

Scams Report

Arnold Shifrin

Director of Communications, SALT



Common Travel Scams

- **“Free” vacations**: You receive a call, email, text message, or a flyer in the mail informing you that you just won a free vacation. If you respond to the offer, you’re told you have to pay some taxes and fees in order to collect your prize. This is a scam. No legitimate company would ask you to pay money when you’re the winner of a free prize. If you didn’t enter a contest for which you could have won a free vacation, you’ve confirmed the offer is a scam.
- **International travel documents**: Companies claiming to assist individuals obtain visas, passports, or other international travel documents exist on the internet. These companies charge exorbitant fees for their services and are often run by scammers. If you need help obtaining travel documents, it is available online at no cost from the U.S. Department of State (DOS) at travel.state.gov. (NOTE: The DOS charges a small fee if you decide to submit an application for the documents.)
- **Robocalls offering vacation “specials”**: If you receive a robocall offering you a vacation at a discounted price, it is a scam. Calls from telemarketers trying to sell you something are illegal unless you have previously authorized the caller in writing to contact you. Thus, if someone calls you to discuss vacation deals without having first obtained your permission to do so, they are breaking the law, and you should think twice about doing business with that individual or firm.
- **International driving permits (IDP’s)**: Scammers have created fraudulent websites to sell fake IDPs. If you happen to buy a fake permit, it’s a worthless document that could cause you serious legal problems or travel delays if you’re caught using it in a foreign country. These are the three U.S. agencies authorized to issue IDPs:
 - U.S. Department of State (travel.state.gov),
 - American Automobile Association (AAA) (aaa.com), and
 - American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA) (aataidp.com).If you purchase an IDP somewhere else, the document is a fake, and you will lose the money you paid. When a legitimate permit is issued, the information on the driver’s domestic license is translated into nine different languages to assist in communicating with foreign authorities during the driver’s travels. The presence of these translations may confirm that a permit is legitimate.
- **Vacation home rentals**: There are many legitimate property owners who advertise their properties online as vacation rentals. Scammers don’t hesitate to take advantage of these opportunities to steal money. They hijack legitimate listings and advertise them as their own. If you decide to rent one of these properties, you’ll likely find that other people have already booked it when you arrive for your vacation. You’ll have to find another place to stay. The money you sent is gone.

Rather than hijacking legitimate listings, some scammers post online listings of properties that don’t exist or aren’t for rent. If you rent one of these properties, you’ll have to find another place to stay during your vacation. Your money cannot be recovered.

If you’re told the application fee, security deposit, or first month’s rent for a property must be paid by gift card, debit card, or wire transfer, you’re dealing with a scammer. To protect yourself from being a victim, you should plan to meet with the property’s owner or agent and inspect the property before making payment or signing a rental agreement.

[Resource: FTC]

For more Scam Reports visit our Website at <https://miltontownshipsalt.com>



THE S.A.L.T. COMMUNICATOR

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving and Protecting Senior Citizens

January 2022

Utility Cost Reductions:

Tips and Tricks for Seniors

Presented at the October 2021 Meeting

Cynthia Segura

Sustainable Communities Liaison
Citizens Utility Board



Ms. Cynthia Segura presented How to Reduce Utility Costs. She discussed the following: History of CUB, their outreach team, supply and delivery side of a utility bill, Municipal Aggregation, The Heat Act, and the Demand Response Program.

What is Cub?

CUB is a nonprofit, statewide utility watchdog organization created by the Illinois Legislature in 1983 to work for lower gas, electric and telephone rates. CUB has been on your side for more than 30 years— blocking utility rate hikes, winning refunds and helping to pass important consumer protection laws.

Cub Works For You:

We fight before state and federal regulations, in the halls of the Illinois capitol, and in the courts, working for lower rates and better service from gas, electric and phone companies. Since opening its doors in 1984, CUB has saved Illinoisans more than \$20 billion-and the amount grows every day.

Cub Services:



CUBHelpCenter.com

Hotline: If you have a complaint or question about your utility service, call CUB at 1-800-669-5556 to talk to an expert.

Bill Analysis: Email copies of your utility bills to ubc@citizensutilityboard.org (put Attn: VUBC in the subject line) and we'll analyze them for potential savings.

Online Events: We will share money-saving tips in webinars for community groups.

Energy Efficiency Tips in your Home:

- LED Lighting
- Smart Thermostats
- Smart Powerstrip
- slow-flow showerhead
- Insulate pipes and attic
- Consider ComEd's Hourly Pricing or Ameron's Power Smart Pricing

For more Savings contact CUB for CUB's Guide to Home Savings or visit CitizensUtilityBoard.org

For more information, visit CitizensUtilityBoard.org or call 1.800.669.5556

Upcoming (In Person) SALT Meetings

The second Monday of each month at 10:00AM.

