

The PRIDE of North Plainfield

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IN NORTH PLAINFIELD

North Plainfield's Hometown Newspaper

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NORTH PLAINFIELD NJROTC LEARN ORIENTEERING



(above) The North Plainfield NJROTC cadets won third place for Orienteering.

Submitted by Brian Yumiguano

As the North Plainfield NJROTC cadets have kicked off the new year with getting into the swing of the program, senior cadets have taken out their uniforms and have gotten them ready for a new year of inspections. Newer cadets have learned the proper handling of their uniform after days of learning how to in class. After learning these proper uniform etiquettes, cadets showed up for their first uniform inspection looking great and spiffier than ever! Great job, cadets! After learning the proper uniform ways and understanding inspections, cadets jumped into the new lesson of orienteering.

Orienteering is the competitive sport in which contestants

use a map and compass in order to navigate to different checkpoints out in the woods. The cadets are excited for our annual orienteering competition out in the boondocks. Cadets have spent the past couple of days learning how to use a map and compass, which is a key survival necessity when out in the wilderness. After taking the orienteering class in the classroom, cadets are taken outside to complete a mini interactive orienteering course.

At this years Orienteering trip, for the first time in North Plainfield NJROTC history, the cadets brought home a 3rd place trophy for Orienteering, being the 3rd best in the entire Northerneastern region of America. Congratulations cadets!

APPLICATIONS DUE FOR DELEEUEW SCHOLARSHIP

The time to apply is now! High school seniors wishing to apply for the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship should obtain applications now from their school guidance office. Submission deadline is Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

To date, the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation, has provided over 1.4 million dollars in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 over a twenty-four year period. The awards are made in accordance with the terms of a bequest from Ms. DeLeeuw, author of 75 books, journalist and arts activist.

The Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation, headed by Michael R. Townley, acts as selector for the scholarships. Eligible students are those who attend high schools in

Plainfield, North Plainfield, South Plainfield, Warren, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Edison. Applicants must major in one of the following areas of study: art, poetry, writing, journalism or engineering, and must also be accepted to an accredited college or university. They must demonstrate the scholastic aptitude and interest in the area of study and prove financial need.

Interested students should consult their guidance counselors to obtain the necessary application information or go to the Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club website at rotarypnp.org/cs-adele-deleeuw-scholarship.php. Questions may be directed to Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at 908-755-8098.

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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TIPS TO PREVENT CAR BURGLARY

Submitted by William G. Parenti, Chief of Police

The North Plainfield Police Department has unfortunately seen a recent uptick in car burglaries this January. Often times victims will report cash, phones, computers and various electronics stolen from their cars. The overwhelming majority of these burglaries are to unlocked/unsecured cars left with valuables inside or in plain sight. Rarely do we see forced entry type car burglaries due to the amount of noise required and time spent for the perpetrator. Forced entry car burglaries do occur but only when a high value item is left in plain sight and the criminal can't resist. Criminals prefer to walk down a dark street pulling on every car handle they pass until they find an easy unlocked car to enter. These criminals may hit 10-20 cars in a night. These crimes are difficult to solve for police as the suspects travel in the cover of dark and often on bicycles remaining undetected.

The department has made numerous arrests for these crimes and has always taken a proactive approach to apprehending these criminals, but sadly they are often quickly released and back on the street within days. We see repeat offenders on the street that have just been charged days earlier for a burglary.

There are several steps you can take to protect yourself and your valuables from these crooks by following these tips:

1. Do not leave valuable items inside or visible in your car. Lock items in your trunk or bring them inside. Keep your vehicle free from debris and limit what is kept inside of it. Do not leave purses, wallets, G.P.S., MP3 players or iPods, computers, tablets, book-bags, sunglasses, money, or anything of value inside your car. If there is nothing of value in plain view, the thief will move onto the next target.

2. Close all windows and always lock all doors before leaving your vehicle.
3. Trust your instincts. If something doesn't feel right, find another place to park. If parking on the street choose a well-lit area. Activate your security system if you have one and advertise it.
4. Make a copy of your registration and insurance and keep them in your wallet or purse. Then remove all forms of identification from your vehicle. Anyone with permission to drive your vehicle should also have a copy of the registration and insurance with them to furnish to the police if necessary.
5. Do not leave garage door openers, house keys or mail in your car as they can lead to residential burglary and identity theft. Don't use the console or glove box as mobile lock boxes. These are obvious to thieves, too.
6. If you see any suspicious activity or individuals, please contact the police immediately when you feel safe to do so by dialing 9-1-1 or 908-769-2937.
7. Don't think your dark tinted windows will hide your valuables. Thieves often use flashlights to see through tint.
8. If you are parking your vehicle for several days check on it periodically.
9. We also know it's tempting to warm your car on these cold mornings but thieves also know this and it's an easy way for your car to be driven away and stolen.

