

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 2020

Here are some of the highlights:

- Fines for illegally passing school buses will double, from \$150 to \$300 for initial violation and \$500 to \$1,000 for subsequent violation
- Fines for violation Scott's Law increase to \$10,000
- People are prohibited from streaming videos on a cell phone while driving
- Adults 21 and over may legally purchase recreational marijuana from a state-regulated recreational dispensary

****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: 12700 BLK KENNETH AVE.: Unknown subject stole charges & loose change from blue Hyundai parked in lot

1-9: 12500 BLK MANSFIELD AVE.: Currency taken from gray Honda parked at residence

Burglary – Residential

1-8: 12800 BLK LOVELAND ST.: Garage entered and alcohol taken; no forced entry

1-10: 4500 BLK 129th ST.: Window broken and garage entered; alcohol and snow blower taken by unknown offender

1-10: 3800 BLK 124th PL.: Jewelry & electronics stolen from residence via forced entry

1-14: 12600 BLK ALPINE DR.: Forced entry into residence; jewelry & currency taken by unknown offender

Criminal Damage & Defacement to Property

1-2: 12100 BLK JAMES DR.: Blue Ford parked at residence damaged; unknown offender

1-23: 3600 BLK 121st ST.: Multiple vehicles damaged in area; Arrest made

1-14: 12400 BLK MANSFIELD AVE.: Rear window shattered on black Mercedes parked at residence

Identity Theft Crimes

1-12: 11700 BLK KOLIN AVE.: Victims personal information used to access account; purchases made

1-16: 12400 BLK 45th AVE.: Victims personal information used to access account

1-24: 12300 BLK BENCK DR.: Victims personal information used to open account

1-27: 5300 BLK DIXIE DR.: Victims information used to open account with utility

1-29: 4500 BLK 122nd ST.: Multiple accounts open using victim's personal information without knowledge

Fighting Back Against Identity Theft

**Deter
Detect
Defend**

Safe guard your 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

1-9: 4400 BLK 123rd PL.: Victims white Infinity taken from parking lot of residence; unknown offender

Theft Over/Under \$500.00

1-31: 3600 BLK 122nd PL.: Victims heater stolen from vehicle; suspect named

VILLAGE OF ALSIP DIRECTORY

ALSIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY.....911

Police Non-Emergency.....708-385-6131

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.....708-385-6121

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