Glen Ellyn Police Department

65 S. Park Blvd., Glen Ellyn, 60137

The **Milton Township SALT website at miltontownshipSALT.com** offers a trove of resources in our community. Check out our tabs on Transportation, Food Security, Housing, Safety & Communication, Legal & Financial services, Health as well as Age Guide.

Fire Safety and Burn Prevention for Older

Adults- Presented at the November SALT Meeting

Lee Westrom
Fire Inspector
Warrenville Fire Protection District



Lee Westrom, Fire Inspector for Warrenville Fire Department, gave a Presentation on Home Fire and Burn Prevention. Older Adults are at Risk: *Approximately 3,000 older adults are injured from residential fires each year. Older Adults* may be less able to take quick action necessary in a fire emergency, may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions, may live alone and when accidents happen others may not be around to help. Therefore following fire safety and prevention measures are critically important.

Home Fire Prevention:

- Keep items that can catch on fire (oven mitts, food packaging, towels) away from your stovetop
- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food
- Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in tightly sealed metal containers
- Sort and remove rubbish.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment (furnace, fireplace, wood stove)

The three leading causes of fire are cooking, smoking and heating.

Smoke Alarms and Fire Sprinklers:

- Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and on every level of the home
- Establish two dates throughout the year for battery replacement.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are ten years old
- Always read the manufacturer's instructions or ask your local fire department for help when installing
- Home fire sprinklers are affordable, approximately \$1.35/square foot for new construction

Safety Checklist:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is a smoke alarm on each level of your home | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical cords are in good condition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your smoke alarms are tested monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Heating systems are inspected annually by qualified technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is a fire extinguisher in your home | <input type="checkbox"/> Furnaces, stoves and fireplaces are properly maintained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your family has a fire escape plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Curtains and clothing are kept away from stoves and heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your family has a fire drill at home | <input type="checkbox"/> Spaces around water heaters, furnaces are free from flammables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your family knows the outdoor meeting spot | <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline and other flammable liquids are kept in safety containers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your family knows who to call in case of emergency | <input type="checkbox"/> When you hire a babysitter instruct them in the Family Fire Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stoves, broilers and cooking equipment is clean | |

Prevention on Postal Fraud and Theft-

Presented at the December SALT Meeting

Sylvia Carrier
Postal Inspector
United State Postal Inspection Service



Ms. Sylvia Carrier presented on what the United States Postal Service does when it comes to prevention and security of the US Mail. They protect, prevent, enforce and prepare. She discussed the Community-Oriented Approach the USPS takes in Fighting Mail Fraud by: Staying connected and taking steps to Prevent Fraud. The USPS also helps victims of fraud. She discussed work-from home scams, confidence scams, lottery scams, romance scams, and grandparent scams. She stressed the importance of not sending cash through the mail.

What You Can Do To Protect Yourself from Identity Theft:

1. Deposit outgoing mail at a Post Office or give it directly to your letter carrier
2. Shred or tear up unwanted documents that contain personal information
3. Review your consumer credit reports annually
4. Never give personal information over the phone or internet unless you initiated the contact

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

U.S. Postal Inspection Service: postalinspectors.uspis.gov

U.S. Postal Service: USPIS.GOV

Federal Trade Commission: FTC.GOV

Illinois Secretary of State

Super Senior Event

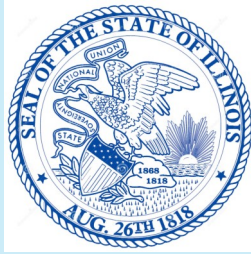
Tuesday, March 22nd , 2022

10:00am-12:00pm

Location: Milton Township

Call to Reserve your space: 630.668.1616

A Secretary of State Mobile Driver Services Unit will be available for participants to renew their driver's licenses. An identification card can be obtained for \$20.00; however, if you are age 65 and older you may obtain a free, non-expiring State of Illinois photo ID card. Drivers age 75 and older are required to take a driving test to renew their driver's licenses; therefore they must visit a [Driver Services Facility](#).



Milton Township Veterans' Corner

*Have you or a someone you loved served?
Are you looking for somewhere to share your lived
experience?*

Please join us for our first:

Veterans' of Milton Township Meeting

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022

6pm

Feel free to call our office for Veteran service and
program updates: 630.668.1616



**MILTON TOWNSHIP
LENDING CLOSET**



****Please Call the Milton Township Office to
schedule an appointment or to make a
donation 630.668.1616****

**1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187**



MILTON TOWNSHIP

SUPERVISOR - JOHN MONINO

1492 NORTH MAIN ST.

WHEATON, IL 60187

Phone: (630) 668-1616

Fax: (630) 668-1608

ANNOUNCING NEW HOURS!

