

Scam Log – May 2015

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation has compiled this monthly scam report of local news stories and calls/e-mails to our Consumer Hotline.

Friday, May 1, 2015

- [Cambridge](#): 12:16: FRANKLIN ST – A resident of Franklin Street reported being the victim of an attempted phone scam.
- [Grafton](#): 1:39 p.m. Providence Rd. Fraud/identity theft.
- [Southborough](#): 2:28 p.m. An officer investigated a report of an Identity theft from a resident of Summit Road.
- [Boxborough](#): 2:52 p.m.: An IRS scam call was reported on Picnic Street.
- [Cambridge](#): 18:43: MARIE AVE – A Marie Avenue resident reported that someone contacted him by phone attempting to scam him out of money.
- [Boxborough](#): 6:49 p.m.: A scam call was reported on Russett Lane from the Treasury Department.
- [Billerica](#): 8:59 p.m.: Check fraud was reported on Richardson Street.
- [Middlesex](#): The Middlesex Sheriff's Office today has received more than 30 calls from individuals reporting having been contacted over the phone by men and women claiming to be with the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and threatening arrest for failure to pay federal taxes, the sheriff's office reported in an announcement (full story in link).

Saturday, May 2, 2015

- [Plymouth](#): 7:32 a.m.: report of fraud, Sea View Drive
- [Marblehead](#): At 10:45 a.m., a person reported a taxes had been fraudulently filed in her name.
- [Beverly](#): At 11:26 a.m., credit card fraud on Lake Shore Avenue.
- [Burlington](#): 11:45 a.m.: A caller on Winn Street reported that while she was on her computer last night and a message displayed asking her to call the number on the screen. The report states it was a scam and the party did not fall victim to it.
- [Westford](#): 12:21 p.m.: Identity theft was reported on Lake Shore Drive North.
- [Southborough](#): 4:48 p.m. An officer took an Identity Theft report from a Nathan Stone Road resident.
- [Essex](#): Residents and businesses should be on the alert for scam artists claiming to be from National Grid, threatening to shut off their power for overdue bills if immediate payments aren't made within minutes through a pre-paid card, police say (full story in link).

Sunday, May 3, 2015

- [Marblehead](#): At 12:29 a.m., a man reported that he received a scam call from someone telling him he won \$4 million, but would have to pay \$400 to collect it.
- [Swampscott](#): At 6:34 p.m., a woman reported her credit card had been used fraudulently.
- [Billerica](#): The Billerica Police Department has taken numerous reports involving scams amounting to thousands of dollars in losses to residents. Many of these scams involve the use of Green Dot MoneyPak cards, MyVanilla reload cards, Paypal prepaid cards and others (full story in link).

Monday, May 4, 2015

- [Burlington](#): 9:13 a.m.: A walk-in reported identity theft involving her ex sister-in-law.
- [Marlborough](#): 10:44 a.m. West Main St. Fraud/forgery.
- [Cambridge](#): 14:47: MASSACHUSETTS AVE – A Cambridge resident reported being a victim of a Larceny by False Pretense after responding to an apartment listing online.
- [Chelmsford](#): 6:02 p.m. - Report of possible contractor fraud, Acton Road.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015



Do you have a scam to report? Call our Consumer Hotline at **617-973-8787** or [e-mail us](#).

