



Town of Manlius Police Department SAFETY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 2016



IRS Scam Be AWARE!

Be aware of phone calls from individuals posing as IRS officials attempting to con unassuming residents out of money and personal information. The caller may demand or use threats to intimidate residents into paying a bogus tax bill.

Residents can identify and avoid an IRS phone scam by being familiar with the following: The IRS will not call citizens about an owed tax bill or demand immediate payment without first sending a bill in the mail. The IRS will not ask anyone for their credit or debit card information or require a payment be made using a specific method (e.g. wire transfer,

cash). Moreover, the IRS will not use the threat of arrest, deportation, physical harm or any other coercive tactic to obtain payment from a citizen.

To report an IRS scam, residents can contact the Town of Manlius Police Department at 682-2212.



Going Away for Winter Break?

Manlius Police will perform an exterior check of your residence if requested while you are out of town. If your residence will be unoccupied for an extended period of time, you can call the Record's Section at 315-682-2212.

The call taker will collect information such as, OLEIS alarm information, key holder names and phone numbers, and emergency contact numbers for (you) the homeowner. Road patrol officers will conduct the property checks of your residence as time permits.

TIP411

In December of 2015, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office launched the tip411 program, which the Town of Manlius Police Department is participating in. Tip411 enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to police and lets officers respond back in real-time to create an anonymous two-way conversation. Anyone with a cell phone

may send an anonymous tip to the Town of Manlius Police Department by texting "TIPMAN" followed by the message/tip to 847411 (tip411). The tip411 system is 100% anonymous, as the system removes all identifying information before police see it with no way to identify the sender.



Connect Safety—Snapchat



What is Snapchat? It is a mobile app that allows users to send videos and pictures to other users that will self destruct within seconds of being viewed.

"Snapchatter" can send silly, embarrassing photographs or videos without fear the videos will be uploaded to other social media sites where they may live forever.

The problem arises when these "silly" photographs and videos become threatening, alarming or inappropriate in nature. Children, teens and young adults are more likely to send images they otherwise may not have

sent because they believe within 10 seconds the message is gone forever. Besides sophisticated software, apps and other digital recovery processes, there is nothing that prevents the user receiving the message to take a screen shot or record it on a separate device. Although Snapchat's terms and conditions state you cannot repost or use another's snapchat message, there is nothing that will prevent this from happening.

Like other social networking sites, there is concern users could become victims of bullying or targeted by sexual predators. If privacy settings have

not been manually set on the app, users (especially young teens) may be exposed to a photograph or video they never intended to view. Need someone to Snapchat with? Try google-searching "Snapchat usernames." There are plenty of strangers for teens to interact with.

As always parents need to talk with their children about internet safety. Some tips to remember when using Snapchat: are:

1. Know the app and privacy settings before letting your child download and use it. For more information visit: support.snapchat.com/ca/howto

2. Set rules, guidelines, and expectations you have for your child's use of the internet. Check their devices to make sure they are abiding by your rules.
3. Children need to know that there is no guarantee the messages are private, they should only post pictures and videos that they would be okay with everyone viewing.
4. Users should never interact with other users they do not personally know.
5. Let children know to report any inappropriate use of the app to a trusted adult immediately.