



The

**S.A.L.T.**

Communicator

*Seniors and Law Enforcement Together*

Serving & Protecting Seniors Citizens

April 2019

## There's a New Sheriff in Town:

### Policing DuPage in a Modern Age

*Presented at the March SALT Meeting*

DuPage County residents elected James Mendrick last November and SALT warmly welcomed him to share his priorities and initiatives. As the leader of the Office which oversees the DuPage County Jail, Courthouse, Crime Lab and law enforcement collaborating with 32 municipalities, Sheriff Mendrick opened on the topic of mental health. He is doubling the level of rehabilitative services, noting that half of all opioid addiction is tied to mental health; people medicating themselves in an attempt to mitigate symptoms. He is promoting Crisis Intervention Team Training which teaches officers de-escalation techniques when encountering a person with developmental disabilities or mental health challenges. The Sheriff's Department is the only agency in addition to the State to offer such training, which it makes available to local policing agencies.

Sheriff Mendrick instituted the Post Crisis Response Team, a pilot to help families who need to call the police with a mental health crisis of a loved one. Sociologically-trained officers team with County mental health professionals to bring services to the home. The pilot has met tremendous response, indicating a real need in the community to bring families and individuals from chronic crisis to more stability.

Sheriff Mendrick identified revoked FOID cards as an issue pushed to the forefront by recent shootings. The Illinois State Police sends out revocation notices to gun owners who've lost their right to possess a gun as well as the local police authority. Sheriff Mendrick is stepping up the effort to obtain guns from those with revoked FOID cards, utilizing social workers and sending deputies out to residences to keep the community safer.

Regarding the safety of students in schools, the Sheriff is working with the Illinois State Training Board toward statutory regulation changes for school police officers to

incorporate bullying, cyberbullying, mental health awareness

and rapid deployment into new standards for school resource officers. Such change acknowledges the sociological underpinnings at the root of such violence that need to be further understood and better incorporated.

The Sheriff identified that a large portion of opioid abuse begins with prescription drugs. He is working with the Health Department to bolster the RxBox program and will allow people to text or email the Department to send out a deputy if they cannot bring pills to the RxBox. The Sheriff wants all residents to dispose of extra prescription pills to protect children in the house who may take an unnoticed small amount to try the drug, become dependent, seek out more, and then buy drugs from dealers.

Technology is also on the mind of the new Sheriff. The Transponder Program, in initial stages, will assist individuals at risk of wandering. He is researching tracking devices and will select one which can be most effectively fashioned into a necklace or watch. And, seeking to modernize the department technologically, he found and allocated funds to purchase a tablet versus laptop platform. While this was more expensive than a lower bid on older technology, it can more quickly combat crime and identify criminals. He wants the accessibility and speed offered by such technology to aid in their police work.

The Sheriff's Office is acquiring a second bloodhound to assist with missing persons, a second bomb dog trained in gun powder and explosives, and four narcotic canines which will also be offered to all municipalities in the County for assistance with investigations.



