If It Sounds Too Good to be True . . .

IT IS!!!!!!!!!

In the short period of time that the Inverness Police Department has been in existence, the officers have taken several reports from residents who have been victims of “Get Rich Quick” scams.

The con artists pitch their frauds by mail, telephone or the internet. They have one objective – to separate you from your money.

The most common swindle is the “Lottery Scam.” The victim receives a letter, email, or telephone call from a company or clearing house indicating he won tens of thousands or even millions of dollars. The only catch is that the victim is required to wire hundreds or even thousands of dollars back to the provider to satisfy taxes or other fees. Many of these wires go out of the country, mainly to Mexico or Canada. Many times the victim receives follow-up calls requesting additional funds. The victim never gets his “alleged winnings.”

Another scam is the “Family/Friend in Distress or Grandma Scam.” The victim receives a message from a friend or family member claiming he is in trouble and needs money wired for bond or lawyer costs. Many of the requests go to grandparents. The con artist poses as a grandchild and pleads with Grandma or Grandpa not to tell Mom and Dad. A lot of family information can be obtained from the Internet and from Facebook.

The “Work at Home Scam” is also popular. The victim receives an email indicating he/she can work from home by receiving checks from their new employer with instructions to cash them and wire money around the world. He is told that he will receive between 10 and 20% for his work. The checks initially clear but later come back fraudulent leaving the victim “out” the money.

All of these scams are crimes and they are almost impossible to charge and prosecute. Ironically it is the victim’s own choice to take part in these schemes. Con artists are well-trained and very persuasive. They use all types of excuses, offers, and explanations to get you to participate in the plot to steal your money.

The Inverness Police Department encourages our citizens to hang up on these thieves and to ignore their letters and emails. Please do not hesitate to contact the Police Department at (847) 358-7766, if you are tempted by these plots and need some support or further information in order to say “NO.”

Enjoy Your Christmas Tree -- Then Put It at the Curb for Free Pickup

Christmas trees will be picked up at the curb free of charge on Thursday, January 7 and Thursday, January 14. No sticker is needed for the free curbside tree pickup.

Residents are invited to continue the spirit of the holiday season through the coming months by contributing to the Village of Inverness Good Samaritan Fund. Groot Industries will match the contributions (up to $500) collected through this appeal. Donations in any amount may be dropped off or mailed to the Village Hall, 1400 Baldwin Road. Checks should be made payable to the Village of Inverness Good Samaritan Fund.

All monies from this fund are made available to those in need in our community, as well as to local food pantries and agencies serving the elderly, children and families in need.

Calendar of Events

January
• 12 Village Board
• 18 Zoning Board
• 19 Plan Commission

February
• 9 Village Board
• 15 Zoning Board
• 16 Plan Commission

March
• 9 Village Board
• 15 Plan Commission
• 16 Zoning Board

Village Hall Holiday Closings

New Year’s:
Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1
From the Desk of…

Dear Residents:

This is the season for giving thanks, and at the Village of Inverness we are especially thankful for the many volunteers who contribute their time and talent to enhance the quality of life in our community. Volunteer members of the Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Tree Commission all donate many hours of time and their considerable expertise to these volunteer bodies. Our thanks to each of you for a job very well done.

Equally important to the quality of life in Inverness are the many service clubs in the community:

The Inverness Community Association sponsors a Newcomers meet and greet, the Village’s 4th of July event, the Concert in the Park program, and Halloween and Easter parties. For more information about this organization and its events, log onto www.invernesscommunity.org.

The Women's Club of Inverness, both a social and philanthropic organization, is currently working on a “Shoe Box Express” project which sends care packages to military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. If you would like to contribute, please email KimberlyBuchanan@comcast.net for information.

The Four Silo's Questers are dedicated to the preservation and restoration of historical items for the Village of Inverness. The group was responsible for installing a plaque at Village Hall recognizing the age and significance of the silos, as well as donating a display case for the Board room to showcase Inverness-related memorabilia. The group is interested in any memorabilia you would be willing to donate, particularly photos, news items, early brochures and publications -- practically anything that relates to Inverness’ history. If you have items you would like to donate or need further information, call Donna Monco at (847) 359-0534.

The Clarinda Cady Questers, another group focused on historic preservation, is currently involved in restoring the Cady Cemetery on Ela Road.

The Garden Club of Inverness has worked on a number of service projects throughout the Village. Additional information about this group is available by logging onto www.gardencentral.org/illinois/gardenclubofinverness

I encourage you to find out more about these service organizations and get involved! Call the Village for contact information.

Best wishes to you and yours for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Jack Tatooles

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RTA ‘Senior Ride Free’ Passes Available

Seniors ages 65 and over living in the RTA service region are eligible for free transit on fixed routes (not Dial-A-Ride) operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace. Those living in the five county RTA service region may apply for a Senior Ride Free Smart Card Permit at any of the dozens of registration centers. Two local registration options are at Barrington Township, 601 N. Hough Street (847-381-5642), and Palatine Township, 721 S. Quentin Road (847-358-6700). You must present: (1) A government-issued picture identification card that verifies your age (drivers license, state of Illinois ID card, alien registration card or passport); and (2) A wallet-sized color photo of yourself that is approximately 1 1/2” square. You may not be wearing a hat, scarf or sunglasses in the photo.