- [Burlington](#): 11:21 a.m.: A caller on Wilmington Road reported a civil complaint. The report states the party hired a contractor and gave them a \$850 down payment over a month ago and the contractor has not shown up.
- [Marblehead](#): At 11:24 a.m., income tax fraud was reported.
- [Marblehead](#): At 12:30 p.m., a scam phone call was reported.
- [Concord](#): 1:01 p.m. Tax fraud was reported on Main Street.
- [Provincetown](#): 13:24: Larceny/Forgery/Fraud/Mail, Mayflower Avenue
- [Salem](#): At 2:19 p.m., fraud on Buffum Street. Woman reported that she received calls from a company called Provisional Risk Services advising her that she owes money from a 2008 loan. She told officers that the caller advised her she could make the loan payment by phone or they would come arrest her. The woman said the loan caller told her that she had warrants for her arrest out of Rockingham County, N.H. he called the New Hampshire sheriff's office, and they told her that she are no warrants for her arrest. The woman said she has no outstanding loans, and believes it to be a scam (full story in link).
- [Cambridge](#): 14:32: MASSACHUSETTS AVE – A Cambridge resident reported receiving a pattern of telephone calls from an unknown person claiming to be an employee of a federal agency.
- [Cambridge](#): 14:57: MARKET ST – A resident of Market Street reported a flim flam against her by a fictitious company from New York.
- [Winchester](#): 3:05 p.m.: A Rangeley Road resident reported tax return related fraud.
- [Woburn](#): 3:58 p.m.: Larceny/forgery/fraud – Emeline Street. Party reports her Uber account was hacked and the hacker made threats against her. No fraudulent transactions or crime committed. Reporting party notified debit card company of possible account compromise. Advised to notify Uber of possible account tampering and to request new debit card.
- [Maynard](#): 5:07 p.m.: A caller on Oak Ridge Drive reported a possible phone/credit card scam.
- [Bedford](#): 5:27 p.m.: Fraud was reported on Avalon Drive.
- [Marlborough](#): 5:58 p.m. Liberty St. Fraud/forgery.
- [Cambridge](#): 20:12: MARKET ST – A resident of Market Street reported identity fraud after being notified by the bank of suspicious activity.
- [Westford](#): 8:18 p.m.: Police investigated a report of identity theft/fraud on Beacon Street.
- [Hudson](#): 8:46 p.m. Manning St. Fraud.
- [Seekonk](#): Seekonk police are warning the public of a phone scam in which the caller claims to be from the IRS and demands the victim to go to the bank and pay a debt. A Seekonk woman received such a call on Tuesday, and when she asked to speak to a police officer, the call was disconnected (full story in link).
- [North Reading](#): Update from the [FTC](#) on a new email scam.

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

- [Westford](#): 9:12 a.m.: Police investigated a report of identity theft/fraud on Polley Road.
- [Burlington](#): 10:06 a.m.: A walk-in reported someone used his Social Security number to open a National Grid account.
- [Marlborough](#): 12:12 p.m. Hosmer St. Fraud/forgery.
- [Billerica](#): 12:42 p.m.: Identity fraud was reported on Baldwin Road.
- [Shrewsbury](#): 3:28 p.m. Sewell St. Identity theft.
- [Winchester](#): 5:02 p.m.: A Jefferson Road resident reported IRS related fraud.
- [Acton](#): 5:07 p.m.: Police spoke to a resident on Seminole Road regarding scams he received by phone and mail.
- [Concord](#): 6:10 p.m.: Credit card fraud was reported on Walden Street.
- [Marlborough](#): 6:24 p.m. Hosmer St. Fraud/forgery.
- [Saugus](#): At 7:39 p.m. a woman reported someone used her mother's ATM card at Tedeschi's and withdrew \$300.
- [Concord](#): 9:54 p.m. A man on Butternut Circle said he was the victim of an arrest scam.



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- [Seekonk](#): Police said on Tuesday, a man claiming to be from the IRS called a woman in town and said she needed to drive to the bank to pay a debt. The woman asked to speak with a police officer, police said, and then the man hung up. Moments later, her phone rang and showed the Seekonk police department's phone number. She picked up the phone and a man identified himself as a Seekonk police officer and told her she would be arrested if she didn't pay the debt (full story in link).

Thursday, May 7, 2015

- [Wilmington](#): 8:34 a.m.: Larceny/forgery/fraud – Middlesex Avenue. Manager of Sunrise Kitchen reported a possible flim-flam yesterday. Asks to speak with an officer. K9 clear, report filed.
- [Woburn](#): 9:22 a.m.: Larceny/forgery/fraud – Bruno Terrace. Walk-in reports identity theft.
- [Cambridge](#): 11:34: LAKEVIEW AVE – A Cambridge resident reports that an unknown person used her credit card online and charged \$347.98 between 5/5/15 at 8 a.m. and 5/6/15 at 4 p.m.
- [Concord](#): 12:31 p.m. A couple on Elm Street said someone used one of their social security numbers to file taxes.
- [Middleton](#): 1:43 p.m. Fraud was reported on North Main Street.
- [Concord](#): 3:51 p.m. A Winthrop Street resident said he was the victim of tax fraud.
- [Wilmington](#): 5:39 p.m.: Suspicious activity – Hilltop Road. Resident received a call two days ago from a male who stated he was scheduling a fire inspection. Call ID showed the number 978-674-5775. Resident scheduled an inspection for Saturday at noon. After hearing about the scams, she called the number back attempting to cancel and the phone number provided is not in service. She was advised to contact police if they show up and that a log entry would be made.
- [Acton](#): 8:59 p.m.: Police responded to Sandy Drive for a report of credit card fraud.
- [Salem](#): At 9:42 p.m., fraud reported on Cousins Street. Woman reported that there were two fraudulent charges in her debit card. The charges totaled \$506 and were done in Florida. The bank was notified, and the card was canceled.
- [Brookline](#): A Freeman Street resident called to report finding a charge on their credit card that he/she did not make.
- [Braintree](#): Braintree police are now warning resident to look out for a new online scam they say they've never seen before... "The victim was contacted by a friend on Facebook (most likely a hacked account) who stated they had won \$200,000.00 but needed to send money to an attorney in order to process the prize. The victim then began talking to 'the attorney' who also contacted them on Facebook, who then instructed her to send 4 payments over a period of 4 days via "MoneyGram". All told, the victim was out over \$3,000 before they realized it was a scam," Gillis said (full story in link).

