

ALSIP NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Working Together To Make Alsip A Great Place To Live

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Best Way to Avoid Telephone Scams is Also the Easiest

Every day, seniors throughout Illinois fall prey to smooth-talking con artists who call them up and tell all kinds of convincing stories to get their money. The Alsip Police Department and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General wants you to know that it's shrewd, not rude, to hang up the phone when a stranger asks you to send them money or give out your personal information. The following are some common warning signs of telephone scams.

THEY CONTACT YOU. When you look up the number of a reputable business on your own and call to place an order, you have a good idea who's on the other end of the deal. But when the tables are turned and someone calls you, you have no way of knowing who the person really is, where they're calling from, or what they want from you.

THEY WANT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION. Any time a stranger asks you for your bank account number, Social Security number, or other sensitive information, you should be on high alert. This is a sure

sign of identity theft. **Never** give personal or financial information to someone you do not know.

THEY PROMISE A BIG AWARD. Scammers try to lure you in with promises of unexpected riches such as a large sum of money, a vacation, or a "get rich quick" investment scheme. Remember: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Just Hang Up!

YOU MUST PAY THEM FIRST. It is illegal for someone to require an up-front payment to claim a lottery or sweepstakes prize. Scammers will often tell you that you must wire money out of state, or even out of the country, to obtain your winnings. **Never** wire money to stranger. Wiring money is just like sending cash—scammers will get the money quickly, and you won't get it back.

Consider placing your phone number on the **National Do Not Call Registry**, if you haven't already done so. This will block most unwanted telemarketing calls. So, once your number is on the registry, you'll know that



any telemarketer who does call you is probably up to no good. You can register your home phone or cell phone online at www.donotcall.gov or by calling **1-888-382-1222** (TTY: **1-866-290-4236**) from the phone number you wish to register.

If you've fallen victim to or want to report a telephone scam, please contact your local police department or **Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotline** at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY: 1-800-964-3013) or **Senior Fraud Helpline** at 1-800-243-5377.

Resource: Office of the Illinois Attorney General

School is Out – Drive Safely

As the school year ends, the Alsip Police Department would like to remind everyone to drive safely.

Please help kids enjoy their summer vacation by being aware of pedestrians, bike riders

etc. Obey posted speed limits and use extra caution at stop signs and in residential areas.

Illinois law now requires ALL vehicle passengers, including back seat passengers, to wear seat belts. Remember to buckle

up and secure children under 8 years old in age-appropriate child safety seats.

Contact Ofc. R. Merlo at 708-385-6902 ext. 249 to schedule a safety seat inspection.

Burglary From Motor Vehicle

6-9: 12800 BLK ORCHARD AVE.: Black Cadillac entered;
Hand tools stolen

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 – Residential

6-4: 4100 BLK 127th ST.: Monies & bottles of alcohol
stolen from residence by unknown offender; no forced
entry

6-28: 12200 BLK 44th PL.: Forced entry into residence;
money and gym shoes stolen by unknown offender

Criminal Damage & Defacement to Property

6-1: 4600 BLK 130th CT.: Garage & fence spray painted;
(2) offenders located and issued Municipal Citations

6-2: 4200 BLK 118th PL.: Victims glass patio table
smashed with brick; unknown offender

6-3: 11700 BLK CAROLYN LN.: Vacant home filled with
garbage, furniture damaged, holes in walls, and other
structure damages; suspect named

6-4: 12200 BLK 44th PL.: Window shattered by a rock;
unknown offender

6-6: 11500 BLK VILLA CT.: Window shattered by a rock
thrown by unknown offender

6-12: 4200 BLK 115th ST.: (4) tires & window damaged
on a black Kia parked at residence

6-18: 11500 BLK LEAMINGTON AVE.: Windshield
damaged and several scratches on black Audi parked at
residence

6-24: 3600 BLK BENCK DR.: White Chevrolet windshield
damaged by landscaping bricks; unknown offenders

6-28: 3900 BLK 124th ST.: Tires slashed on blue
Chevrolet; suspect named

6-28: 12300 BLK LAVERGNE AVE.: Front windshield
shattered on a red Ford parked at residence; unknown
offender

6-29: 11200 BLK AVON AVE.: Victims mailbox damaged
by unknown offender

Identity Theft Crimes

6-9: 12700 BLK LACROSSE AVE.: Victims personal information used to open account

6-9: 12200 BLK SPENCER ST.: Victim personal info used to open line of credit

6-11: 4800 BLK 121st PL.: Victims personal information used to open account

6-15: 4500 BLK 117th ST.: Victims personal information used to access account; purchases made

6-18: 11900 BLK LAWNSDALE AVE.: Victims personal information used to receive license

6-25: 4500 BLK 124th ST.: Victims personal information used to access account to make purchases

6-26: 11500 BLK VILLA CT.: Victims personal information used to receive utility services

6-30: 4300 BLK EMERALD WAY: Victims personal information used to open account with cell phone provider

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

6-5: 4800 BLK ENGLE RD.: Victims silver Lexus stolen by unknown offender

6-7: 4200 BLK 126th ST.: Blue BMW stolen from front of residence; unknown offender

6-14: 3600 BLK 123rd PL.: Victims blue Hyundai stolen from driveway; vehicle left unlocked and keys in vehicle

Theft Over/Under \$500.00

6-15: 5300 DIXIE DR.: Rifle stolen from residence; suspect named

6-22: 11900 BLK MILLARD AVE.: Victims delivered package stolen: unknown offender

6-25: 12300 BLK 44th CT.: Victims laptop stolen from residence; suspect named



Awareness is
the Key
to Your Safety.

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

We're on the Web!

www.alsippolicedepartment.com

ALSIP POLICE BIKE PATROL!

This past month the Alsip Police launched its first bicycle patrol unit. Officers received special training which included: Bicycle handling skills, dismounts, maneuvering drills, patrol tactics, and speed drills.

The addition of a bicycle patrol increases an officer's access and maneuverability, promotes faster response times in congested areas, move in and around crowds, almost eliminates foot pursuits, and gives a better approach from unexpected areas.



It also increases officers' awareness of the surroundings and enables them to better hear, see, and smell than if they were in a squad car. Other present-day benefits are cost efficiency, environmental benefits and versatility.

Bicycles cost much less to purchase and maintain than traditional patrol cars

The average fully equipped police bike costs around \$1,000 and, properly maintained, will last for years. They don't need gas for operation, nor the full-sized parking spaces required by other vehicles.

Bikes provide environmental and health benefits

Because bike patrols run on human power rather than gas, their carbon footprint is much



smaller than patrol cars. With zero emissions and less need for pavement, bicycle patrols are a great addition option for our green initiatives.

Most importantly, bicycle patrol removes the barrier of the patrol car making police officers more approachable—a key point in improving police-community relations. Bicycle Officers have a proactive approach by interacting with citizens to better help address neighborhood problems and concerns.