James Mendrick

Sheriff, DuPage County

## Scams Report

### Scam Alerts Reported By The Federal Trade Commission During the Fourth Quarter of 2018



Arnold Shifrin

Director of Communications  
SALT

- **Social Security scams:** Victims receive a call from someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and are told their Social Security Number (SSN) was suspended because it was associated with criminal activity. Victims are asked to confirm their SSN in order to reactivate it and are instructed to send money to cover the reactivation cost.
- **Netflix phishing scam:** Victims receive an email stating their Netflix account is on hold because the company is having trouble with their billing information. Victims are instructed to click on a link to update the information. Once victims provide the requested information, scammers install ransomware or malware on their computer and steal their identity.
- **Sending cash in the mail:** This scam targets senior citizens by playing on their emotions. Victims are convinced to send money to scammers posing as a family member or friend in trouble. An example of this is the “grandparent scam.”
- **Spear phishing:** Victims receive a call stating that someone has been using their debit card and are asked to confirm their personal information so the unauthorized use of the card can be stopped. Once the information is provided, the scammer steals the victim’s identity.
- **Spoofed SSA calls:** Victims receive a call from someone claiming to be from the SSA. The caller ID shows that the call originated from the SSA’s toll-free number (1.800.772.1213). Victims are told they are eligible for a larger benefit and that a confirmation of their SSN is needed to process the increase. The caller threatens victims with a stoppage of benefits if they don’t provide the requested information. In a variation of this scam, victims are told they were called because the SSA’s computers are down and their personal information was lost.
- **Rental listing scams:** These scams are prevalent after weather catastrophes such as hurricanes and floods. Scammers advertise property rentals that don’t exist and entice potential renters into sending money for a security deposit, application fee, or first month’s rent.
- **Charity scams:** Benefactors unknowingly make donations to sham charities such as those that claim to help injured military personnel, victims of natural disasters, and neglected or abandoned pets. In a desire to help others, victims fail to check out the charities before they send their contributions.
- **Vehicle history report scam:** People who are selling their cars online are contacted by a prospective buyer and asked for a vehicle history report. The seller is directed to a specific website to obtain the report. The seller pays a fee for the report and sends it to the buyer as instructed. There is no further contact from the buyer, and the seller is unable to retrieve the money.
- **Gift Card scam:** Scammers posing as IRS or utility company agents call victims and request payment for back taxes or past due utility bills. Victims are threatened with arrest if they fail to comply. They are told to purchase a gift card and provide the “agent” with the code on the back of the card. Once the scammer has the code, the money is gone and cannot be traced.

-Resource: FTC

#### Mission Statement —————

The purpose of the Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council is to determine and to meet the needs of senior citizens by reducing crime and abuse and by enhancing safety through communication and education in cooperation with the Township, law enforcement agencies, and other community agencies and organizations.

## Citizens Utility Board: Relevant Tips to

### Save on Utility Bills

*Presented at the February 2019 SALT Meeting*

The Illinois General Assembly created CUB in 1983, mandating the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization to uphold the interests of all residential utility customers in the state. CUB carries out this mission by representing consumers before the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), in the courts and before other public bodies.

When a utility seeks a rate increase or a change in service, it must win approval from the ICC. The utility usually presents the commission with detailed testimony from numerous experts to support its request. CUB presents the same kind of evidence and persuasive legal arguments—but from the consumers' point of view.

CUB also offers information and assistance about utility companies and staffs a Hotline for those with complaints against their utility company. Further, CUB advocates for affordable and sustainable energy policy in Illinois.

Ms. Cate York described how electricity and natural gas are delivered and supplied. ComEd, the local electric utility, delivers electricity regardless of which supply option a consumer selects. Nicor, as the local natural gas utility, also delivers its product regardless of the supplier chosen. A variety of alternative suppliers offer service to residential customers, and rates vary. While every customer in this area uses the same utility for the delivery of gas and electric energy usage, each may select among suppliers, unless part of municipal aggregation in which the city or village negotiates and selects on behalf of its residents.

CUB recommends most consumers stay with the utility gas and electric supply as those are regulated rates and almost always the least expensive. If a consumer is considering a switch to an alternative gas or electric supplier, a consumer advocate at the CUB hotline can help determine whether a switch will save on cost or actually cost more.

Introducing the topic of saving on energy bills by reducing usage, Cate emphasized, "The cheapest KWh/therm is the one you don't use!" As 10% of an average electric bill is used in lighting, CUB advises use of energy-efficient lighting.



Cate York  
Sustainable Communities Liaison

Citizens Utility Board—CUB

Vampire power — used by equipment turned off but remaining on standby mode — consumes 23% of the electrical usage. Further, a household can save up to 10% of energy costs (20% of heating and cooling) through air sealing and insulation.

ComEd has introduced new cost-savings choices as well as their traditional flat electric rate offering. AC Cycling and Peak-time Savings each separately offer guaranteed savings; Hourly Pricing would have saved 97% of ComEd customers on energy costs. To aid consumers in selecting among suppliers and also those looking into Hourly Pricing, Nicor's gas price through March 31 is 36 cents per therm. One therm would be used to heat 100 gallons of water. The current ComEd price through May 31 is 7.219 cents per kilowatt-hour (KWh). One kWh equals ten 100W light bulbs for 1 hour or ten 10W LED light bulbs for 10 hours.