Friday, May 8, 2015

- [Burlington](#): 9:58 a.m.: A caller on Luther Road reported her credit card was used fraudulently.
- [Burlington](#): 12:16 p.m.: A walk-in reported her credit card was fraudulently used to make an online purchase.
- [Saugus](#): At 1:30 p.m. a man reported he was the victim of a scam involving Western Union.
- [Plymouth](#): 2 p.m.: report of fraud, Bloody Pond Road
- [Concord](#): 2:53 p.m. A woman on Elsinore Street said someone used her social security number to file taxes. Concord police have received numerous, similar complaints.
- [Swampscott](#): At 5:36 p.m., tax return fraud was reported.
- [Acton](#): 5:41 p.m.: Police spoke to a party on Windemere Drive about unauthorized credit card charges in California.
- [Maynard](#): 9:15 p.m.: A walk-in from Waltham Street reported fraudulent charges to her bank account.
- [Plymouth](#): 9:41 p.m.: report of fraud, Colony Place

Saturday, May 9, 2015

- [Concord](#): 6:54 a.m. Following a traffic stop on Route 2, Max Soares, 29, of Peabody, was charged with driving with a suspended license, forging an RMV document, and not having an inspection sticker.



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- [Winchester](#): 8:01 a.m.: A Norwood Street resident reported a case of fraud involving taxes.
- [Winchester](#): 8:31 a.m.: A Robinhood Road resident reported fraud involving taxes.
- [Lincoln](#): 1:23 p.m.: Fraud was reported on Wells Road.

Sunday, May 10, 2015

- [Middleton](#): 11:57 a.m. Phone scam reported on North Main Street.
- [Topsfield](#): 12 p.m.: Valley Road resident asked to speak with an officer about fraud.
- [Acton](#): 1:12 p.m.: Police responded to Harvard Court for an identity fraud report.
- [Boxborough](#): 2:54 p.m.: A caller on Swanson Road reported receiving a call asking about her computer and then using obscenities. She was advised it was likely a scam.
- [Cambridge](#): 16:15: WINDSOR ST 3L – A Cambridge resident reported than an unknown person(s) obtained her credit/debit card information and made an unauthorized purchase totaling \$634.00.
- [Burlington](#): 8:09 p.m.: Two walk-ins filed a complaint of credit card and identity fraud.

Monday, May 11, 2015

- [Beverly](#): At 7:51 a.m., possible fraud on Sherman Street.
- [Plymouth](#): 11:40 a.m.: report of fraud, Tall Pines Road
- [Provincetown](#): 12:01: Craigslist Fraud, Priscilla Alden Road
- [Plymouth](#): 12:20 p.m.: report of fraud, Jordan Road
- [Cambridge](#): 13:54: CLIFTON ST – A Clifton Street resident reported that his credit/debit card number was used to make online purchases totaling \$1,684.00.
- [Beverly](#): At 2:20 p.m., identify/tax fraud on Baker Avenue.
- [Beverly](#): At 3:07 p.m., identity/tax fraud on Baker Avenue.
- [Cambridge](#): 17:25: WALNUT AVE – A Cambridge resident reported that she has been receiving harassing phone calls from a person claiming to be from a federal agency
- [Plymouth](#): 4:24 p.m.: report of fraud, Colchester Drive
- [Cambridge](#): 20:28: MASSACHUSETTS AVE – A Rhode Island resident stated that an unknown suspect stole her credit card while eating at an establishment in Cambridge and attempted to use it at multiple stores.
- [Provincetown](#): 20:34: Phone Scam, Tinys Way

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

- [Plymouth](#): 1:01 p.m.: report of fraud, Long Pond Road
- [Marblehead](#): At 2:06 p.m., a man reported that he received a scam phone call during which he was offered 100 pills for \$1.50 per day.
- [Beverly](#): At 2:34 p.m., credit card cloned and used at CVS/Rite Aid.
- [Cambridge](#): 15:22: SIXTH ST – A Cambridge employee reported that he was a victim of identity fraud after an unknown suspect opened an account with a cell phone company in his name.
- [Provincetown](#): 18:30: Rental Scam, Commercial Street
- [Plymouth](#): 7:59 p.m.: report of fraud, Patriot Circle

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

- [Provincetown](#): 13:17: Scam, Shank Painter Road
- [Saugus](#): At 1:53 p.m. a Houston Avenue resident reported a larceny by check.

