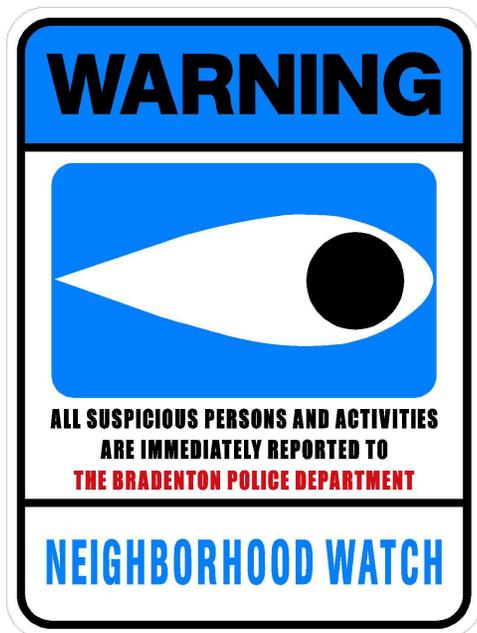




Scams and Cons How to Protect Yourself



For further information, please
contact:

Sgt. Vern McGowin

(941) 708-5804

watch@holmesbeach.org



**MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY A
BETTER PLACE TO LIVE**

Courtesy of

William L. Tokajer

Chief of Police

(941) 778-COPS (2677)

Don't give out your social security number, birthdate, name, address, cell phone number, email address.

If you have been a victim of a scam...

Call the Holmes Beach Police Department and report it at (941) 778-COPS (2677)... reporting and alerting your neighborhood watch members is the only way to stop others from becoming a victim...

Common Scams

Candy sales, magazine sales, newspaper sales, “salesmen”, home improvement, water testing services, need gas money... Children sometimes are used for these scams with the adults in cars or vans waiting down the street.

Pigeon Drop Scam

A couple of strangers say they found a large sum of money or other valuables and want to split the find with you, if everyone involved will give up some “good faith money.” You turn over your cash and you never see them again.

Pyramid Scheme

Someone tells you there is a painless way to make money. You invest some cash and you solicit others to do the same, etc. Some of the initial investors are paid a small dividend, but when the pyramid crashes (and it always does) everyone loses except the person at the top who was the scammer.



Work at Home Schemes

Newspaper ad promises a great income by working at home such as stuffing envelopes, etc. They

emphasize easy work, convenience, and high hourly pay. You pay for the supplies, or how to book, you find there is no market and there is no way to get your money back.

Funeral Chaser Scam

Shortly after someone passes away, someone delivers a Bible to your door saying your loved one ordered it. Or you get an expensive bill in the mail for an item that you have to make payments. Don't get conned. You are not responsible for what someone else ordered, and if it is legitimate, the estate will settle the bill.



Home Improvement Scams

Someone shows up to your home with “extra materials from your neighbors’ recent home improvement” and willing to give it to you at a bargain rate. Always check out who you want to do home improvement, don't just accept the information from the person who shows up at your home

Health Scams

Don't trust the “miracle drug” or perfect way to “lose weight.” or look “beautiful”. Check with your doctor first.

Charity Requests

Often scammers will come to your door to ask for “donations” for their charity

Charity boxes can be found in convenience stores that may be only giving a small portion of the proceeds to the program they are “advertising.”

Telemarketers are allowed to call you if they are asking for “donations”, so this is one way they are able to circumvent the “do not call” law

Check out a charity - Gift Givers Guide link at www.800helpfla.com

Mail Scams

Contacting you by mail to tell you have “won a lottery, gift, etc.”

They will ask you to send money to “receive your prize.” Then they keep your money and you never see the reward.



Red Flags

They keep talking even after you have told them “no.”

Want you to send the money before you will get the reward or ask for your credit card or bank account number.



Never buy property site unseen.

They keep talking even after you have told them “no.”

Want you to send the money before you will get the reward or ask for your credit card or bank account number