

SCAMS 2014-2009

WINNING FREE GRANT MONEY (5/30/2014)

Waite Park recently received a report from a resident who received a phone call stating they won free grant money. The resident was asked to put \$205 on a prepaid internet card. The resident was told this was a processing fee for the money. When the officer called the number back it was a foreign calling center. The officer identified himself and the scammer swore at the officer and hung up.

WE HAVE A PACKAGE FOR YOU (5/14/2014)

We recently received a phone call from a resident who stated they received a phone call from a James Lopez from Deliveries International. Mr Lopez stated that he had a package for the resident. The caller knew the resident's address, but did have the wrong apartment number. The caller advised the resident to call him back at 876-879-0082. 876 is a Jamaican area code.

Please be cautious of any phone calls you are not expecting especially ones that promise things or tell you about packages you were expecting.

CRAIGSLIST- URGENT MISTAKE (5/31/2012)

A Waite Park resident had an item for sale on Craigslist and the emails between the potential buyer and the seller started out normal. The next day the buyer emails saying it is urgent and that a check was sent in huge excess because the buyer is hearing impaired and place sending the payment misinterpreted the buyer.

The buyer than asks that when the seller receives the check that they send the excess amount back by money transfer. The buyer uses words such as "let me trust you", "please let me know you will help me", and "so that I have a rest of mind, I am really worried."

If you receive such emails just delete them and end communication with the seller or tell them the item is no longer available.

LOWER INTEREST RATE (5/31/2012)

Numerous residents received calls from 567-248-4400. The telemarketer talks about lowering your interest rate. The caller is very rude and may continue to call even when asked not to. If you experience this just hang up immediately or do not answer the phone when you see they are calling.

2ND WINNER (5/31/2012)

A Waite Park resident recently received a phone call explaining to them that they were the 2nd winner in a drawing. The prize they were to receive was \$5,000. In order to receive the prize they recipient needed to go to Walmart and purchase a scratch off card for \$200.00 within 1 hour. The caller knew the resident's address. The resident did not believe the caller and did not leave the home.

We are unsure that this time if the caller was in the area and was going to burglarized the

home or if there would be more the scam once the resident called back stating Walmart did not have the card. The caller ID showed the number as a New York number of 201-565-8265.

EMAIL SCAM ASKING FOR MONEY (listed 3/23/2011)

In checking my spam folder, I noticed an email from a trusted source. I opened the email and at first it looked legitimate. The sender noted they forgot to tell me about a planned trip (the sender often travels). The email went on to state that they had been robbed in Spain and lost all ID. They had contacted the Embassy, but they were slow in responding with help. The email continued on by asking for financial help. However, it did not state where to send money or who to contact. The email was then signed with the name of the person who's account it actually was and the closing was the same as that specific person uses.

After reading through the email, I knew it was suspicious and not legitimate, but it was the best scam email I had seen. It was scary how they were able to obtain not only the email address, but also replicate the way the person closes their emails and signs their name.

This is a good reminder to read all emails carefully and pay extra attention if anything in the email sends a red flag.

JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF CONTRIBUTION SCAM (listed 3/23/2011)

We have not received any local reports of scams yet, but many organizations are advising that people be careful and check out the source before donating. Do not click on links within emails. Go to the site itself and donate there. Also contribution to trusted organizations to ensure the money is going for the listed purpose.

INVESTMENT FUNDS LOCATED, AMERICAN INVESTOR DIED (listed 9/22/2010)

A Waite Park resident received a letter stating the sender is an accountant for the Bank of Ireland. The "accountant" discovered \$12.9 million that has been dormant for over 14 years as the US investor who owned the money died in 1992. The letter indicates that the investor and you bear the same last name. The investor wants to take the money for himself and another auditor, but will give you 30% if you help them.

DEPLOYED MARINE LOCATES ABANDONED CASH (listed 9/22/2010)

A local business received a fax stating it was from a Marine deployed in Iraq who discovered some abandoned cash in the mansion of a militant ruler during a covert military raid. They are asking for help getting the money secretly into the US. If the recipient agrees to help the "marine" he will be compensated with 15% of the 11.5 million they located.

GOLDEN NUGGET SWEEPSTAKES (listed 9/22/2010)

A Waite Park resident recently received a letter stating he won the Golden Nugget Sweepstakes and that he needed to send \$2,500 plus a \$175 fee to an address in LA in order to collect the money. In tracking the phone number the person was calling from Jamaica.

GRANDCHILD IN JAIL NEEDS MONEY SCAM (listed 4/27/2010)

Two Waite Park residents have fallen victim to the latest scam. People are receiving phone calls where the person on the other end is claiming to be the person's grandchild. The "grandchild" states they are in jail in Canada and

need bail money wired to them. Both people who wired money later checked where the money was wired to and the number came back to England, not Canada.

The person calling does sound like the victims grandchild and in some cases they may even know the grandchild's name. Please be cautious of any calls you receive that are similar to the scam described. If you believe the person is your grandchild verify the location of the number you are wiring money to. Make some phone calls to family members to verify the person actually is in jail.

HOUSE FOR RENT SCAM (listed 5/15/2009)

Waite Park Police Department received a complaint regarding a scam involving houses being falsely advertised for rent on Craigslist. It appears the suspect found a house for sale online and copied the information onto a craigslist ad claiming it up for rent. The suspect claims to have moved to West Africa after winning a petroleum land bid and after much consideration decided to rent out the house instead of selling it. The email states they are looking to rent the house to someone who cares about the house as much as they do. At the bottom of the email there is a questionnaire for the potential renter asking for full name, DOB, occupation, # of people living in the house, etc.

The catch- the security deposit and rent money need to be sent to Africa and then the "home owner" will send the keys to the renter. The emails are coming from an email account set up in the home owner's name.

The complainant lives in the area and went to see the house, only to find it occupied, by the home owner, who never placed the ad on craigslist. We have confirmed a similar case in St. Cloud.

BENEFICIARY SCAM (listed 4/20/2009)

This beneficiary to millions of dollars email scam has been seen many times. Please delete any email you receive asking you to send any money or personal information. Please remember if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

LOTTERY WINNER SCAM (listed 3/18/2009)

This one has been going on for years, but when we see letters sent to our Waite Park residents we like to remind everyone that it is a scam.

A resident received two letters stating they had one a lottery, one out of Canada and another international lottery. Each letter came with a check attached drawn on a well-known company in the United States. The person is advised to cash the check and wire money to cover the processing fees of receiving the huge amount of lottery winnings. Please shred these letters and DO NOT RESPOND and DO NOT CASH THE CHECK!