

# TRICKS

- Being asked for money so you can collect your lottery, trip or prize of any kind.
- Anyone who demands that “you must decide NOW.”
- Any unsolicited call or email that asks you to provide your credit card number for any reason.
- You are told not to tell anyone or “it could ruin the deal.”
- Fake emails that claim to be from your bank, government agency or reputable business that ask you to “confirm” your account number and passwords. They often warn you that your account is in danger of being closed or that you are a fraud-victim.
- They won’t provide any written information and try to rush you into a decision.
- Tactics that try to rush you into a decision such as limited time offers or stating that an item is “in short supply.”
- Fake repair people or fake utility employee who show up at your house stating that they noticed some repairs that need to be made and they offer to fix it for a discount or ask for money before the work is done.
- The con artist will fast-talk to confuse you and avoid providing details.

## GENERAL PHONE NUMBERS

Area Code (315)

Abused Persons Unit .....	435-3092
Accident Records .....	435-3029
Civil Department .....	435-3060
Community Relations .....	435-3006
Criminal Investigations .....	435-3081
Custody Department .....	435-1770
Fire Investigation Team .....	435-2525
Human Resources .....	435-1767
Justice Center .....	435-1770
Media Relations .....	435-3033
Neighborhood Watch of CNY .....	435-3201
Office of the Sheriff .....	435-3044
Police Administration .....	435-3036
Pistol License Unit .....	435-2037
Police Records .....	435-3010
Sex Offender Registry .....	435-3092
Sheriff's ID Cards .....	435-3009
Special Investigations Unit .....	435-5434
Warrants Investigation Unit .....	435-3032



**Sheriff  
Tobias Shelley**



# SENIOR SAFETY



407 South State Street Syracuse, NY 13202

# IDENTITY THEFT

**Identity theft occurs when someone knowingly transfers or uses your identity -(social security number, driver's license, credit cards) to obtain goods, money, property or credit, which causes a financial loss to you.**

- **NEVER** mail checks from your home if you have a mailbox without a lock. Crooks often go through unsecured mailboxes to find checks that will provide them with your name, address and bank account number
- Keep items with personal information on them in a safe place. Roommates, employees, service technicians and even family members can steal personal information, bank account and credit card numbers.
- Do not carry your social security card unless you need it. Also never put your social security number or driver's license number on your checks.
- Invest in a shredder and shred all mail and personal documents before putting into the trash.
- Reduce the number of credit cards you actively use to a bare minimum. Carry only one or two credit cards in your wallet. Cancel all unused credit card accounts. Even though you do not use these accounts, account numbers are recorded in your credit report along with other data that can be used by identity thieves.

# SCAMS

- If it's too good of a deal to be true, it is!
- Don't be pressured to make a decision on the spot. Scams usually involve you needing to make a quick, time sensitive purchase or repair.
- There is no legitimate lottery, trip or prize of any kind that will contact you at home and demand a fee for processing.

**Home Repairs-** Paying up front for home repairs that don't happen or are not completed. Never hire anyone for home repairs that solicit you at your home or on the phone.

**Utility Inspector-** A fraudster claiming to be a utility inspector accuses you of breaking utility regulations and offers to fix it for a cost

**Fake Charities-** Solicitations from people pretending to be a charity, real or otherwise. Make your own contacts to donate.

**Bank Scams-** Being asked to withdraw money to help with a fictitious undercover investigation

**Prize and Vacation Offers-** Being asked for your credit card number to process or ship a fictitious prize or vacation package

**Lottery Schemes-** You are asked to pay fees for a fictitious lottery winning or inheritance.

**Medical Fraud and Miracle Cures-** Being sold quick fixes that may not be medically sound

# BE AWARE

- Always be on alert when out and about. When driving, take your time and pick a parking spot in a well-lit area, near your destination.
- Before exiting your car, have everything ready to go. Taking a long time to gather your items outside of the car leaves you distracted and an easy target for criminals.
- Keep your car door locked until you get ready to exit. After exiting your car, take another ten seconds to see who is around the area. Look for people who look out of place or appear to be loitering. Also be aware of any hiding places that a criminal could take advantage of and avoid that area.
- Be particularly alert in parking garages and park near an entrance.
- Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train or subway.