Remember, you have the opportunity to prevent yourself from becoming a car burglary victim and you can do so by removing your valuables from your vehicle and locking them in a safe place, and by locking your vehicle. By following these helpful tips you can help the North Plainfield Police Department protect you and your property.



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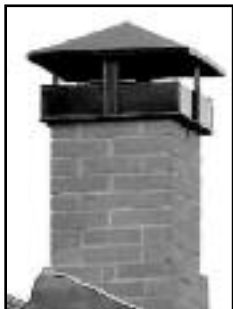
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SHERIFF'S STAFF SENDS A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FOR TOYS FOR TOTS CAMPAIGN

The Somerset County Sheriff's Office collected hundreds of toys on behalf of the Toys for Tots campaign. The collection is for less fortunate children in the community who otherwise might not receive a gift for the holidays. The event is hosted by the Sheriff's

Office, in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation.

"I want to thank residents, employees and surrounding businesses for their generosity," said Sheriff Provenzano. "We are so glad that we can help make children happy during the holidays."



(above, l-r) Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano is joined by Sheriff's Office staff in displaying some of the many toys dropped off for the annual 'Toys for Tots' campaign. Pictured with Sheriff Provenzano are Lt. Richard Fedora, Denise Carra, Sheriff's Officer Sam Annuzzi, Sheriff's Officer Joe Bialiy, Colonel Richard Borden, Colonel Roy Gandolfe, and Sue Katyan.

Photo by Somerset County government

WINTER EVENTS AT THE RAPTOR TRUST

The Raptor Trust is a 501c3 organization that provides free medical care to thousands of injured and orphaned wild birds each year. Located at 1390 White Bridge Road, Millington, NJ, The Raptor Trust is offering the following events this winter. To register please visit TheRaptorTrust.org.

Trivia – Animal love languages

Saturday, February 15th, 2 p.m.

This quiz-style competition will include two rounds of questions and the opportunity to meet one of our education birds. Ages 14 and up. \$10 per person.

Great Horned Owls in Love!

Saturday, February 8th, 2 p.m.

Discover how this important and thriving NJ species gets an early start at growing families and preparing for spring during snowy winters. \$10 per person.

Frosty Feathers

Sunday, February 23rd, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Families with children ages 3-8 are invited to huddle into our heated classroom for a warm cup of cider and a fun filled program on the fashionable fluff birds use to keep out the cold.

Education Open Houses

Sunday, February 16th

Monday, February 17th,

Pop on in to visit the education staff inside our warm and cozy classroom full of avian artifacts, interactive games, craft projects, and informational exhibits. You may even meet a special feathered guest. No advanced registration required.

Focus on Raptors

Saturday, March 28th, 2 p.m.

An opportunity for committed shutterbugs to take close-range photographs of our educational raptors perched in an outdoor setting. \$150 per person.

Private group tours

Weekend and weekday availability.

Join one of our staff educators for a guided outdoor tour of the Raptor Trust's aviary trail. Learn about the Raptor Trust's mission and history, as well as the life stories of some of our resident raptors before being introduced to one of our ambassador birds. \$100 per group, Maximum 10 people per group.

Call or email Shari Stern at 908-647-1091 or Education@theraptortrust.org to schedule.

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EXPLORE YOUR ROOTS WITH SCLSNJ

From connecting with distant relatives through social media interfaces like Facebook; celebrities sharing the journey of tracing their origins on the television series “Who Do You Think You Are?;” and the popularity of DNA kits from companies such as 23andMe; it seems like everyone is digging at their roots. Did you know that your Library can help you discover who you are?

Explore your family tree with the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) and resources available through ProQuest, the distributor of the Ancestry family of databases.

“The origin story fascinates most people, and genealogy uncovers one’s personal story,” said Ken Kaufman, adult services librarian. “Whether it’s instant access to a revealing document or finding a cousin through a DNA link, technology has leveraged the potential for learning new truths about one’s family. Adding excitement to the mix is the greater ease with which discoveries can unfold through technology.”

ProQuest includes three resources that each offer a variety of features to pique your curiosity:

Ancestry Library, Fold3 Library Edition, and HeritageQuest Online.

Ancestry Library obtains billions of names in thousands of genealogical databases including census and vital records; birth, marriage and death notices; cemeteries, wills, and probates; immigration information; and more. This resource can be accessed on-site at any of SCLSNJ’s 10 Library branches.

