



Watch Works

Charles County
Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Troy Berry
June 2015

BBB most prevalent scams in 2014

The Better Business Bureau urges consumers to stay a step ahead. The most prevalent scams in 2014 are:

- **Arrest Warrant Scam:** In this scam, con artists take advantage of technology that can change what is visible on Caller ID, allowing them to pose as the officer of the local sheriff or other law enforcement agency. They call to say there is a warrant out for your arrest, but that you can pay a fine in order to avoid criminal charges. Of course, these "police" don't take credit cards; only a wire transfer or pre-paid debit card will do. Sometimes these scams seem very personal. The scammer may refer to a loan or financial matter.
- **Publishers Clearing House Scam:** Year after year this scam is on the list because consumers never stop hoping that the caller who is telling him they have won a million dollars and a new Mercedes is the real thing. The call will likely show up on your phone with an 876 area code from Jamaica.
- **Grant Scam:** Wouldn't it be exciting to receive a call from the government informing you that you've been approved to receive a federal grant to pay for home repairs, unpaid bills or much needed vacation? In these schemes the caller guarantees you a government grant and asks you to pay a fee for their service. This fee could be any amount, but it's usually small enough in relation to the grant so as not to raise suspicion.
- **Phone Spoofing Scam:** Your phone starts ringing, so naturally you look down to check the caller ID. The name and number listed makes you do a double take. Apparently the caller isyou? When the phone is answered either a recording or live person asking for personal information greets you.
- **Foreign Lottery Scam:** Someone calls to congratulate you on winning the Canadian or Spanish lottery but the caller needs \$5000 for "delivery insurance." To convince you it's legit, the caller directs you to the U.S. Consumer Protection Bureau's website. The only problem is—the organization and the website are fake. If you didn't play the lottery, how could you be a winner?
- **Fake debt collectors:** Despite never being late on a loan or credit card payment, consumers receive calls from debt collectors using a fictitious name implying that they are with a law firm. They threaten that if the debt is not paid immediately, serious consequences will occur, such as being sued, arrested at work, garnishment of wages, or being forced to appear in court. They call consumers at both home and work alarming them with information they managed to acquire about them and their families.
- **Medicare Card Scam:** Seniors report that they have received suspicious phone calls claiming to be from Medicare. They were told they needed to provide their banking information in order to replace expiring Medicare cards.

Remember if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Wisely researching companies and charities before giving out personal information and hard earned money will prevent scams like these from occurring in 2015.

Dates to Remember

June 14: Flag Day

June 21: Father's Day

June 21: Summer begins



**HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY**



Never leave a child in a car alone.



As summer temperatures continue to go up, it's important to remember that while these summer days are great for the pool and the beach, they're not so good for the inside of cars, which can raise to deadly temperatures in a very short period of time. Children have been left in vehicles when the temperatures were as hot outside as 100 degrees and as mild as 76 degrees and have died. Many people are shocked to learn how hot the inside of a car can actually get. On an 80 degree day, the temperature inside of a car can rise 19 degrees in 10 minutes and keep getting hotter with each passing minute. You can only imagine what happens when the temperature outside is 100 degrees or more. Cracking the window doesn't help.

Heatstroke sets in when the

body isn't able to cool itself quickly enough. Young children are particularly at risk, as their bodies heat up 3 to 5 times faster than an adult's. When a child's internal temperature reaches 104 degrees, major organs begin to shut down. When that child's temperature reaches 107 degrees, the child can die.

Since 1998, at least 619 children across the United States have died in cars from heatstroke (usatoday.com). More than half occur when a driver forgets that the child is in the car. Almost 30 percent of the time, children get into a car on their own. Kids love to pretend they're driving. They find a way into the car, but sometimes, they can't find a way out.

The third scenario is when

someone intentionally leaves a child alone in a car to run an errand "I'll just be gone a few minutes". Help protect children by remembering ACT:

- A. Avoid heatstroke related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute.
- C. Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination.
- T. Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel are trained to respond to these situations.

One call could save a life.

National Night Out



National Night Out is always the 1st Tuesday of August. 2015 NNO will be held on August 4th. Most neighborhoods are starting their celebrations at 6:00p.m. Every neighborhood is different in the way they celebrate and what

time they start and end. This is because each neighborhood is as different as each individual that lives in the neighborhood. There is no set way the celebration has to be handled. National Night Out is considered a going away party for crimi-

nals and drugs in your neighborhood. So go out and meet your neighbors. Stand together to let would be criminals know you don't want them in your neighborhood. While you are at it, Have Fun!

A WORD FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZER: Connie Gray 301-932-3080

If your neighborhood would like to be a part of National Night Out and you didn't receive a registration form, please call or email me to get one. NNO is approaching fast and we would like

to get all neighborhoods registered ASAP so that we can get our Officers and McGruff scheduled. If you would like more information about NNO let me know and I will be glad to

answer any questions or send you the information. This is such a fun filled night. Get outside and meet your neighbors, it can make a big difference in your neighborhood.



What summertime brings.

Heat Stroke: It's not just a problem with those that work in the sun. It's dangerous for older people too, especially if they have no air conditioning. It is also dangerous for children playing softball, soccer or any other sport. Children go out to the playground and don't realize they are turning red. If you see someone whose face is turning red, rapid pulse, throbbing headache, confusion and dizziness, have them sit down, cool off and drink fluids until it goes away. Water is good, but Gatorade and PowerAde with electrolytes are far better because they help replace salt and retain fluid. Let the body cool down naturally in early stages of heat exhaustion, but if you miss the signs and it progresses, put ice packs on the groin, armpits and neck where blood flows close to the surface. Other ways to cool the body include immersing the body in cool water, placing the person in

a cool shower, or wrapping the person in a cool, wet sheet or blanket. The biggest warning that a kid is getting overheated is they are complaining about leg cramps and are sweating. If they complain of lightheadedness, take them out of the game.

Bites: Most bug bites are harmless, but some mosquitoes and ticks carry diseases. West Nile virus, Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are just a few. The good news is that you can take steps to protect yourself and your family.

- Get rid of standing water around your home to keep mosquitoes from laying eggs nearby.
- Cut back brush and tall grasses around your home and rake up fallen leaves to keep ticks away.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and socks.
- Use bug repellent (bug

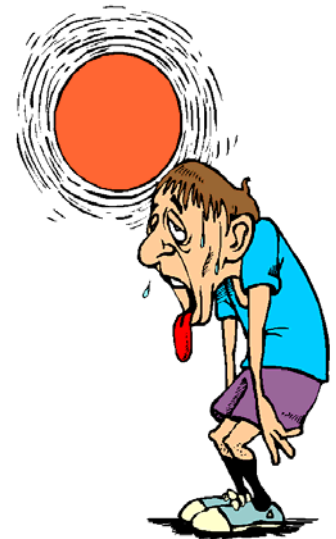
spray, insect repellent) on your skin and clothing.

- Check everyone for ticks after spending time outside.
- Take a shower after going back inside to help wash away ticks and to wash repellent off.
- Use a tick collar or spot-on repellent on your pets. Remember to check them for ticks.



Be prepared, travel with a first aid kit. Not only band-aids and wet one's but sun block, bug repellent and drinks with electrolytes. Also, ice packs and a cloth you can dip in water to clean a cut or cool someone down.

Enjoy your summer!





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