Thursday, May 14, 2015

- [Cambridge](#): 14:37: SPARKS ST – A resident reports that she received a bill from a large bank with purchases she never made. The victim states that her personal information was attained through unknown means. A credit card in victim's name was created and used
- [Cambridge](#): 15:34: MASSACHUSETTS AVE – A Somerville resident reports her credit card info was used at a Mass Ave. business.



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- [Plymouth](#): 4:11 p.m.: report of fraud, White Cliffs Drive

Friday, May 15, 2015

- [Cambridge](#): 14:08: KINNAIRD ST – Residents of Kinnaird Street reported being victims of a larceny. They sent \$8,450.00 by wire transfer to a person posing as their contractor through the use of his email account.
- [Plymouth](#): 3 p.m.: report of fraud, Bartlett Road
- [Plymouth](#): 3:32 p.m.: report of fraud, Valley Front

Monday, May 18, 2015

- [Marblehead](#): At 11:47 a.m., an IRS scam phone call was reported.
- [Marblehead](#): At 1:01 p.m., a woman reported receiving a phone call from a company aggressively soliciting chimney cleaning services. A short time later, the owner of a chimney cleaning company in town called police to report that a few of his customers had received similar calls, some even being told that the Marblehead Police Department was requiring a chimney cleaning at the home.

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

- [Woburn](#): At 12:35 p.m. police reported that two individuals fell victim to scams – one an IRS scam and the other asked for \$300 to process a million dollar claim.

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

- [Salem](#): At 1:23 p.m., a woman reported that she received a phone call from an unknown number. She checked the message, and returned the call. She was informed that her identity was stolen, and that the person who stole it was more than \$36,000 in debt. A “Shane Watson badge #33952” told the woman that she had legal matters to settle and she needed to hire a lawyer. The phone number came back to a phone number out of Bronx, N.Y., and was not the IRS, as the caller stated. Officers advised the reporting party to never give out personal information to people that she does not know.

Sunday, May 24, 2015

- [Marblehead](#): At 1:01 p.m., a woman reported that she had received a potential scam phone call from someone soliciting funds for fallen police officers.

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

- [Salem](#): At 7:23 p.m., scam on Saunders Street. Parties in the process of moving, hired a moving company named “Oscar Moving LLC.” The company out of Jersey City, N.J. The moving originally quoted was \$1,240. Then the foreman told them that the price was going to be \$2,139. The two parties said they would not hire the company at that price. The foreman started yelling at them, and told them they would be charged a cancellation fee. The parties described the moving truck as a red box truck with a white cab. There was cardboard taped to the door. The two parties did not get their \$310 deposit back. They were advised to go to small claims court.
- [Marblehead](#): At 1:23 p.m., a woman reported receiving a scam phone call from Atlanta, Ga., in which someone claimed to be her grandson and needed money.

Thursday, May 28, 2015

- [Chelsea](#): The Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department is warning citizens of a telephone scam involving a man falsely claiming to work for the Civil Process Division. As part of the scam, the caller allegedly claims to be a Suffolk County Sheriff’s Department Deputy and informs victims that they’ve failed to report for jury duty and are subject to arrest and possible imprisonment unless they pay a fine to settle the matter. Victims are then instructed by the alleged perpetrator to purchase a prepaid credit card from their local store and provide the number to the scammer via telephone. The victim is then told to deliver the card in person at what is the official address of the Civil Process Division at 132 Portland Street in an effort to make the victim believe that the caller is an official representative of the Division.



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Friday, May 29, 2015

- [Leominster](#): A caller identifying himself as an officer from the Worcester County Sheriff 's Office has attempted to pressure recipients into providing credit card and confidential data, potentially leading to identity theft and fraud. These calls, which threaten recipients with fines and jail time if they do not comply, are fraudulent and are not connected with the U.S. courts or the Worcester County Sheriff 's Office.



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