Fold3 Library Edition has a specific focus on U.S. military records, many of which are exclusively available on the resource. What makes Fold3 unique is not only does it provide convenient access to the stories, photos, and personal documents of the men and women who served, but it also allows users to interact with what they find and add their own information.

HeritageQuest Online supplements this by providing in-home access to the U.S. census and city directories, digitized versions of local history books, and a wealth of other historical collections and research guides.

“At SCLSNJ we are always willing to help anyone with questions about their family lineage,” said Mary Nelson, adult services librarian. “I find these patrons are always very appreciative of anything we can tell them. Library customers are always welcome to schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our librarians.”

Schedule a one-on-one appointment and discover your genealogy with a SCLSNJ librarian:

Central Area: Ken Kaufman, at the Bridgewater branch, at kkaufman@sclibnj.org; or Jenna Galley, at the Peapack & Gladstone branch, at jgalley@sclibnj.org.

South Area: Terri Coss, at the Hillsborough branch, at tcoss@sclibnj.org.

East Area: Mary Nelson, at the Bound Brook branch, at mnelson@sclibnj.org.

EXPLORE GENEALOGY PROGRAMS AT SCLSNJ:

Find Your Family Tree (adults)

Manville resident and genealogy enthusiast Bob Vornlocker will share his techniques to maximize your search results and help uncover your family tree.

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at the Manville branch, located at 100 South 10th Avenue in Manville. Registration is required.

February 19: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/1997769.

Explore Your Roots (adults and teens)

Learn how to use the library’s genealogy databases, including HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Peapack and Gladstone branch, located at the Municipal Complex on School Street in Peapack. Registration is required.

February 3: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136597.

February 10: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136598.

February 24: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3136599.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

DISCOVERING LIBRARY THROUGH STORYTIME

Families recently connected during a special twilight storytime at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey’s (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch. Attendees listened to stories with a goodnight theme while dressed in

pajamas. Pictured is Christian Amani Spinosa, 11 months, of North Plainfield, during the program.

Explore storytimes and more at SCLSNJ: sclsnj.libnet.info/events.

ENHANCED FREE NOTARY SERVICE PROGRAM

Effective January 2, 2020, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) has enhanced the effectiveness of their free notary service program by launching appointment-based scheduling.

“Connecting with a Staff Notary before your visit will help ensure that all parties are prepared for the notarization and allow staff to determine whether SCLSNJ can meet your notarial needs,” said Civic Services Supervisor Nicole Pascoe. “These changes are in direct response to the needs of and feedback from our county residents, and will improve the service our customers

receive in our branches. In the event a staff notary is not able to fulfill a request, SCLSNJ maintains a list of comparable service offerings throughout Somerset County so we can point customers in the right direction.”

“It is important to note that notary service is not guaranteed to customers who do not call in advance to make an appointment,” said Pascoe.

Appointment times and Staff Notary availability vary based on location schedules. For questions or to make an appointment, email notary@sclibnj.org or call your local branch and ask to connect with a Staff Notary.



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FEBRUARY EVENTS AT NORTH PLAINFIELD MEMORIAL LIBRARY BRANCH

6 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield.

For more information call 908-458-8435 or visit SCLSNJ.org.

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change. Please note the Library will be closed on February 17.

ALL AGES

Freedom Songs - The Music of Black History
(families)

February 19, 7-7:45 p.m.

Drop-In Activity - Cloth Paper Art

February 22, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Baking and Books - Oreo Truffles (ages 2-5)

February 3, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Young Adult Leadership Academy
(grades 5-12)

February 4, 3:30-5 p.m.

Toddler/Preschool Storytime - Rhyme and Play
(ages 18 months - 5 years)

February 5, 12, 19; 10-11 a.m.

Digital Escape Room Design (grades 5-12)

February 5, 3:30-5 p.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime - Discover Stories
(ages birth - 3 years)

February 6, 13, 20; 10-11 a.m.

Family Day - Scavenger Hunt
(families with children)

February 8, 11 a.m. - Noon

LEGO® Club (grades 2-5)

February 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Breaking Love Escape Room (grades 7-12)

Team No. 1: February 11, 3-3:40 p.m.

Team No. 2: February 11, 4-4:40 p.m.

Team No. 3: February 11, 5-5:40 p.m.

Team No. 4: February 11, 6-6:40 p.m.

Team No. 5: February 11, 7-7:40 p.m.

Family Storytime - Pajamarama
(families with children)

February 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Escape Room - Candy Crisis (grades 3-6)

February 14, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Culinary Creators (grades 5-12)

February 18, 3:30-5 p.m.