All Nicor Gas and ComEd customers are entitled to a free personalized energy assessment and free installation of energy-saving products such as programmable thermostat, LED light bulbs, advanced power strips, low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and hot water pipe insulation. If you would like, during the assessment you could purchase a smart thermostat with a \$100 built-in rebate and free installation.

CUB welcomes volunteers to help educate people about the issues that impact their utility bills.

**CUB Website: [CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://CitizensUtilityBoard.org)**

**CUB Hotline : 1.800.669.5556**

**Monday — Friday, 9 am— 4 pm**

*For further explanation of the energy-saving programs highlighted above, please refer to page 4 in this issue.*

# Smart meters allow for money-savings plans offered by ComEd

## Peak Time Savings

By enrolling in Peak Time Savings (PTS), consumers gain a bill credit for reducing electricity use during ‘peak times’ on those few summer days when power demand is highest. The credit appears as dollars off the total amount and is based on typical versus actual usage during one of the peak times. ComEd typically calls three to five PTS periods per year on the hottest summer days usually for a few hours between 11 am and 7 pm. Once enrolled, a participant would choose notifications by phone, text or email no earlier than 9 am and at least 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the peak period. Anyone may enroll for no cost at any time, but consumers should sign up by April 30 to enjoy savings this summer. CUB supports this program because it carries no risk, and customers can earn money off their bill while positively impacting the entire grid.

## Central AC Cycling

ComEd will give consumers \$5 or \$10 off their monthly electric bill in summer for allowing the utility to remotely cycle their central air-conditioner off and on during the hottest days. Only the compressor is cycled off; the fan will continue to circulate already cooled air, so the difference in the home may not even be noticed. ComEd offers two cycling options:

Option	Days Offered	Unit Cycles off	Credit Received
50 Percent	Weekdays excluding holidays 11 am—8 pm	Maximum 15 minutes every half hour no more than 6 hours a day	\$5 credit/month per household June 1—September 30
100 Percent	Weekdays excluding holidays 11 am—8 pm	Up to 3 hours of compressor interruption; can be cycled up to 6 hours at ComEd discretion	\$10 credit/month per household June 1—September 30

Further, consumers may participate in this program using Nest Rush Hour Rewards. A programmable thermostat such as Nest requires no equipment to be attached to the air conditioning unit outside. The Nest program automatically makes temperature tweaks to use less electricity. Consumers are granted a \$100 instant in-store rebate coupon redeemable at select retailers, or participants may apply for a rebate after purchasing a smart thermometer. While other programmable thermostats qualify for the rebate, only those with a Nest product may participate in the AC Cycling Program. Consumers should sign up for the Cycling program during the last week of April at the latest for enrollment for this summer.

Customers may not participate simultaneously in Peak Time Savings and Central AC Cycling. Additionally, customers on net metering may not participate in Peak Time Savings. Net metering allows consumers to sell surplus renewable energy generated from solar panels back to the utility and are thereby already reimbursed for reducing their electric usage. Most customers earn larger bill credits on Central AC Cycling than they would on Peak Time Savings, but they do have differences. More can be learned through the contacts below.

Whether choosing PTS or Central AC Cycling, consumers might consider also signing up for **Hourly Pricing** which gives the option to pay the hourly market price for electricity. Most pay a standard electricity rate, which means it remains static throughout the day. But the actual wholesale market price is much lower than that most of the year; hourly Pricing takes advantage of that market price. Savings aren’t guaranteed, but typical participants have saved an average of 15% on their electricity supply costs compared with standard utility rates.