**OUR FOOD PANTRY IS NOW
OFFERING EXPANDED HOURS!**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY &
THURSDAY
9AM - 12PM**

(NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY)

CAN YOU DONATE?
OUR TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY IS A
501(c)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
THAT THRIVES ON DONATIONS OF FOOD,
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS, AND
MONETARY FUNDS

**TOWNSHIP
HOURS
M-F
8:30-4:30**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.MILTONTOWNSHIP.NET**

Spring CERT Class Registration:

Classes Begin: Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 (6:30PM-9:30PM)

This is a seven week program designed by the Department of Homeland Security to help citizens better prepare for disaster and emergency response.

There is no fee for DuPage County Residents.

Register through the Milton Township Website: miltontownship.net

OR

Contact Trish Billings at the Milton Township Office: 630.668.1616





MILTON TOWNSHIP

Senior Services Directory

Health

DuPage County Health Department
630.682.7400

111 North County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Illinois Department on Aging
800.252.8966

555 West Monroe St.
15th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

US Administration on Aging
630.293.5990

1910 South Highland Ave.
Suite 100
Lombard, IL 60148

Illinois Department of Healthcare
630.293.5990

1910 South Highland Ave.
Suite 100
Lombard, IL 60148

Illinois Department of Public Health
312.814.2793

122 South Michigan Ave.
7th and 20th Floors
Chicago, IL 60607

Illinois Department of Human Services
800.843.6154

401 South Clinton St.
Chicago, IL 60607

Needy Meds
800.333.4114

Medicare Rights
800.333.4114

Program: At-Risk Seniors
630.682.7256

501 North County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Rx Drop Box
630.682.7256

501 North County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Safety & Communication

Eldercare Locator
800.677.1116

DuPage County Guardian Program
630.682.7256

501 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

DuPage County Home Security Surveys
630.682.7256

501 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Food Security

Milton Township Food Panty
630.668.1616

1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

People's Resource Center
630.682.5402

201 S. Naperville Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Home-Delivered Meals
630.407.6500

421 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Housing Resources

DuPage Housing Authority
630.690.3555

711 E. Roosevelt Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Wheaton Housing Commission
630.260.2019

303 W. Wesley St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

IL Housing Development Authority
312.836.5200

111 E. Wacker Dr.
Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60601

H.O.M.E. DuPage, Inc.
630.260.2500

1600 E. Roosevelt Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Transportation

Ride DuPage 630.668.1616

1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

RTA Program 630.668.1616

1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

Legal & Financial

Illinois Attorney General
312.814.3000

100 W. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601

DuPage County Bar Association
630.653.7779

126 S. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Prairie State Legal Services
630.690.2130

31W001 E. North Ave.
Suite 200
West Chicago, IL 60185

DuPage County Protective Services
630.682.7256

601 North County Farm
Rd.

Wheaton, IL 60187

Metropolitan Family Services
312.986.4000

One North Dearborn
Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

US Consumer Protection Bureau
855.411.2372

Social Security Administration
877.274.5412

1325 North Lake St.
Aurora, IL 60506

Better Business Bureau
312.832.0500

330 North Wabash
Suite 3120
Chicago, IL 60611

IRS
630.493.5291

2001 Butterfield Rd.
Downers Grove, IL 60515



Want to read a past issue of this newsletter?

www.miltontownshipsalt.com

Want to call the Township?

630.668.1616

Want to visit the Township?

1492 N. Main St
Wheaton

Questions or comments?

a.seidel@miltontownship.net

S.A.L.T. Council Members

Chuck Smith, Chairman · Jodi Hefler, Vice Chairperson · Amanda Seidel, Social Services Coordinator, Milton Township · Arnold Shifrin, Director of Communications · Officers Jill Uhlir and Kayte Witten, Wheaton Police Dept. · Officer Joe Nemchock, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.

DuPage Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Ed Castillo · Corporal Troy Agema · Deputy Terri Albright

Chief Bill Schultz, Wheaton Fire Dept. · Fire Administrator Nicole Shanley, Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Dept. · Sue Davison, Glen Ellyn Senior Center · Fire Marshal Lee Westrom, Warrenville Fire District

Milton Township

Supervisor John Monino · Clerk Yadav "Nick" Nathwani

Trustees: Jeff Castle, Drew Ellis, Joe Soto, Dan Milinko

Want to "go green" and receive
The Communicator electronically?
Email a.seidel@miltontownship.net

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Common Travel Scams

www.miltontownship.net

1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187



PRST STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
CAROL STREAM, IL
PERMIT NO. 1352