

## **Senior Citizen, “BEWARE”**

The Salem City Police Department has recently noted a spike in Senior Citizens in the community becoming victims to a number of frauds or scams. Please do not give out any of your personal information to anyone that you do not know personally and trust completely. Even if you know the person and trust them, please be cautious. Even nice people that you know and trust can make you a victim. Examples of recent Scams:

**“IRS Calling”** - Someone calling as an IRS representative asking for personal information. The IRS will never ask you for your personal information either via telephone or email. Always hang up on such a caller immediately and do not respond to the email.

**“Grandparent Scam”** - Fake grandchild will usually ask for money to solve some unexpected financial problem (overdue rent, payment for car repairs, bail money to get out of jail etc.), to be paid via Western Union or MoneyGram. Do not fall for this.

**“Sweep Stakes or Lottery Winner”** – Someone calls or sends you mail correspondence that you are a winner then tells you have to send or wire money to unlock your sweep stakes or lottery winnings. Never ever send money! You worked hard for the money you have and it’s totally a scam and money you will never see again.

**“Email/Phishing Scams”** - A senior receives email messages that appear to be from a legitimate company or institution, asking them to “update” or “verify” their personal information. A senior receives emails that appear to be from the IRS about a tax refund.

**“Charity Scams”** - Money is solicited for fake charities. This often occurs after natural disasters.

**“The Fake Accident Ploy”**- The con artist gets the victim to wire or send money on the pretext that the person’s child or another relative is in the hospital and needs the money.

**“The Pigeon Drop”**- The con artist tells the individual that he/she has found a large sum of money and is willing to split it if the person will make a “good faith” payment by withdrawing funds from his/her bank account. Often, a second con artist is involved, posing as a lawyer, banker, or some other trustworthy stranger.

**“Warrant Scam”**- Mr. or Mrs. Smith will receive a call from someone identifying themselves as from the local Sheriff’s department. The caller will tell Mr. Smith that he has a warrant for his arrest and will have to go to jail unless the bail is paid. Instructions are then provided by the caller to obtain a Green Dot card loaded in the amount of the bail for the warrant. After Mr. Smith does this he is to call a certain number and provide the Green Dot card information to the phony Sheriff’s Deputy. The scammer will then deplete the funds from the Green Dot card.

There is far too many other scams to mention – BE CAUTIOUS AND FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT AT (801) 423-2312 IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR DOUBTS. REMEMBER IT IS YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY