

BUSINESS CRIME WATCH

BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

FEBRUARY 2017

EDITION 12, VOLUME 1



SAVE THE DATE
Tuesday August 1st
5pm – 8pm



MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
AGAINST CRIME**

This year's event will be held on the
eastside at Uptown Bay City

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

IRS WARNS OF PHONE SCAM

The IRS is warning the public about a phone scam that targets people across the nation. Callers claiming to be from the IRS tell intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver's license.

The callers who commit this fraud often:

- Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
- Know the last four digits of the victim's Social Security number.
- Make caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling.
- Send bogus IRS emails to support their scam.
- Call a second time claiming to be the police or DMV, and caller ID again supports their claim.

The truth is the IRS usually first contacts people by mail – not by phone – about unpaid taxes. And the IRS won't ask for payment using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The agency also won't ask for a credit card number over the phone.

If you get a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS asking for a payment, here's what to do:

- If you owe federal taxes, or think you might owe taxes, hang up and call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with your payment questions.
- If you don't owe taxes, call and report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484.
- You can also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments in your complaint.

Contact Us

Community Policing Unit

501 3rd Street

Bay City, MI 48708

989.892.5900

communitypolicing@baycitymi.org

Be alert for phone and email scams that use the IRS name. The IRS will never request personal or financial information by email, texting or any social media. You should forward scam emails to phishing@irs.gov. Don't open any attachments or click on any links in those emails.

SECURITY SUMMIT ALERT: NEW TWO-STAGE E-MAIL SCHEME TARGETS TAX PROFESSIONALS

The Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and tax industry leaders today warned tax professionals to be alert to an email scam from cybercriminals posing as clients soliciting their services.

A new variation of this phishing scheme is targeting accounting and tax preparation firms nationwide. The scheme's objective is to collect sensitive information that will allow fraudsters to prepare fraudulent tax returns.

BAY CITY ORDINANCE

Sec. 94-6. - Paving; placing obstructions on; responsibility for maintenance of area between sidewalk and curb.

(a) All owners of property on any street shall, when required by the city commission, pave, according to the established grade, all that space between the outer line of the sidewalk in front of the premises to the curb stone or line thereof. The paving shall be done in a manner to conform with the material and manner of construction of the adjacent sidewalk.

(b) No person shall place, and no owner or occupant of property shall maintain, keep or allow to be placed, maintained or kept, in the space between the outer edge of the sidewalk and the curb or the pavement, any sign, material or other thing, unless expressly permitted by this code.

(c) It shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner to maintain the area between the sidewalk and the curb and the area between the rear or side lot line and the paved or improved portion of any alley abutting such lands, including the cutting of grass, with the exception that the city shall repair and restore such area after any construction work performed thereon.

(d) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any owner or occupant to refuse or neglect to comply with a written order served on him by first-class mail or personal service, directing the owner or occupant to maintain the area between the sidewalk and the curb or the area between the rear or side lot line and the paved or improved portion of any alley abutting such lands. If the owner or occupant shall fail or refuse to carry out any order served upon him, after the expiration of the time set forth therein, the director of public works shall enter upon such area and cause the maintenance work to be performed. The amount of such expense incurred shall constitute a debt to the city by the person so failing to comply, and the city may maintain an action in a court of law for the collection thereof. The performance of the maintenance work by officer, employees or agents of the city shall not constitute a defense to a prosecution for a violation of this section.

(Code 1970, § 38-6; Ord. No. 1998-15, 9-28-98)

These latest phishing emails come in typically two stages. The first email is the solicitation, which asks tax professionals questions such as "I need a preparer to file my taxes." If the tax professional responds, the cybercriminal sends a second email. This second email typically has either an embedded web address or contains a PDF attachment that has an embedded web address.

In some cases, the phishing emails may appear to come from a legitimate sender or organization (perhaps even a friend or colleague) because they also have been victimized. Fraudsters have taken over their accounts to send phishing emails.

The tax professional may think they are downloading a potential client's tax information or accessing a site with the potential client's tax information. In reality, the cybercriminals are collecting the preparer's email address and password and possibly other information.

The IRS urges tax professionals and tax preparation firms to consider creating internal policies or obtain security experts' recommendations on how to address unsolicited emails seeking their services.

One tip: Never respond to or click on a link in an unsolicited email or PDF attachment from an unknown sender. As the IRS, states and the tax industry make progress in the fight against identity theft, cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated in their efforts to steal additional client information. Criminals need more data in their effort to impersonate clients and file fraudulent returns to claim refunds, and schemes like this can help in this effort.

Plan Ahead for Any Emergency

Sign up for Smart911 so first responders will be aware of important information to help you when you call 9-1-1.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

We are still seeing counterfeit hundred dollar bills being passed out in the community. Please advise your employees to carefully inspect each bill for authenticity.

During the month of January the Bay City Department of Public Safety handled the following calls:

- Responded to or self-initiated 1731 law enforcement related incidents
- Responded to 32 fire related incidents
- Made 414 traffic stops
- Wrote 285 reports
- Took 73 traffic crash reports

For more information on what is happening in your neighborhood, go to www.crimemapping.com

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2017- BAY CITY RESTAURANTS CHILI COOK OFF

This year we will be holding a chili cook off open to all Bay City restaurants. Details to come!!!

REQUEST TRACKER

Do you have question you would like to ask the streets department? Maybe you have a sidewalk issue in front of your business or you just want to give some information to the Public Safety Department. Go to the City of Bay City's website at www.baycitymi.org and click on the "Request Tracker". Here you can ask questions or leave information for the any of the city's departments. Your request will be tracked online and you will receive updates on the progress.

Government Services Community Business How Do I...

BAY CITY MICHIGAN

A Beautiful View...Of Life

Search...

You are invited to...
BCELPL Customer Appreciation Day!

WHERE: City Hall, 1st Floor

WHEN: February, 10th 2017

WHAT: BCELPL is holding a customer appreciation event for YOU, offering the opportunity to sign up for a FREE Home Energy Check Up and receive a goodie bag filled with an LED nightlight, BCELPL water bottle, and more!

Get here while supplies last.

ENERGY SMART

Come see us any time from 11am to 3pm!

Bay City Electric Light & Power

301 Washington Ave

Bay City, MI 48708

Pay Bills Online

Notify Me®

Request Tracker

City Reports

Mobile Apps

Video Tour

Tax Day Poster