## Enrollment, Questions , Rebates:

<b>Peak Time Savings</b>	844.852.0347 comed.com/pts	<b>Central AC Cycling</b>	800.986.0070 comed.com/accycling
		<b>Nest Rush Hour Rewards</b>	nest.com/energy-partners/comed/
<b>Hourly Pricing</b>	888.202.7787 hourlypricing.comed.com		
<b>Rebate Application</b>	comed.com/WaysToSave/ForYourHome/Documents/smartthermostatapplication.pdf		

## United States Postal Inspection Service: Protecting Public Rights and Personal Safety

*Presented at the January 2019 Meeting*

Americans have strong confidence in and complete expectation of integrity in the U.S. Mail. That trust has been guarded for over 200 years by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. These federal agents protect the postal service from criminal attack and criminal misuse of the nation's mail system. Known among law-enforcement colleagues as the "Silent Service" due to the lack of publicity of their investigations, these federal agents carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants and work in close cooperation with U.S. Attorneys, local prosecutors and other law enforcement agencies to investigate cases and prepare them for court. It is noteworthy that the federal government does not fund the Postal Service; it is all provided by the sale of stamps.

Postal Inspectors safeguard the almost 150 billion pieces of mail each year, including the employees who move the mail and the customers who receive it. Julie Kenney came to SALT to highlight the work of her agency in combatting sweepstakes, lottery, and internet fraud, as well as child sexual exploitation offenses related to the mail, drug trafficking and money laundering via the mail as well as crimes against Postal carriers and facilities.

Ms. Kenney focused particularly on Romance Scams. A typical scenario would involve a person, often over 50, looking for love or friendship. In reaching out to potential romantic partners, a person could be targeted by someone who creates an online profile from a picture stolen off of the internet. The scammer, using tactics similar to child predators, then pulls the victim in, sending affectionate emails, even flowers or gifts, using well-rehearsed scripts.

Once the relationship is established, the scammer will then state that he or she needs money, in connection to a pretend crisis, asking for a cash



Julie Kenney,  
Public Information Representative,  
Chicago Division

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

wire transfer from the victim. In some cases, if the scammer can convince their victim to turn on a webcam on his or her laptop, they will utilize the photos to later blackmail the victim if he or she balks at sending money. Julie stated this pattern in the following manner: *Love Me, Trust Me, Help Me, Pay Me, or Else*. Even after being shown photos of the real perpetrator, victims can find it difficult to break the emotional attachment that has developed. Victims may experience loss, grief and depression, or feel shame or humiliation, especially when their family, upon learning of the situation, criticizes them. The most common victims of online romance fraud were those looking for love or friendship and who overshare on social media sites. How do you know you might be talking to a scammer? Julie advised the following:

- Is it too good to be true?
- Are some things just not making any sense?
- Did this person start professing his or her love in a short time?

To remain safe:

- Don't give your last name, address, workplace or personal details until you've met someone in person
- Turn off location settings on your mobile device
- Check out the romancer's image, name, and email address
- Do not overlook the obvious or explain away your doubts

To report victimization, email postal inspectors at [postalinspectors.uspis.gov](mailto:postalinspectors.uspis.gov) or phone 877.876.2455. Many can be vulnerable just for the simple hope of finding a good friend or romantic partner.

A good resource on protecting yourself from scams is the Postal Service website, [deliveringtrust.com](http://deliveringtrust.com).

[S.A.L.T. On-line Resource Library and Facebook Page](#)

Where will you go to find helpful links and resources for senior's questions about safety & communications, legal and financial help, food security, health, transportation, scams and so much more? Check the resources on the new [www.MiltonTownshipSALT.com](http://www.MiltonTownshipSALT.com) website or on Facebook (Milton Township SALT).





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[www.miltontownship.net](http://www.miltontownship.net)

Want to call the Township?

630.668.1616

Want to visit the Township?

1492 N. Main St  
Wheaton

Questions or comments?

[p.cannova@miltontownship.net](mailto:p.cannova@miltontownship.net)

#### S.A.L.T. Council Members

Chuck Smith, Chairman · Jodi Hefler, Vice Chairperson · Penni Cannova, Social Services Coordinator, Milton Township · Arnold Shifrin, Director of Communications · Officer Jill Uhler, Wheaton Police Dept. · Officer Kayte Witten, Wheaton Police Dept. · Officer Joe Nemchock, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.

#### DuPage Sheriff's Office

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