If you do not have a photo, Barrington Township officials suggest going to Jewel/Osco, CVS or Costco to have one taken. Hours are 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday at Barrington Township (closed from 12:00 noon-1:00 PM for lunch), Palatine Township will take your photo for a charge of $2. Palatine Township hours are 8:30 AM-4:00 PM Monday-Friday; and 8:30 AM-12:00 noon on Saturday.

For more information about the program and registration sites, log onto the RTA website, www.rtachicago.com.
Village’s 50/50 Tree Program Provides Opportunity To Have a Red Oak for Half the Cost

The Inverness Village Board has again approved funding for the 50/50 Tree Planting Program. Under this program the Village will pay half of the cost of purchasing and planting a three inch diameter Red Oak tree on private property. The Village has obtained pricing for the purchase and installation of these trees at a total cost of $320 per tree -- $160 paid by the homeowner, $160 paid by the Village. Planting will begin in April 2010.

Due to the overwhelming response to this program, these trees will only be available by a lottery drawing to residents who did not participate in the last program. The application below must be accompanied by a check made payable to the Village of Inverness for $160.00. In order to qualify for the lottery, your check must accompany the application. The application and check must be received by the Village no later than 12:00 noon on March 12, 2010. Residents who are not selected by the lottery will have their checks returned. The drawing will be held on March 12 at 4:00 PM at the Village Hall.

The Northern Red Oak is a rapidly growing tree, reaching 15-20 feet in 10 years and 60-70 feet at maturity. It is easy to recognize by its bark, which features ridges that appear to have shiny stripes down the center. When the tree is full grown, its leaves are dark green and smooth. In autumn they turn a rich red, sometimes brown color.

Other requirements of this program include:

▲ Trees must be planted in the front yard, at a location approved by the Village Arborist.
▲ There is a limit of one (1) application for a tree per household.
▲ Applications will be accepted until 12:00 noon on March 12, 2010.

YES, I would like to participate in the 50/50 tree planting program

I/we wish to participate in the Village of Inverness “50/50 Tree Planting Program” and hereby submit an application requesting that the Village purchase and plant one (1) Red Oak at a location to be determined by the Village Arborist. I/we agree to comply with all requirements established by the Village and agree to hold the Village harmless from all liability. The Village reserves the right to refund this payment if a tree is not available at this time.

A check for $160.00, made payable to the Village of Inverness, is enclosed.

Name

Telephone

Address

Signature

Mail to: Village of Inverness ● 1400 Baldwin Road ● Inverness, IL 60067

Application and check must be submitted by 12:00 noon on March 12, 2010 in order to be eligible for the lottery.

Protect Your Mailbox from Damage This Winter

Mailboxes are occasionally unintended casualties of the snow season. If a Village snowplow physically strikes a properly installed mailbox while removing snow, the Village’s contractor will make repairs or replace the mailbox with one of a standard design. Mailboxes should be mounted so that the front of the box is a minimum distance of 12” from the edge of pavement or back of curb. According to US Postal regulations, the height of the mailbox should be between 41” and 45” from the road to the bottom of the box.

The Village will not replace or repair mailboxes where the damage was caused by heavy snow coming off the plow blade, so we suggest that you examine your mailbox early in the snow season to ensure that it is structurally sound and properly maintained. Call the Village at (847) 358-7740 if you have any questions.
Census 2010: BE COUNTED!
The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States; including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens. The 2010 Census forms will be mailed out to every residence in March 2010.

Your participation in the 2010 census is important

- The information the census collects helps to determine how over $400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like: hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels, emergency services and other-public works projects.
- It creates hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs across the nation.
- Determines how many seats each state will have in Congress and impact redistricting of state and local districts.

Inverness relies on the state and federal dollars that are distributed to municipalities based on the census count. Please fill out the form when it arrives in your mailbox and return the completed questionnaire promptly. Be sure you are counted in the 2010 United States Census!

Have You Seen the Flagpole in Front of the Village Hall Annex?
The flagpole was a donation to the Village from the Estates at Inverness Ridge Master Association, whose members felt that the flagpole would be more appropriately located at a public site. The Association donated the flagpole to the Village to enhance the identity of the new Inverness Police Department, now located in the Annex.

The entire cost of relocating the flagpole to the Annex property was underwritten by private donations; no public funds were used. Our sincere thanks go to the Estates at Inverness Ridge Master Association and the private donors who made this possible.

Snow Season Reminders
The holiday season and winter weather have both arrived in Chicagoland. The Village’s snow plowing crews stand ready 24/7 to keep the roadways safe for travel. Check out these brief but important snow season reminders:

▲ If you haven’t already done so, look around your property and remove all landscaping obstructions such as boulders, stones and tree limbs from the right-of-way. Such items can pose a significant safety hazard for Village snow plowing crews.

▲ While crews always do their best to protect lawn areas and mailboxes adjacent to the roadway, we ask you to report any damage caused by snow plows within 24 hours so that we can investigate and make repairs as warranted.

▲ Residents are reminded never to shovel or plow snow from the driveway into the street. Snow from driveways that is deposited on the roadways can become compacted and icy, posing a significant danger to both vehicles and pedestrians.

▲ We recommend removing snow from your driveway after the plow has made its last pass. Snow plows are designed to push snow to the outside edge of the road, which means the plow will inevitably leave snow at the bottom of your driveway. You can save yourself both time and frustration by waiting to clear the bottom of your driveway until the plow has made its final pass on your street.