

MARCH 2019



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

Scams target people of all backgrounds, ages and income levels across the United States. There's no one group of people who are more likely to become a victim of a scam; all of us may be vulnerable to a scam at some time. Scams succeed because they look like the real thing and catch you off guard when you're not expecting it. Scammers are getting smarter and taking advantage of new technology, new products or services and major events to create believable stories that will convince you to give them your money or personal details.

This edition of RPD Community Newsletter features tips to help keep you from becoming a victim of a scam. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

RPD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1

Deadline for applications for the spring sessions of the Mental Health First Aid class offered in partnership with Behavioral Healthcare. For more information, click [here](#).

April 2

Pinwheels in the Park

To create awareness of child abuse, volunteers plant pinwheels in over 40 parks throughout the City of Raleigh. Click [here](#) for more information.

April 24-25

Wake County Special Olympics Spring Games

Area athletes compete in track and field events; local law enforcement participates in the Torch ceremony. More information is available [here](#).
Ravenscroft School

April 27

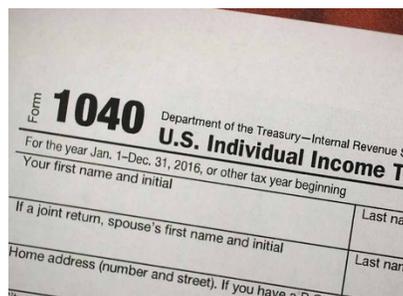
Plane Pull for Special Olympics

Teams of five compete to pull a plane across the tarmac. For more information, click [here](#).
RDU Airport

BEWARE OF SCAMS DURING TAX SEASON

Every tax season, we receive reports of scammers attempting to impersonate IRS employees. Our elderly community members are typically the most vulnerable to these types of scams. Please take the time to warn your older family members, neighbors, and friends.

It's important to remember the IRS will not:



- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.

- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

When you or someone you know receives a suspicious call claiming to be the IRS, HANG UP.

Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

TIPS TO PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM OF TICKET SCAMS

Buying tickets online can add a level of convenience to your transaction. On top of that, it's sometimes possible to get a good deal when you buy online.

When you purchase online, though, you have to watch out for scams. Scammers lie in wait, ready to strike with fake tickets, or even by claiming to have tickets before disappearing with your money and not even bothering with counterfeits.

So, how can you reduce the chances that you will be taken in by a scam when you buy tickets online? Here are some tips:

- Purchase from the venue whenever possible
- Buy from trusted vendors
- Don't post your tickets on social media before the show
- Know the ticket refund policy and service fees
- Examine your tickets closely
- If a ticket price sounds unreal, it probably is
- Request a copy of the seller's ticket receipt and ask to see a state-issued license
- Use payment methods that come with protection
- Consider doing the transaction at a police station
- If you are unsure, verify your tickets at the venue



DEPARTMENT USING VIDEOS TO HELP BRING JUSTICE TO UNSOLVED HOMICIDES



The RPD has started to create videos about unsolved homicides to help solicit tips. The videos are shared with the public on various platforms, including social media, in the hope that new leads will be generated.

The two videos that are currently posted are Jose Melendez, who was killed on November 29, 2017 and Vernon Jeffreys, who was killed on February 13, 2018. Their videos can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Raleigh Police detectives continue to ask for information leading to an arrest in these cases.

MARBLES MUSEUM COMMUNITY HEROES DAY

Raleigh Police officers participated in Community Heroes Day in January, which was hosted by Marbles Museum.

The museum guests had an opportunity to play, meet their heroes, build a city, and think about what makes a great community. Raleigh officers answered questions about their jobs and gave out badge stickers and information. More than 2,500 guests stopped by the table to talk with officers.

