



# Crime Prevention News Bulletin

Scam Edition

Roseville Police Department  
Community Services Division

[www.roseville.ca.us/police](http://www.roseville.ca.us/police)

Vol 10, Issue 7

## Police Department Community Services

### Community Services Supervisor

Sgt. Karl Dyer  
(916) 774-5052

### Crime Prevention

Rob Baquera  
(916) 774-5057

### Alarms/Alarm Permits

Charlene Accooe  
(916) 774-5093

### Community Events & Neighborhood Watch

(916) 774-5050

### Animal Control

(916) 774-5090

### Graffiti Abatement

(916) 746-1021

### Abandoned Vehicle Hotline

(916) 746-1022

## Our Partners

Roseville Crime Stoppers  
[www.rsvcrimestoppers.org](http://www.rsvcrimestoppers.org)  
(916) 783-STOP

Roseville Coalition of  
Neighborhood Associations (RCONA)  
[www.RCONA.org](http://www.RCONA.org)

Roseville Police Activities  
League (RPAL)  
[www.rosevillepal.org](http://www.rosevillepal.org)  
(916) 772-7725

Project Lifesaver  
Tracking for wandering  
children and seniors  
(916) 746-1077

## How Safe is the Internet?

Isn't it great to go online and see what movies are playing at the theater? How about checking out restaurant menus before trying a new place? And, of course, how easy is it to go online and purchase products that you couldn't find at the mall? We all search for hard-to-find or other specialty products online. Business people do research and ordering online. We've become so addicted to Web access, that many of us now carry around mobile devices to access the Internet while we are away from our home or office computers!



### What to look out for...

Phishing scams; password theft through compromised websites; cookies placed on your computer when you visit a website; specialty websites that sell things; e-mail from people "looking for you;" child predators looking for their next victim by posing as "friends"

## Talk To Your Children About Internet Safety

- Choose passwords carefully. Don't use your street name, pet's name, house number etc. Don't post your passwords on your computer or desk.
- Tell your children not to carry on conversations or give out personal information to strangers who claim to be "new friends."
- If you've really won a contest prize, the company will notify you and tell you how to claim your winnings. Never agree to send money to anyone for "processing" or "over-payment" of an advance.
- If you post items for sale on Craig's List or e-Bay, don't fall for the out-of-town buyer scams that require you to pay anybody any money "up front" for delivery etc.
- Don't fall for the call from a *grandchild* or *relative* who asks for money but wants to keep the loan "confidential" or who pressures you with a deadline. Don't give out your bank account information or agree to wire money to someone you don't know.
- Your bank, credit card company, IRS, PayPal, e-Bay, Amazon, etc *will not send you an e-mail asking you for your Social Security number or updated personal account information or passwords*. This is phishing. Call your bank or credit card company to report such requests.
- Be careful about the type of information you post on social networking websites. Don't give out personal information to people you don't know. Don't post information about when and where your next vacation is.
- Beware of Internet searches that direct you to other "discount" websites. You might be directed to scams in another country or a place selling fake merchandise.
- Invest in some good anti-virus software and spyware for your computer. Many malicious websites will be blocked or warnings issued.



# Crime Prevention News Bulletin - Scam Alert

## **Beware of door-to-door solicitors...know who they are...don't let them talk you into doing work!**

Following the recent prosecution of a man who bilked an 87-year-old woman out of \$13,500, the Placer County District Attorney's Office is reminding citizens to take precautions when hiring a contractor to do work. A 30-year-old man, posing as a contractor, cashed six checks, including four blank checks, given to him by the victim.



### **Tips for homeowners:**

- Hire only state-licensed contractors on projects of \$500 or more
- Verify that the contractors' license is valid and active at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)
- Get at least 3 bids for your project and get references
- Make sure the project description, materials and work to be done are in writing
- **Sign only if you completely understand all terms of the contract**
- Verify that the contractor carries workers' compensation insurance for employees
- Don't pay more than 10% down, or \$1,000, whichever is less
- Don't pay in cash and don't pre-pay for work not yet done
- Keep a file with copies of all papers and payments records
- Don't make the final payment until you are satisfied with the completed

## **Develop the habit of checking your credit card after each transaction you make!**

After purchasing and paying for a meal at a restaurant, a man took a minute to look at the credit card he had been given back. It was the expired card of another person. He called the waitress; she took it back and apologized. She walked up to the register and waved the expired card to the cashier without saying a word. The cashier immediately took out the real card and handed it to her.



**Check the name on the card every time you sign for something and whenever your card is returned even if it's only been out of your sight for a minute.**



## **Credit Card Scam!!!**

A man went to the local gym and put his belongings into a locker. After the workout and a shower, he came out, saw the locker open and thought to himself, "Funny, I thought I locked the locker." He dressed and flipped through his wallet to make sure everything was in order. It looked ok...all the credit cards were in place. A few weeks later, his credit card bill arrived with a surprise...\$14,000 in new purchases. He called the credit card company and told them he didn't make those purchases. They verified that the purchases had been made and asked if his credit card had been stolen. "No," he said and he took out his wallet to look at the credit card.

**Guess what? A switch had been made. An expired credit card from the same bank with a similar look had been placed in his wallet in exchange for the one the thief at the gym had removed.** The credit card company told him that since he never reported the card stolen, he was responsible for payment of the amount charged! **Be alert; if something seems wrong, check it out carefully. Call your credit card company if you think someone has taken your credit card number!**



## **Watch out for people taking pictures of your credit card with their cell phones!**

A customer picking up a pizza noticed the cashier dialing his cell phone while he was processing the customer's payment. Because the cell phone was the same model that the customer had, he knew that the employee was taking a picture. At first, he wondered what the young man was taking a picture of. Then it dawned on him... the only thing on the counter was his credit card. The customer paid the bill, left the business and went home and called his credit card company and cancelled the credit card.