



CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

CRIME PREVENTION
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Frank Kosman
Chief of Police

Observe Hear Report
Dial 9-1-1

FEBRUARY 2017

Joel Vargas,
Crime Prevention Coordinator



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COLD CALL SOLICITATION SCAM

Due to a recent high number of calls to the Crime Prevention Unit in regards to cold call scam, we decided to publish details on the scam. In the scam person starts with "sorry, my headset fell off" or something similar and then proceeds to offer a stay at their hotels or something similar. I got the call myself by the way. **So what is behind this?** The criminals call you and apparently record your voice but still try to steal your personal information. Technology is moving faster and faster. Authentication of voice and other means is now trying to replace the customer service attendant. There is a rumor but nothing confirmed that the criminal group is compiling information from thousands of people and when possible using that information to order products and services. If you do not recognize the number let it go to voicemail and monitor your credit reports, if you get a call like this.

UPCOMING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS (ALL HAPPEN ON THURSDAY):

ENGLISH: February 16, 2017, March 16, 2017.
SPANISH: February 23, 2017; March 30, 2017.

7pm @ the Bensenville Police station 345 E Green St Bensenville, IL 60106

Starting January 2017, meetings in English meet the 3rd Thursday and in Spanish meet the last Thursday of the month.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SCAM INVOLVING *72

This is a scam that targets senior citizens. The caller calls and indicates that there has been a death in the family and that he or she needs to call a number and start the call with *72 then dial the number. The scammers already have plenty of other information from the person so when the victim does that it forwards the phone to them. Don't use *72.

SCAM: FAILED TO SHOW UP TO JURY DUTY

This is scam is coming back to the Chicago land area. The scammer calls you and a very "police like" voice tells you he is officer ---- and asks for you. When you confirm it is you, he then proceeds to state you have a warrant for failing to show up for your jury duty. He wants you to turn yourself in to the nearest police department or pay a fine over the phone. He will ask you to pay with prepaid credit cards or provide your personal details like social security and credit card numbers. The criminal then goes into a shopping spree since he now has all your information to pass any verification required.

PHISHERS USING TEXT MESSAGES

Criminals are now extending their phishing to texting since many seniors are getting their hands on smart phones and ditching their flip phones. The text is sent and it provides a link that requires the victim to verify some information. They are trusting that people who may not be too familiar with technology will just click and provide all their information. They have been having a lot of success with this scam in Missouri and it is moving to the Chicago land area. Don't click anything unless you know it is from a reliable source.

THE REFERENDUM SCAM FOR SENIORS

With all the recent media on congress trying to cancel social security to seniors, some seniors are concerned as they depend almost 100% on that money. The scammer calls or sends a piece of mail that indicates they are an advocacy group trying to stop the elimination of social security. They are asked to contribute \$15 or \$20 dollars to stop this attack. The organization is fake and may have a variation of the name of the real organization that advocates for seniors. Be alert on this one and report it to the police if you get this.

GET ALERTS BY TEXT

Text to 888777 your Zip Code. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY 9-1-1

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW SCAM IS BACK

A variation of the cold call solicitation scam is making a comeback. The person calls you and starts with "can you hear me now..." You are naturally programmed to say yes. The scammers can then bill unauthorized charges to your phone and when you refuse to pay, they will make threats. The best thing to do is avoid calls you do not recognize and let them go to voicemail.

SCAM: GRANT FOR HOME REPAIRS

The scammers call you and spoof the phone from a legitimate organization. It can be a corporation or state agency that helps homeowners. In Arizona, for example they pretended to be the Arizona Corporation Commission. They make a pitch for a grant or free money to make home remodeling improvements to their homes and that they have been selected to receive the money. After they verify some information, which is most likely information they purchased on the victim, they get the person more excited and then they request a payment to process the grant. This can range from \$1000 to \$2000 or more at times. People are asked to pay in different forms, including credit card and prepaid credit cards. Be alert on this one! Keep in mind criminals can buy a lot of your personal information and call you.

TAX TIME MEANS OPPORTUNITY FOR SCAMS

The scam has been running for several years now. The scam is a simple one. You get a call and the caller ID appears to be from DC or display the Internal Revenue Service or IRS. The person pretends to be an agent for the IRS and is calling you to collect a debt from the IRS. A variation now calls you to state that you may have been a victim or a scam, which is precisely what the criminal is doing... then states that someone may have double filed for your taxes and that you now owe an amount of money. You then proceed to confirm a lot of your personal information with them and they use that to file taxes. They also ask if you have or not file your taxes yet, as a variant. In addition, the caller proceeds with a series of questions. The IRS has been doing a lot of advertising to tell people they will not call asking for these details. Be aware!

CRIME REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE HALL. REQUEST THE LATEST COPY DURING BUSINESS HOURS

OBSERVE HEAR REPORT

CALL 9-1-1