

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

PHONE SCAMS ON THE RISE

SCAM INVOLVING *72 This is a scam targeting senior citizens. The caller calls and indicates there has been a death in the family and he or she needs to call a number and start the call with *72 then dial the number. The scammers already have plenty of other information from the soon-to-be victim, when the victim does call the number it forwards the call right back to the scammer. Do not use *72.

FAILED TO SHOW UP TO JURY DUTY This scam is coming back to Utah. The scammer calls and in a very “police like” voice, identifies as an officer, and asks for you by name. When the victim confirm, scammer then proceeds to state you have a warrant for failing to show up for jury duty. The scammer asks you to turn yourself in to the nearest police department or pay a fine over the phone. Scammer will ask you to pay with prepaid credit cards or provide your personal details like social security and credit card numbers. The criminal then goes on a shopping spree since they now have all your information to pass any verification required.

PHISHERS USING TEXT MESSAGES TO TARGET SENIORS Criminals are now extending their phishing to texting since many seniors are getting their hands on smart phones and ditching their flip phones. The text is sent and provides a link that requires the victim to verify some information. People who may not be too familiar with technology might just click and provide all their information. They have been having a lot of success with this scam in other parts of the country and it is moving in to Utah. Do not click on any link unless you know it is from a reliable source.

THE REFERENDUM SCAM FOR SENIORS With recent media coverage on congress trying to cancel social security to seniors, some seniors are concerned as they depend on that money. The scammer calls or sends a piece of mail indicating they are an advocacy group trying to stop the elimination of social security. Victims are asked to contribute \$15 or \$20 dollars to stop this attack. The organization is fake and may have a variation of the name of a real organization that advocates for seniors.

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW SCAM A variation of the cold call solicitation scam is making a comeback. The scammer calls you and starts with “can you hear me now...” You are naturally programed to say yes. The scammers can then bill unauthorized charges to your phone and when you refuse to pay, they will make threats. The best thing to do is to NOT ANSWER calls from numbers you do not recognize and let them go to voicemail.

WANGIRI SCAM, Warning— do not be caught by this phone scam from a far-flung destination such as Antarctica. It could leave you with a huge bill. Utah residents are reporting receiving a series of calls from Antarctica, a tiny Pacific island of Nauru, and Luxembourg in the past month. The caller hangs up after one or two rings. Because of the exotic origin of the call, people are tempted to call back the number. Don’t do it.

Experts have warned against returning missed phone calls from any numbers they don't recognize, especially an overseas number. Users can be charged up to \$50 per minute if they return the call. Wangiri translates to ‘one ring and cut’ in Japan, where it first began.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Haunted Hollow

October 21st
6:00pm—8:00 pm
Galena Hills Park
12500 S. Vista
Station Boulevard
(550 West)

Drug Take Back

October 26th
10:00 am—1:00 pm
Smith’s Food & Drug
212 E. 12300 South



If you would like more information on any of the material mentioned in this month’s newsletter, contact Draper’s Neighborhood Watch Coordinator at 801.576.6342 or crimeprevention@draper.ut.us

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



WALK SAFELY

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.



TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



KEEP COSTUMES CREATIVE AND SAFE

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.



DRIVE SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert to kids during those hours.