Teen Movie Screening - "Pride and Prejudice"
(grades 5-12)

February 19, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Learning Lab - Ice and Snow (grades K-5)

February 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Homework Help (grades 3-6)

February 24, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

**Teen Volunteer Opportunity -
Homework Helpers (grades 9-12)**

February 24, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Game Time (grades 5-12)

February 26, 3:30-5 p.m.

Acing the Interview (grades 7-12)

February 27, 4-5 p.m.

Friday DIY - Garden Planters (grades 3-6)

February 28, 3-4:30 p.m.

ADULT PROGRAMS

English Conversation Group

February 3, 10, 24; 7-8:30 p.m.

Writer's Group

February 4, 18; 6-8 p.m.

Resume and Job Search Assistance

February 12, 11 a.m. - Noon

Book Discussion - "Disappearing Earth"
by Julia Philips

February 13, 1-2 p.m.

February 20, 7:15-8:30 p.m.

Creative Crafts - Painted Bottle Vase

February 15, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Cooking Class - Instant Pot Beef Stew

February 25, 7-8 p.m.

Special Needs Social Hour

February 28, 11 a.m. - Noon

Concert - From Jazz to Soul, Volume 2

February 29, 3-4 p.m.

EXPLORING STEAM CONCEPTS AT LIBRARY

On December 26, children in grades K-5 explored STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) concepts at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's (SCLSNJ) Watchung Library branch. Attendees discovered the science behind spinning tops and used their creativity to construct their own paper tops.

"STEAM education has become an integral part of the curricula at local schools, as it builds a foundation for students to pursue advanced educational opportunities, and even careers, in these important fields," said Lynn Mazur, youth services department supervisor. "By offering STEAM programs at the Library, we encourage children to explore their creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving skills outside of the classroom."

Explore STEAM concepts at SCLSNJ this winter:

LEGO® Club (grades K-5)
at the Watchung branch

February 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3129952

Chess Club (grades K-5)

at the Warren Twp. branch

February 25, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3115953

LEGO® Club (grades K-5)

at the Warren Twp. branch

February 29, 11:00 a.m. - Noon

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3118567

Let's Cook: Heart-Shaped Waffle Treats
(grades 3-5) at the Warren Twp. branch

February 11, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3090262

STEAM: Origami Frogs (grades K-5)

at the Watchung branch

February 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3130013

Tween STEM Challenge: Paper Airplanes
(grades 4-6) at the Warren Twp. branch

February 27, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Register: sclsnj.libnet.info/event/3116096

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CHESS CLUB DRAWS MEMBERS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The Kenilworth Chess Club has kicked off its 2020 season with a new slate of officers. Jack McCorkell of Cranford is incoming President. Outgoing president Dave Lazarus of Fanwood will serve as Vice President. Treasurer Geoff McAuliffe of Dunellen and Webmaster John Moldovan of Garwood will continue in their positions. Trustees are Pat Mazzillo of Union and Greg Tomkovich and Joe Renna, both from Cranford.

The club was formed in 1972 amid the chess craze in America, spearheaded by Bobby Fischer's march to the world championship. For 47 years the club was a force to be reckoned with as its member roster included many Master level players, including State Champions.

The club has a reputation for being friendly and accommodating. It welcomes non-members with no obligation or cost. It's a place where beginners can learn in a casual setting without being intimidated. Strong players are generous with their time in analyzing and giving instruction.

The club's website, kenilworthchessclub.org, is well read and features an award-winning blog by Michael Goeller and other instructional features. Players are welcome to just pop into the Kenilworth Chess Club with no formalities every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at the Kenilworth Community Center, located next to Borough Hall on the Boulevard and the corner of 24th Street.



(above, r-l) Kenilworth Chess Club President Jack McCorkell, Vice President Dave Lazarus, John Moldovan, Treasurer Geoff McAuliffe, Web Master John Moldovan, Trustees Ed Selling, Greg Tomkovich, Pat Mazzillo, and Joe Renna.



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Saturday, February 22, 2020
10:30 am to 3:00 pm
Sign-in/setup starts at 10:00 am
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Cranford Community Center
220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ • 908.709.7283

Registration is \$15 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.
Limited to 40 players who must know how to play chess, age 11 and older.
For More Information: Email Jim Parlapiano at jim.parlapiano@hotmail.com
Or Will Adams at will.adams@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 x234
Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link
to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2583007
Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.
Lunch will be provided for all players.
This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

Meeting every Thursday night starting at 8:00 pm

KENILWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER AND RECREATION BUILDING
575 Boulevard in Kenilworth, NJ at corner of 24th Street
Visitors are always welcome, beginner to master. Membership is not required to play.




www.kenilworthchessclub.org

KIDS FISHING SEMINAR SET FOR MARCH 3

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club was founded in 1907 and remains one of the oldest fishing clubs in the nation. We are listed on Amazon Smile and are a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit. We provide outings to support veterans, adults and children as well as people with disabilities which focus on environmental education, fishing knowledge and practice. A complete list of our upcoming events can be found at www.nbfcc.org.

