



Community Safety Awareness-IDENTITY THEFT!

by Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer

More and more people are experiencing scam phone calls (phishing) which are rather official sounding, from someone claiming to represent the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Such calls often state that the citizen owes money to the IRS, and if payment isn't given, usually via a debit or credit card transaction over the phone, the IRS will move forward with arrest and prosecution of the citizen.

SUCH PHONE CONTACTS ARE PURE, DISHONEST SCAMS!!!

The IRS does not collect its debt in this way: it sends out collection notices in the form of actual letters. An IRS agent will never try to collect a debt by making a phone call. The IRS will never do any of the following (list taken directly from the IRS website):

- * Call to demand immediate payment over the phone, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you several bills.
- * Call or email you to verify your identity by asking for personal and financial information.
- * Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- * Require you to use a specific

payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.

- * Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone or e-mail.
- * Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, and who is demanding payment of a tax debt, **HANG UP IMMEDIATELY!**

You can then report such suspicious activity to the IRS Treasury Inspector at: 1-800-366-4484.

Oregon State Attorney General has information on their website about consumer fraud and scams. The website is www.doj.state.or.us/consumer-protection/

Check out their website for more information about consumer fraud and scams they are aware of throughout Oregon State.

WARNING SIGNS OF FRAUD

- *You've won a prize or free gift.
- *You've been selected to receive a special offer.
- *You must act immediately or lose out.
- *You must pay for shipping your prize or free gift.
- *Give us your credit card number and expiration date to verify that

you are a credit card holder.

The City has been notified of a local event with our utility department involving several citizens where someone calls representing the City stating their name and employee number. They then let the person know that their meter is going to be pulled and to prevent this from happening, they needed to call 800-360-4736. The number is an automated greeting, not the kind of personal service provided by our City staff.

In our City's outlying area, a call came from someone claiming to be from Pacific Power and Light. They were told if they didn't pay a certain amount of money, their power would be shut off. The customer knew this was a scam, but reported it so the word could get out. Call the City for any questions about your utility bills at 541-938-5531.

Bottom line...if you think this is a scam, it probably is. So hang up, and make the phone calls with the numbers provided in this article. Find out for sure before you give information over the phone, or do anything that will cost you your personal identity and/or unnecessary money.

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!!!

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Continued from page 1—Identity Theft

WHAT TO CONSIDER IF FALLEN VICTIM TO THESE SCAMS...

Take these steps:

1. If possible, learn what information was compromised. Was it email, passwords or more sensitive data such as name, birthdate and social security number?
2. Take advantage of any credit monitoring offers made by the company that was breached.
3. Place a freeze on credit accounts to prevent access to credit records. There may be a fee for requesting one and fees vary by state. At a minimum, place a fraud alert on credit accounts by contacting one of the three major credit bureaus.

A fraud alert on credit records is not as secure as a freeze, but a fraud alert is free.

4. Reset passwords on all online accounts, especially financial, email and social media accounts. Experts recommend at least 10-digit passwords, mixing letters, numbers and special characters. Use different passwords for each account. Use a password manager if necessary.
5. Use two-factor authentication wherever it is offered on financial, email and social media accounts. Two-factor authentication requires entry of a username and password and then a security code, generally sent via text to a mobile phone you've pre-registered.

The scale of the credit bureau breach, which was reported this summer, has prompted many questions, especially about how a victim's taxes may be affected. Because of the work by the Security Summit, more protections are in place to protect taxpayers from tax-related identity theft. Thieves will need more than a name, address, birth data and social security number to file a fraudulent tax return.

The Oregon Department of Revenue has many protections in place. If you fall victim in Oregon, contact the numbers listed within this article.

If you have fallen victim locally, please call our local police department at 541-938-5511.

RECYCLE RIGHT!!!

RECYCLE the following at the curb:

NEWSPAPER: Remove all banding such as rubber bands. Loose newspaper only! No mixed office paper, including copy paper & junk mail. No egg cartons, paper bags, cups, napkins or paper towels.



CORRUGATED & PLAIN: Remove all contents from corrugated boxes and flatten the boxes. No waxed cardboard, dirty pizza boxes or paper boards/packing material.



GLASS: Jars and bottles—please rinse. All colors with labels acceptable. No drinking glass, light bulbs, Pyrex, etc. Bottles only!



METAL: Tin, steel and aluminum cans. Empty, remove labels, clean and rinse. No loose lids. DO NOT flatten or crush.



DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:

NO PLASTIC: Bags, food containers, Styrofoam, hoses, milk jugs, buckets, hangers, etc.

SHARPS, MEDICAL/HAZARDOUS: No sharps, medications, diapers, batteries, etc. Automotive batteries can be recycled by most places that sell them.

FOOD WASTE: No food containers or items with food and/or oil containers.

YARD WASTE: No grass clippings, branches, etc.

For more information about recycling, please check out the City's website at www.mfcity.com under the Public Works Department.



Holiday Refuse Schedule...

		HOLIDAY	REFUSE PICK-UP
JANUARY 2018	New Year's Day	Monday, January 1st	Tuesday, January 2nd
	Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 15th	Tuesday, January 16th
FEBRUARY 2018	President's Day	Monday, February 19th	Tuesday, February 20th

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

City crews will be picking up Christmas trees at **NO CHARGE** during the week of

JANUARY 2—5, 2018

All lights, stands and decorations must be removed prior to trees being picked up.

Trees **MUST BE PLACED ALONG THE CURB WITHIN THE DATES SHOWN ABOVE**. Trees put out after the event may incur a fee for pick up. Please **DO NOT PLACE YOUR TREE IN THE GARBAGE CAN**.

Reminder—burn barrels are prohibited in the City Limits!



Inquiries may be directed to 541-938-8270 or 541-938-8272 or 541-938-8274, Monday—Friday from 7am to 12 noon and 1pm to 4pm.

We wish you joy and prosperity in the New Year!

City Council

Lewis S. Key, Mayor
Orrin Lyon, Ward 1
Bradley J. Humbert, Ward 2
Jeff Anliker, Ward 3
Verl Pressnall, At Large/Position 1
Steve Irving, At Large/Position 2
Edwin E. Chesnut, At Large/
Position 3

City Manager
Linda Hall

Conservation Corner
by Pat Didion
Low Cost/No Cost Tips to save energy this winter. Check door and window weather stripping to make sure it is in contact and stopping drafts. Replace if necessary. Caulk around doors/window frames and any penetrations through the walls/floors/ceiling. Put foam gaskets behind every electrical switch, electrical outlets as well as

phone and television outlets.
If you have baseboard or wall heaters, **DO NOT** try to heat the entire house with one heater. Zonal heat systems are designed to heat a specific area.
Keep furniture and clothes away from heaters!
If you are not using a room, turn the heater OFF. You may need to install a "double pole" thermostat to do this.
We have programs to help upgrade the electrical efficiency of your home or

business. Contact the Conservation Office at City Hall by calling 541-938-8237 for more information.
BUSINESS OWNERS: BPA has increased the rebates available for LED Lighting systems. Contact the Conservation Office for more information.

SAVE ENERGY!

City of
Milton-Freewater

PRESORTED STANDARD
Non-profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILTON FREEWATER, OR
PERMIT #5

PO Box 6

Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

City Manager	938.8242
City Recorder	938.8233
Community Development	938.8236
Conservation	938.8237
Electric Department	938.8232 or 938.8231
Engineering	938.8230 or 938.8238
Finance Department	938.5531
(Utility bill payments/taxi tickets)	
Fire Business	938.8256
Golf Course	938.7284
Human Resources	938.8243
Library	938.8247
Municipal Court	938.8203
Planning & Zoning	938.8234 or 938.8235
Police Business	938.5511
Public Works	938.8270 or 938.8272 or 938.8274

Visit us online at www.mfcity.com

Check us out on Facebook - City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Meetings & Closures

January 2018

- * 1 New Year's Day—Offices Closed
- * 2 Planning Commission Meeting—7pm Albee Room (Tuesday due to holiday on Monday)
- * 15 Martin Luther King Day—Offices Closed
- * **9 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7pm - Albee Room**

February 2018

- * 5 Planning Commission Meeting - 7pm Albee Room
- * **12 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7pm - Albee Room**
- * 19 President's Day—Offices Closed

March 2018

- * 5 Planning Commission Meeting - 7pm Albee Room
- * **12 CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7pm - Albee Room**

Library Board meetings typically held last Wednesday of month, 4:00pm in the Monahan room. Please check with the library by calling 938-8247.

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall at 541.938.5531, or write the City of Milton-Freewater, PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 if you will need any special accommodations or an interpreter to attend or participate in the meeting.