

SANFORD POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Quarterly Newsletter

Taxpayers can encounter identity theft involving their tax returns in several ways. One instance is where identity thieves try filing fraudulent refund claims using another person's identifying information, which has been stolen. Innocent taxpayers are victimized because their refunds are delayed.



Identity thieves are stepping up their efforts to use your information to file false tax returns. Please keep in mind that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) does not contact taxpayers by email, or any type of electronic communication to request personal information. The IRS will not ask for personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. If you are contacted by the IRS through your email, do not open any attachments. You can report any such attempt to gain information, via email, to phishing@irs.gov. It's important you report identity theft to your local police and monitor your credit at least once a year.

Information obtained at www.irs.gov



Community Relations Unit
Sanford Police Department
815 Historic Goldsboro Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32771
CRU 407-562-2872



Tips to protect you from becoming a victim of identity theft:

- Don't carry your Social Security card or any documents that include your Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- Don't give a business your SSN or ITIN just because they ask. Give it only when required.
- Protect your financial information.
- Check your credit report every 12 months.
- Secure personal information in your home.
- Protect your personal computers by using firewalls and anti-spam/virus software, updating security patches and changing passwords for Internet accounts.
- Don't give personal information over the phone, through the mail or on the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or you are sure you know who you are dealing with.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft, but you believe you may be at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 800-908-4490, extension 245 (Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. local time; Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific time).



If you believe you're a victim of identity theft:

Be alert to possible identity theft if you receive a notice from the IRS or learn from your tax professional that:

- More than one tax return for you was filed;
- You have a balance due, refund offset or have had collection actions taken against you for a year you did not file a tax return;
- IRS records indicate you received more wages than you actually earned or
- Your state or federal benefits were reduced or cancelled because the agency received information reporting an income change.

If you receive a notice from the IRS and you suspect your identity has been used fraudulently, respond immediately by calling the number on the notice.

Report incidents of [identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov) at www.consumer.ftc.gov or the FTC Identity Theft hotline at 877-438-4338 or TTY 866-653-4261.

File a report with the local police.

Contact the fraud departments of the three major credit bureaus:

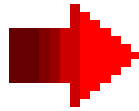
- Equifax – www.equifax.com, 800-525-6285
- Experian – www.experian.com, 888-397-3742
- TransUnion – www.transunion.com, 800-680-7289

Close any accounts that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.

***Information source: www.irs.gov**

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Police throughout Central Florida are receiving reports of a scam taking place around the area. During the scam, a person will call stating they have literally “kidnapped” a family member. It appears they are very persuasive to the point they are able to scare the unknowing victim into staying on the telephone while the victim obtains money and goes to a business to wire money to the caller. The victim is finally allowed off the telephone only to find their family member was never taken by force. The telephone numbers are often found to come from a foreign country.



**Take the
OPPORTUNITY
out of crime!**

Craigslist is a popular place to buy products and services, but unfortunately it is also a place criminals look for those weaknesses in consumers.

You can avoid would-be scammers by following these common-sense rules (www.craigslist.com):

- **DEAL LOCALLY WITH FOLKS YOU CAN MEET IN PERSON**—follow this one rule and avoid 99% of scam attempts.
- **NEVER WIRE FUNDS VIA WESTERN UNION, MONEYGRAM** or other wire service - anyone who asks you to do so is likely a scammer.
- **FAKE CASHIER CHECKS & MONEY ORDERS ARE COMMON**—**BANKS WILL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE** when the fake is discovered weeks later.
- **CRAIGSLIST IS NOT INVOLVED IN ANY TRANSACTION**, and does not handle payments, provide escrow, "buyer protection" or "seller certification."
- **NEVER GIVE OUT FINANCIAL INFORMATION** (bank account number, social security number, eBay/PayPal info, etc.).
- **AVOID DEALS INVOLVING SHIPPING OR ESCROW SERVICES** and know that **ONLY A SCAMMER WILL "GUARANTEE" YOUR TRANSACTION.**
- **DO NOT RENT HOUSING OR PURCHASE GOODS SIGHT-UNSEEN**—that amazing rental or cheap item may not exist.
- **DO NOT SUBMIT TO CREDIT OR BACKGROUND CHECKS** until you have met the job interviewer or landlord/agent in person.
- **Don't meet sellers in private places. Find a public place where you are highly unlikely to become victim to criminal's intent to commit a robbery.**

Information obtained at www.craigslist.com

The next Neighborhood Watch Block Captain meeting is scheduled for :

**Tuesday,
April 8, 2014
at 6:30 P.M.**

To be held at the
Sanford Police Department's
Public Safety Complex
Training Room
815 Historic Goldsboro Blvd
Sanford, FL 32771



We will have a Sanford Police Department Investigator at the meeting to inform Block Captains about the process of receiving a criminal report and investigating a case.

We will also have a guest speaker from the Seminole County State Attorney's Office.

Coffee will be hot!

Did you know your residence is located in a Neighborhood Service Area (NSA)? There is an officer assigned to every NSA in the city. If you would like to know any further on what your assigned area is and who patrols your neighborhood, please contact the Community Relations Unit at CRU@sanfordfl.gov. Any officer assigned to your area would be happy to visit your residence and provide you with their contact information in the event you have concerns you would like them to know about.



Vehicle burglaries can be prevented by locking your vehicle doors. Recently there have been numerous vehicle burglaries reported in the Central Florida area. One of the common denominators were unlocked doors with valuables inside. Remember **“if you like it, lock it!”** Take the opportunity away from the criminals while you fight crime in your neighborhood.