We are always looking for new members, donations, and volunteers if anyone would like to get involved.

Our monthly meetings are held at the

Kenilworth VFW, located at 33 S. 21st St., Kenilworth, NJ, on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (except July and August).

Our Annual Kids Seminar will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Kenilworth Veterans Center, V.F.W. 33 South 21st street Kenilworth, NJ. A Guest speaker to be announced and topics of discussion will be safety while fishing, fish identification, and practice casting. Prizes will be awarded and snacks will be served.

For more information visit www.nbfcc.org, or contact Bob Jones, BJonesJRNJ@hotmail.com, 908-272-3545

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MUSIC AT THE MANSION IN NORTH PLAINFIELD

The Friends of Vermeule Mansion, Inc. (FOVM) will present their popular Music at the Mansion concert series on Sunday, February 9th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vermeule Mansion located at the corner of 614 Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue, in North Plainfield. Come hear a wonderful program featuring violinist and North Plainfield native Lucia Nowik.

Lucia earned a BA degree in Violin Performance from the Julliard School and a Masters degree from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. She has performed the Schleswig-Holstein Festival (Germany), Tanglewood (Massachusetts) and the Spoleto Festival USA. Ms. Nowik will be accompanied by Martha Nowik on piano.

Light refreshments will be offered after the program and admission is free. Donations are gratefully accepted. The Friends of Vermeule Mansion Inc. (FOVM) is a non-profit organization promoting the history of North Plainfield and arts and culture in the community. For more information, contact Johanna Salvemini at 908-755-8098.

Like us on Facebook VermeuleMansion.



(above) North Plainfield native Lucia Nowik will perform on Sunday, February 9th, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in the Vermeule Mansion.

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NEW ONLINE REPORT FORM FOR IMPOSTER SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM

Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, and Gail S. Ennis, the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration, recently announced the launch of a dedicated online form at oig.ssa.gov to receive reports from the public of Social Security-related scams. These scams—in which fraudulent callers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for purported Social Security number problems—skyrocketed over the past year to become the #1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission and the Social Security Administration.

To combat these scams, Social Security and the OIG will use the new online form to capture data that will be analyzed for trends and commonalities. The OIG will use the data to identify investigative leads, which could help identify criminal entities or individuals participating in or facilitating the scams. Ultimately, these efforts are expected to disrupt

the scammers, help reduce this type of fraud, and reduce the number of victims.

Commissioner Saul and Inspector General Ennis encourage the public to use the new online form to report Social Security phone scams including robocalls and live callers, as well as email, text, and in-person scams. The form allows people to create a unique Personal Identification Number (PIN), so if OIG contacts a person about their report, they will know the call is legitimate.

“Awareness is our best hope to thwart the scammers,” said Inspector General Ennis. “Tell your friends and family about them and report them to us when you receive them, but most importantly, just hang up and ignore the calls.”

Social Security employees do occasionally contact people - generally those who have ongoing business with the agency - by telephone for business purposes. However, Social Security employees will never threaten a person, or promise a Social Security benefit approval, or

increase, in exchange for information or money. In those cases, the call is fraudulent and people should just hang up.

Generally, the agency mainly calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, someone who is already receiving payments and requires an update to their record, or a person who has requested a phone call from the agency. If a person is not in one of these situations, they normally would not receive a call from the agency.

SOCIAL SECURITY WILL NOT:

- Tell you that your Social Security number has been suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Ask you for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Require a specific means of debt repayment, like a prepaid debit card, a retail gift card, or cash.
- Demand that you pay a Social Security debt without the ability to appeal the amount you owe.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval, or increase, in exchange for information or money.

If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, in most cases Social Security will mail a letter. If a person needs to submit payments to Social Security, the agency will send a letter with instructions and payment options. People should never provide information or payment over the phone or Internet unless they are certain of who is receiving it.

The Social Security OIG will also continue to take reports of fraud, waste, and abuse in Social Security's programs and operations. A separate online form for those reports remains available at their website link: ssa.gov/fraudreport/oig/public_fraud_reporting/form.htm

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