



Pingree Grove Police Department

ONE POLICE PLAZA
Pingree Grove, Illinois 60140

847-464-4600
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Attention

New computer scams are escalating in our area. Please be alert for suspicious online behavior.

In one recent case, a resident responded to a pop-up message stating the computer was no longer online and needed to be fixed by calling a 1-800 number. The resident called the number then allowed remote access to their computer. The offender “allegedly fixed” the computer and collected almost \$800 in fees by talking the victim into providing a bank account number.

In a similar situation, the offender advised that the resident could pay the \$199 fee with a credit card for fixing the computer. Fortunately, the resident did not provide the card number and was not scammed.

These are just two examples of common scams that are often initiated against senior citizens. Some tips to help prevent becoming a victim of online fraud include:

-Do not open suspicious or unknown e-mails, attachments, text messages, or pop-ups.

-Only allow someone to remotely access your computer if they are a trusted source. Google the name of the company!

-No genuine online company will contact you to ask for login information.

Do your research; investigate with online searches the company that you are dealing with.



-Do not believe caller ID. The technology exists to change the number of who is actually calling you. Pingree residents have already been scammed into thinking the Pingree Grove Police were calling and they had a warrant for the person answering the phone. The offender wanted them to post a bond with their credit card to make the warrant go away. (Here's a hint, if we want you we are coming to your house to get you)

-IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.....you know the rest.

-If something appears suspicious talk to a trusted family member or knowledgeable friend before signing up for a service or providing any money.

-Before making any online payments make sure that the website is secure.

-Hang up on robocalls.

Sign up for free scam alerts from the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/scams.

As always if you have questions or concerns you can call the Pingree Grove Police Department at (847) 464-4600.

If you need a Police response call 911.