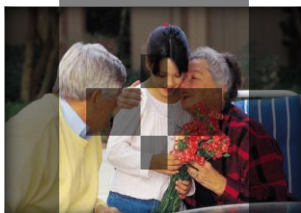




COMMUNITY NEWS

Downtown District

Vol. 68 April 2010, Scottsdale Police Department District 2 Station 3700 N. 75th St, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480) 312-2417



The Grandparent Scam

It starts with a frantic phone call. The caller misleads the grandparent into thinking the caller is their grandchild. The “grandchild” claims to be in trouble -often in Canada- and in desperate need of money. The caller asks the grandparent to wire them thousands of dollars so they can post bail or hire an attorney due to a drug or alcohol related arrest, repair their car due to an accident or pay for medical bills.

The “grandchild” will often plead to the grandparent not to tell the “grandchild’s” parents about the situation. The caller will also pressure the grandparent to act quickly. Sadly, the caller is not their grandchild but a con artist. All around the country, well-meaning and caring grandparents have wired thousands of dollars to these con-artists. The con artists have found taking advantage of a grandparent’s love for their grandchild is very profitable.

It is estimated that American grandparents lost \$4.5 million dollars in 2009 to this type of scam. In one incident, a well-intentioned grandparent lost \$19,000 to a scammer posing as their grandchild and the grandchild’s attorney.

If you receive one of these phone calls, do not give the caller any information. The caller may say “Hi grandma/grandpa, it’s me” or “Hi grandma/grandpa, do you know who this is” and let the grandparent fill in the name of their grandchild. Always make the person tell you their name or ask which grandchild you are speaking to. The caller will realize they can not continue on with the charade and will likely hang up.



**From The Desk Of
Commander
Johnny Cervantes**

Hello Community Members,

Please join us at the Public Safety event being held at Coronado High School on Saturday, April 24th and mingle with Police and Fire personnel. See several police and fire vehicles up close. There will be something for everyone and many services will also be available.

Bring your personal documents for shredding to help reduce identity theft in our community. Keep unwanted elements out of our water system and out of the hands of illegal users by turning over your unused and expired medication to a police officer.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for your support and helping to keep our community safe.

**Commander Johnny Cervantes
(480) 312-2567
jcervantes@scottsdaleaz.gov**

On a rare occasion, the caller may provide the name of a grandchild, which they may have obtained off a social networking hub or personal website/web page. Ask the caller to provide information only your grandchild would know. Also, call your grandchild and relatives to confirm your "grandchild's" story.

If you have been a victim of a scam, report it to your local police department. If the caller requested you to send or wire money to Canada, also contact the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) at 1-888-495-8501 or online through the PhoneBusters site at www.phonebusters.com.

Please visit the following web sites for additional information on frauds and scams: www.azag.gov, www.ic3.gov, www.fbi.gov, www.ftc.gov and www.fraud.org.

Chain Emails

We have all received a chain e-mail. The e-mails claim that if we forward it onto friends or others, something good will happen or it will show that we care about or support the sender or the subject. These chain e-mails often appeal to our emotions or sense of security. Despite how innocent or well-intentioned the e-mail may seem, it may actually be quite malicious.

Aside from cluttering up an inbox, slowing down servers and wasting bandwidth, chain e-mails can place you at risk for scams and identity theft. Each time you forward a chain e-mail to others on your contact list (and like-wise so do all other recipients) you are giving your e-mail address to many other e-mail users out there, including spammers.

Even if you delete all the e-mail addresses out of the e-mail before you forward it to your contacts, there is a good chance some others on the list may blindly hit forward without deleting anyone's e-mail addresses. Your e-mail address will be passed along to others without your consent. Your e-mail address may end up in the inbox of a scammer or spammer. They now have an opportunity to send an array of spam your way in an attempt to obtain your personal information or offer you a good deal on a Rolex. Be aware that chain e-mail might also contain an imbedded virus or data miner, which you will pass along to others on your contact list.

So what should you do? Do not forward the e-mail to your contacts; delete it before you open it. You may also want to ask the person who forwarded the email to you to not do so in the future.

For more information on crime prevention or additional opportunities to get involved in YOUR community contact Crime Prevention Officer Craig Abernethy at 480-312-2594, email: cabernethy@scottsdaleaz.gov, or District 2 Police Aide Randee Short at 480-312-2074, email: rshort@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Did you know?

- 1 in 6 women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- 73% of rape victims know their assailant
- College age students are 4 times more likely to be sexually assaulted
- Every 2 minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted
- Men and women can be victims of rape
- No means no
- Anyone convicted of sexual assault could face a minimum of 7 years in prison, lifetime probation and have to register as a sex offender

For information or help, please contact the Scottsdale Police Department at 480-312-5000 or visit arizonasexualassaultnetwork.org or www.rainn.org (rape, abuse incest national network).

Upcoming Events

Public Safety Fair

Where: Coronado High School
2400 N. Miller Rd

When: Saturday, April 24th, 2010

Time: 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Services will include paper shredding, drug collection for disposal, vehicle, VIN etching, child car seat inspection/installation, child printing and many displays and resource. For more information, please call Officer Jen Wattier at 480-312-0275 or Police Aide Sherry Cross at 480-312-5851. Donations for shredding (suggestion of \$2/box) will be accepted by POSA Outreach in support of children's programs and crime prevention.

Public Safety Community Contact Numbers and E-mail Links

- **Scottsdale Police Non-Emergency** 480-312-5000
- **Scottsdale Fire Department** 480-312-8000
- **SPD Drug Enforcement Hotline** - Suspected illegal activity, 480-312-TIPS (Hot lines are not monitored)
- **SPD Traffic Enforcement Hotline** - chronic traffic problems, 480-312-CARS
- **Code Enforcement** 480-312-2546
- **Child Safety Seat Installation** 480-312-BABY
- **CPR/First Aid Classes** 480-312-1817