



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Portage Department
of Public Safety
329-4567

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 16, 2014

A number of Portage citizens have received calls from a person posing as a computer technician, requesting information to access a personal computer in the home. The person will claim that the computer has a virus or infection that they will be able to remove and will ask questions about the computer system so that they can remotely access it. In some cases, the person will lock the victim out of the computer completely and then charge the victim hundreds of dollars to access their own computer. In other cases, the suspect will install software to capture passwords and other information.

Citizens should be aware that the unsolicited callers are misrepresenting themselves as being affiliated with well-known computer products and services. Information should not be released to unsolicited callers, as their intentions are not known.

Citizens should remain guarded against the potential of other scams and fraud. Anyone receiving a request to pay a fee via pre-paid credit devices should be wary. Recently, persons claiming to be from the IRS or utility companies have been asking for these types of payments. It is recommended that citizens receiving these types of solicitations question the legitimacy and make independent contact with the agency for confirmation.

Lottery and prize money scams are still active. A potential victim will be told they have won a large prize and will be sent a check for a small portion. Victims are then asked to deposit the check into their bank and send a portion back to pay for taxes and other fees. The check the victim cashes will eventually bounce, leaving the victim owing the balance of what was sent back.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Portage Department of Public Safety at 329-4567 or Silent Observer at 343-2100, www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

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