

ALSIP NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Working Together To Make Alsip A Great Place To Live

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WARNS OF TAX SCAMS

IRS scammers are working overtime this season in an attempt to steal your identity and money. Here are a few common scams you need to be on the lookout for!

Tax-refund fraud - During the last few years, crooks have been [stealing people's Social Security numbers and then filing false returns](#) as though they were those people. The crooks typically claim a low income with high deductions and they file electronically. Then when you go to legitimately file your return, it's rejected by the IRS because somebody else already filed as you!

The whole mess typically takes about 10-14 months to straighten out if you're on the receiving end of the scam. But it turns out there's an easy solution...You can get an Identity Protection PIN from the IRS before you file your taxes.

The IP PIN is a six-digit number that must be used on a tax return, in addition to the Social Security number, to verify the identity of a taxpayer. Once you opt into the program you can't opt out. If you qualify, you will get a new PIN each year through the mail.

Visit IRS.gov/GetanIPPIN to opt into the program.



Generic IRS phone scam - The premise here is that you have a surprise tax bill you need to pay immediately to the IRS or you'll be arrested. The scammers use phone spoofing to make their number come up list as "IRS." Because they already have the last four digits of your Social Security number that gives them a further air of legitimacy. Here are some of their other tactics to watch out for:

*They use common names and fake IRS badge numbers, *They send bogus IRS e-mails to support their scam, * They call a second time claiming to be the police or department of motor vehicles, and the caller ID again supports their claim.

You're told to submit payment either by wire or by prepaid debit card. Know this: **The IRS will never contact you by phone asking for money. They communicate exclusively through snail mail.**



IRS iTunes scam - [USAToday](#) reported a 20-year-old college student was duped by someone claiming to represent the IRS into [putting \\$500 on three separate iTunes cards and \\$262 on a fourth](#), using her debit card. Why would the student do this? Because she was threatened with arrest. The scammers call persistently and also may spoof 911 calling your phone as well, according to the report.

With the iTunes gift card scam, the thieves ask you to put money on the card and then read them the 16-digit code off the back. That allows them to quickly access the cash in a way that's untraceable in most cases.

Be alert for phone and email scams that use the IRS name. The IRS will never request personal or financial information by email, texting or any social media. You should forward scam emails to phishing@irs.gov. Don't open attachments or click on any links in those emails.

Read more about tax scams on the genuine IRS website: www.IRS.gov

Source: www.clark.com

New and Revised Laws for 2018

Here are some of the highlights:

- **Pets and Divorce** – New law allows judges to take into account a pet's wellbeing when deciding ownership in a divorce case
- **"Pink Tax"**– Law requires salons, barbers, dry cleaners, and tailors to provide customers with a price list for services when requested
- **Donors** – New law allows 16 & 17 year olds to sign up and become organ and tissue donors when they receive their driver's license
- **Cyberstalking** & sending obscene messages might now be considered a hate crime under a new law

**For additional information visit www.ilga.gov

Lock Out Crime
– Protect your
home from
intruders

Use sturdy
doors

Use safe locks

Install a
viewfinder

Consider
window pegs

Secure sliding
glass doors

Consider
various outdoor
lighting options

Never allow
strangers into
your home

Put some
electrical
equipment on
timers

Burglary From Motor Vehicle

1-7: 5400 BLK 122nd ST.: Unknown subject stole pistol, and magazines from vehicle in lot

1-30: 12600 BLK TRIPP AVE.: Lighter stolen from unlocked vehicle by unknown subject

Burglary – Residential

1-8: 12500 BLK CENTRAL AVE.: Monies stolen from victim's bedroom by unknown subject; no forced entry

1-27: 12300 BLK SPRINGFIELD AVE.: Alcohol, change, and medication stolen from residence; no forced entry

Criminal Damage & Defacement to Property

1-15: 12300 BLK SPRINGFIELD AVE.: Passenger side door & mirror damaged on vehicle parked in lot of residence

1-29: 12600 BLK ALPINE DR.: Walls damaged inside residence by tenant; complaints refused

1-18: 12200 BLK 44th PL.: Victims tire damaged by named subject; offender later located and arrested

1-30: 3900 BLK 115th PL.: 4 tires deflated on victims' vehicle; unknown subject

1-21: 11800 BLK KARLOV AVE.: Windshield damaged on vehicle parked in lot by unknown subject

Identity Theft Crimes

1-10: 11900 BLK KILDARE AVE.: Unauthorized transactions made using victims account

1-12: 4800 BLK 121st PL.: Victims personal information used to access account without authorization

1-15: 11900 BLK KOMENSKY AVE.: Victims personal information used to have items delivered to residence

1-16: 4100 BLK PRAIRIE DR.: Victims personal information used to open account with out knowledge

1-29: 12500 BLK KEELER AVE.: Line of credit opened using victims' personal information without permission

Fighting Back Against Identity Theft

**Deter
Detect
Defend**

Safe guard you personal information

Routinely monitor your financial accounts and billing statements

Defend against ID Theft as soon as you suspect it

Visit AnnualCreditReport.com or call 877-322-8228, to order your free credit reports each year.

Motor Vehicle Thefts

None Reported

Theft Over/Under \$500.00

1-8: 12000 BLK LEAMINGTON AVE.: Delivered package stolen from porch by unknown subject

1-16: 3800 BLK 124th PL.: Delivered package stolen prior to victim receiving

1-14: 12700 BLK LACROSSE AVE.: Ammunition stolen from inside residence; suspect named

VILLAGE OF ALSIP DIRECTORY

ALSIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY.....911

Police Non-Emergency.....708-385-6902

Crime Prevention Unit.....708-385-6902 x249

Crime Free Housing Program.....708-385-6902 x249

Village of Alsip Departments

Building/Clerks/Water Department.....708-385-6902

Fire Department Non-Emergency.....708-385-6902 x233

Health Department.....708-385-6902 x336

Public Works Department.....708-385-6902 x364



Awareness is
the Key
to Your Safety.

We're on the Web!

www.alsippolicedepartment.com

Alsip Police Department – Prescription Drug Take Back Box

The Alsip Police Department in conjunction with the Cook County Sheriff's Department has a prescription drug take back box located in the police department waiting area. The collection box is designed to collect outdated and unwanted prescription drugs ONLY. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.

The Sheriff's Prescription Drug Take Back Program began assisting local towns and villages as well as Chicago wards by sponsoring Pharmaceutical Take-Back events. Today, the Sheriff's Prescription Drug Take Back Program also partners with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, which underwrites purchase of collection boxes for local jurisdictions and disposal of collected drugs.



Above photo is of actual collection box inside the police departments waiting



The addition of the drug take back collection box is to permit local residents the opportunity to properly and anonymously dispose of their prescriptions while ensuring proper control of these drugs.

If you have any questions regarding the prescription drug take back box please contact Ofc. R. Merlo at 708-385-6902 Ext.#249

