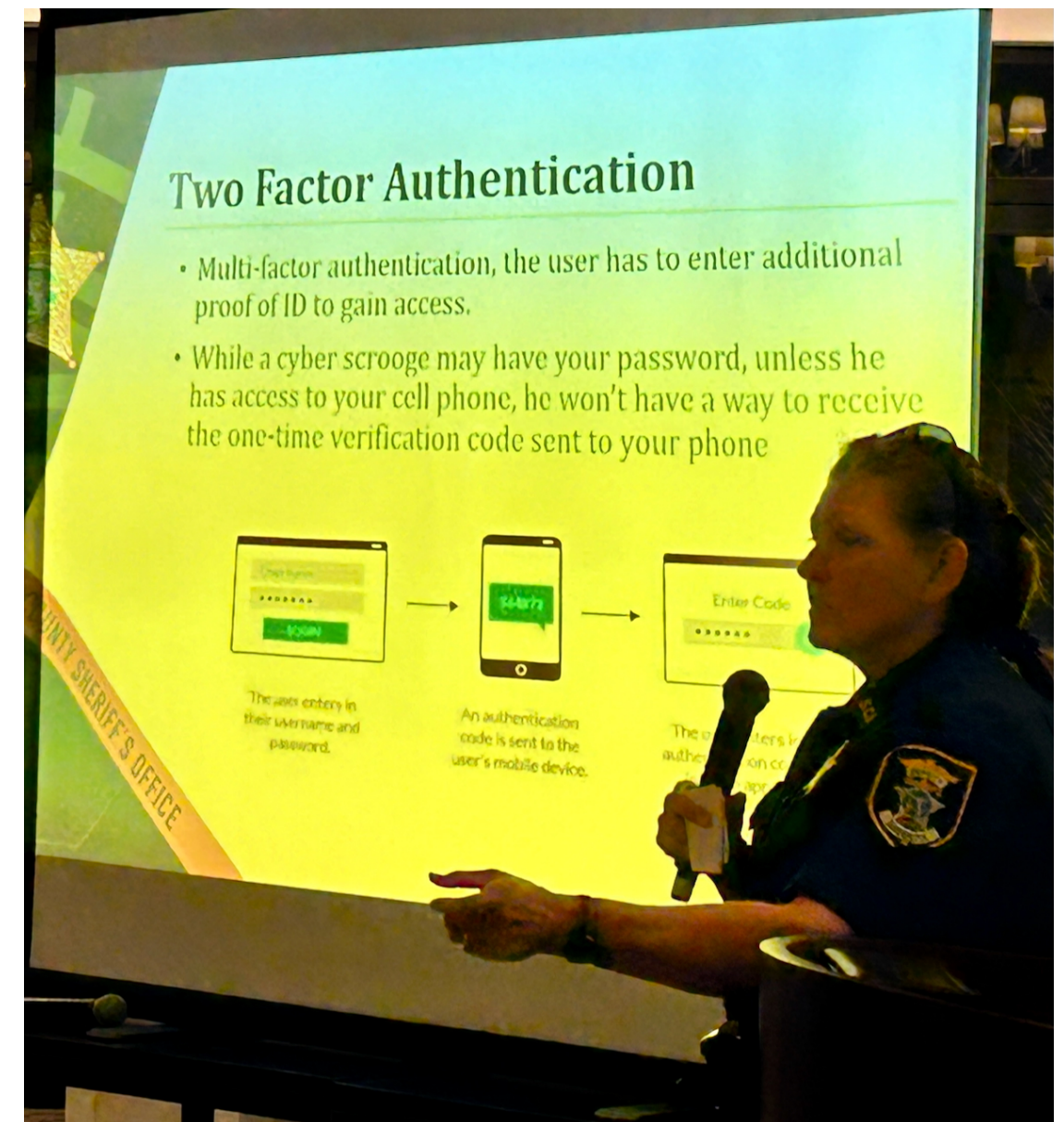




Scams and Frauds Presentation was a hit

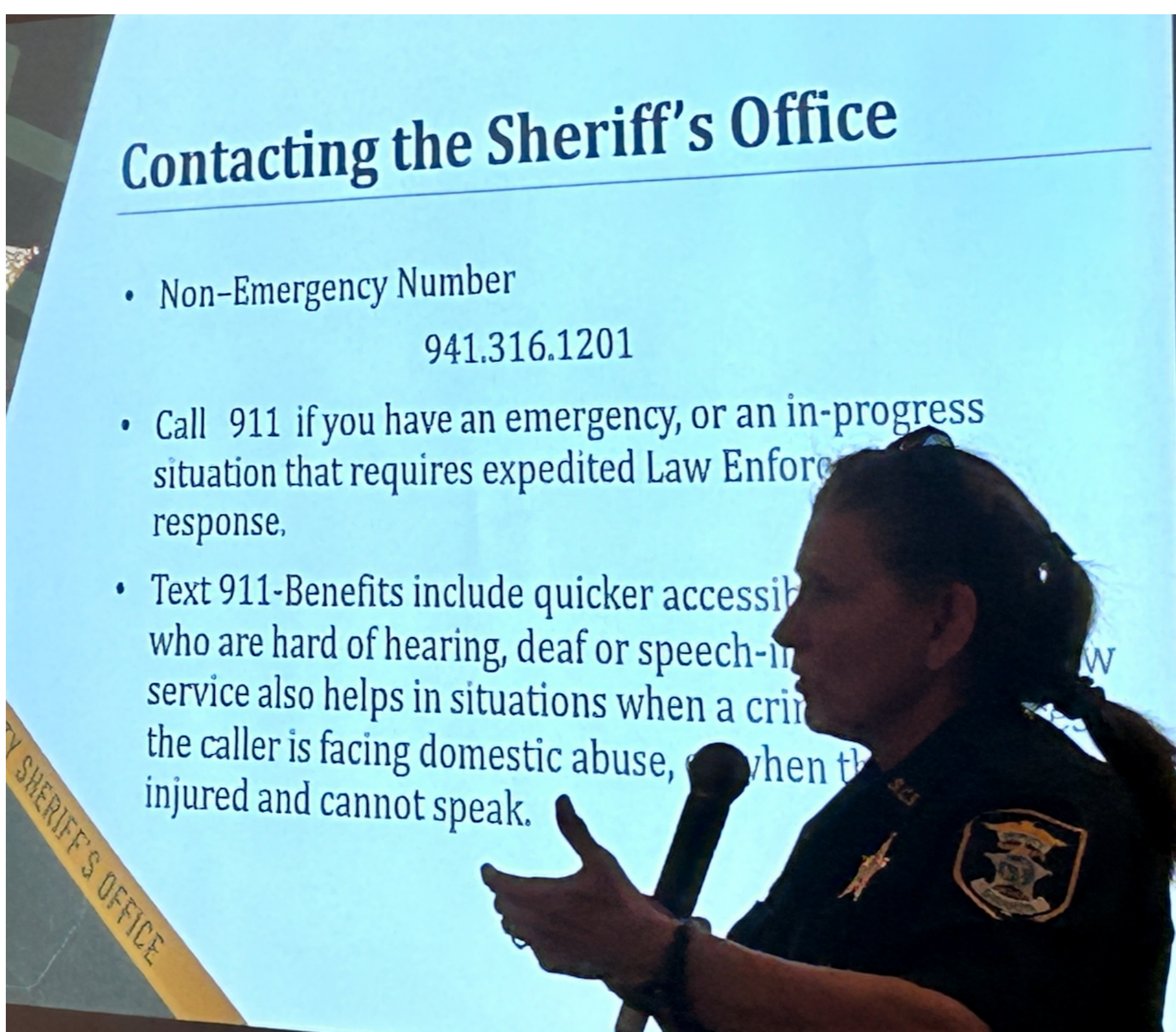
Posted on [January 24, 2025](#) by [Joe Browne](#)

Sarasota County Deputy Lt. Cathy Duff of the Crime Prevention Unit had all the answers and what to do if hit by a fraud or a scam on-line. The knowledge gain from presentation at the River Club will help residents protect themselves from common types of on-line and off-line fraud. Lt. Duff widened the scope of the presentation by describing various scams such as jury duty scams, gift card scams, and mail theft.



Recommending what to do if an account is opened in your name or someone is asking you to send money, building stronger passwords, fraudulent charges on your credit card and identity theft were all highlighted. She recommended two-factor authentication for various on-line memberships and financial institutions, and emphasizing the need for vigilance at all times. Lt Duff also highly recommended the need to build stronger passwords and allowed how she uses the first letter of phrases which she can remember to populate her passwords. Learning how to identify phishing emails is a first line of defense.

The presentation was well-received and there was a lively question and answer period which was an opportunity to get some additional insight into specific concerns from the audience.



Lt. Duffy made a point of leaving a phone number (941 316-1201) to call if there is a non-emergency situation as well as reminding us of the 911 number. Although we live in Venice City, she reported that all emergency phone calls go to a call center in Sarasota and are routed to Venice to support residents of the city.

The National Cryptologic Foundation produces a Cyber Safe and Sorry booklet which covers in depth cyber attacks and cyber frauds. It will help us gain confidence in using technical devices, protecting on-line data, guarding against scams, identifying theft and fraud. **Click on [Data Care booklet](#) to obtain.**

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