

Chief's Corner

We have received a number of complaints about phone and email scams in our community.

- **Internal Revenue Service:** It's tax time and IRS scams are "in season." Email or phone contacts claim to be from the Internal Revenue Service about a problem with your return. They will ask for personal information like your social security number and date of birth to "verify" your identity. BEWARE! The IRS will never contact you by phone or email unless you have initiated the contact. Go to <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Tax-Scams-Consumer-Alerts> to find out about known IRS scams.
- **American Express:** Residents are receiving phone and email contacts about "a problem with your American Express account." These contacts will also ask for personal information and are part of an identity scam.
- **Microsoft:** Calls from "Microsoft" about a problem with your computer are attempts to gain access to your computer and personal information by getting you to download a program to 'fix' your computer. Since Microsoft has recently stopped supporting the Windows XP operating system, we expect the number of Microsoft scams to increase.

I urge all residents to protect your personal information.

1. Never give personal information over the phone unless you have initiated the contact. Legitimate businesses will never call you and ask you to 'verify' your identity or account information.
2. Never respond to an email asking you to verify your identity by providing personal or account information, either directly or through a web page it takes you to.
3. Never open an email attachment unless you are completely certain of its origin.
4. Never download a file to your computer because an unknown caller has asked you to do so.
5. You are always welcome to call Plainfield PD at 603-469-3344 if you are worried about a phone or email contact. We are here to help!

Finally, residents are receiving calls from various 'charity' organizations. Some are legitimate and some are not. A group called "The New England Association of Chiefs of Police" is again making calls in the area. According to the IRS Form 990 they filed in 2012, they kept over 95% of the money they raised last year for 'fundraising and other expenses.' As a reminder, the New Hampshire Chiefs of Police does not support or condone this type of 'fundraising'.

I encourage all residents to be skeptical of fundraising requests from organizations you do not know. Before you give, you can go to GuideStar at <http://www.guidestar.org> and get free information about the finances and reputation of any charity or non-profit organization.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Roberts, Chief