

### **Area seniors warned about new scam**

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Report Editor

Twin Lakes Police Chief Dale Racer wants area seniors to be aware of a new scam that has appeared in our area.

"Several senior citizens here in Twin Lakes have received scam letters from Atlantic Financial Services Inc., out of Canada, advising these seniors that they are the winners in the Consumer Promotion Sweepstakes Drawing, with winnings of \$270,000.00.

"The letter has a fake check enclosed for several thousand dollars and asks the senior recipient to cash it, put it into their savings account and then to withdraw \$4,000 to pay the applicable non-resident Government Service Tax via Western Union to an assigned tax agent located in London, UK."

Racer explains, "In today's economy, people are impressionable and some seniors are willing to take a chance to make big bucks."

Last year 35,000 Wisconsin seniors were scammed out of their hard-earned money, according to the Wisconsin SMP, a part of the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups.

There are a variety of scams that include phone calls saying they are updating medical records or something related to Social Security. None of these agencies ever ask for your account numbers or other personal information. If you receive a call like this hang up. Call the police and report that happened. Never give out information over the phone and through an e-mail.

Other scams include unbelievable offers for a vacation, pleas from a grandchild in trouble or checks that arrive in the mail, asking you to mail back money, usually to an out of country address.

These are all scams. Never send money to anyone you do not know. If you receive a phone call from a relative or loved one supposedly in trouble, get their phone number and call a family member to verify.

Another scam that is going around includes e-mails from children or grandchildren in college saying their books were stolen or damaged and they need money to replace them. Again, these are scams meant to empty your bank account and play upon a parent and grandparent's worst fear of a family member in trouble.

### **Repair scams**

Other scams include fly by night repair men who appear unsolicited at your door step, offering to fix your drive way, winterize your windows or fix your roof. They may tell you they have left over product from a job down the road and will offer you a greatly discounted price so they get rid of the excess material. Do not open your door to them and do not allow them inside.

If you did not call a repair-man, ask them to leave your property and immediately close and lock your door, then call the police.

Sometimes con men will try to keep you at your front door while an accomplice goes around the back of your house, attempting to get into a window or open door. Do not leave your purse, wallet or loose cash out in the open and visible through a window.

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