Road)
- **Norway:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17 (*exact location TBD*)
- **Skowhegan:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, Skowhegan Center for Entrepreneurship, [181 Water Street](#)
- **Presque Isle:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, Sargent Family Conference Room in Presque Isle City Hall, [12 Second Street](#)
- **Waldoboro:** 1:00-2:30 p.m. on Weds. March 22, Waldoboro Town Office - Public Safety building, [1600 Atlantic Highway \(US Rt. 1\)](#)

In addition to in-person, sessions will be available for virtual participation on each day of presentation. Please contact John Egan at the Genesis Fund by [email](#) or by phone at [207.844.2035](#) x13 for more information and/or for the link to

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Some content may be commercial in nature.

access the video conference.



MAR REALTOR RALLY IS APRIL 6!

Maine REALTORS® will be rallying our Maine legislators at the Maine State House and virtually on April 6! More details in late-February. For now, save the date!

REALTOR® RALLY MOBILE ALERTS:

Be ready for MAR's REALTOR® Rally! Text **REALTORS** to **30644** or [click here to enroll in](#)

[mobile alerts](#). For a convenient way to participate in our Rally, or when a state or national REALTOR® call for action is launched, you can take action from your cell phone.

MAINE LISTINGS NEWS:

Click on the links below to learn about:



- [Scammer ALERT!](#)
- [FOREWARN](#)
- [Accurate Information](#)
- [Realist Recording](#)
- [New MLS Number](#)
- [Tech Helplines](#)
- [Compliance Corner](#)
- [Training](#)



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