

A NOTE TO OUR RESIDENTS

We have been getting a lot of reports of people getting scam calls. Please remember that no business or government entity will ever ask you to buy gift cards, drop money off at gas stations or pharmacies, or wire transfer money to pay outstanding bills or fines. A lot of these scam calls are similar and all require the same response from you – **HANG UP!**

If the caller says:

- *You owe the IRS money and have to pay it right now!* **HANG UP!** The IRS will not contact you by telephone unless you called them first and asked them to call you.
- *Someone in your family has had an emergency and needs you to wire money right now!* **HANG UP!** And then call that person to reassure yourself that your family member is okay.
- *There's a problem with one of your accounts and we need to verify your information.* **HANG UP!** Don't give these callers ANY information AT ALL.
- *You have an outstanding warrant! Pay right now or the police will come put you in jail!* **HANG UP!** A Bailiff may sometimes call to give people a chance to pay fines before they issue a warrant, but those people are well aware that they owe fines to the Court. Once a warrant has been issued, the matter is turned over to the police, and we don't call. We knock.
- *We're sending you \$5,000, but I accidentally cut the check for more than I was supposed to, so you will get a check for \$15,000. Deposit it and send \$5000 back so I don't get in trouble.* **HANG UP!** That "check" will bounce. Nobody is going to send you \$15,000 out of the blue, but they *do* want your \$5,000. Don't give it to them!
- *You Won! Buy these specific gift cards, scratch off the backs, send me pictures of them, and we will deposit money into your account! Now give me your routing and account numbers and go get those cards!* **HANG UP!** Again, no one is going to send you lots and lots of money out of the blue, but they do want those card numbers so they can buy stuff, and they want your account information, too. Don't give it to them!

One of the best things we can all do is to make sure we talk to our senior family members and then stay in touch to be sure they're not taken in. Ask older family members to call you before they send money to anyone, and let them know that you will call them if anyone in your family is in an accident or needs their help.

Stay safe out there!