

Summit NJ Times

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CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SUMMIT'S BLANKETS FOR BABIES

Submitted by Lori White

The Christ Child Society held its 8th Annual Blankets for Babies on February 5. Nearly 100 volunteers gathered together in Memorial Hall at St. Teresa's Church to create beautiful hand-made fleece blankets for babies in need in our local community. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and fun as friends sewed, pinned, cut, fringed, tied and yes, even ironed! Over 200 blankets were completed and will be included in every layette that is donated to newborns at the free pediatric clinics at Overlook and Morristown Hospitals. The layettes are packed full with necessary items to get a newborn started in life, and include onesies, pajamas, outfits, hand knit sweaters and hats, receiving blankets, and this handmade fleece blanket. The Blankets for Babies project is made possible by a very generous grant from the Summit Elks Lodge #1246.

The life of a child is a promise for the future, but for many children their future is at risk. Christ Child Society volunteers reach out to teach, motivate, clothe and care for children in their communities through the initiative of Challenging Poverty: One Child at a Time. If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions, please contact Jane Murphy, Summit Chapter President at Jhmspm@gmail.com.



(above) Rebecca Michalopoulos and Lynne Strabley, CCS members, took part in the fun and fellowship.

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(above) A successful day in large part to Margaret Whelan, Past President; Theresa Sweeney, Blankets For Babies Chair; and Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz.



(above) Friends sewed, pinned, cut and fringed!

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SUMMIT MILLWORK HELPS SQUAD

Several local businesses helped the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad put the finishing touches on their new headquarters building. Among them was Summit Millwork & Supply, owned by Aldo Curiale and his son Nick, both of Summit. The younger Curiale is also a former volunteer with the First Aid Squad.

Summit Millwork & Supply donated all the custom architectural mouldings used in the building. Their quality work is especially evident in the Squad's conference room. "We allow other non-profit groups to use our meeting and conference rooms and often receive compliments about how nice the conference room looks," noted John Staunton, the Squad's Building and

Grounds Chair.

"The new building project was the largest endeavor attempted by the Squad and we are grateful to the many who helped us see it through, including the Curiale family," said Squad President Bob Flanagan.

The all-volunteer First Aid Squad responds to emergency calls 24/7, is entirely funded through private donations and does not bill for service. The Squad is always looking for new volunteers to join its ranks. All needed training, uniforms and equipment is provided. For information on becoming a volunteer, or donating to the squad please call 908-277-9479, or visit their website at summitems.org.



(above, l-r) Nick Curiale and Aldo Curiale of Summit Millwork accept a plaque from First Aid Squad President Bob Flanagan.

Photo by John Staunton

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JULIENNE CHERRY TAKES HELM AT CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP CASA

Submitted by Gretchen M. Boger-O'Bryan

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County is pleased to announce the selection of Julienne Cherry as its new Executive Director. The organization recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers to



(above) Julienne Cherry has joined Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County as its new Executive Director.

advocate for abused, neglected and abandoned Union County youth removed from home and living in foster care.

"Julienne's history in the nonprofit arena, as well as her experience, knowledge and connections within the state, make her ideal to lead CASA of Union County. The board is excited to welcome her to the organization just as it celebrates 15 years of advocacy for our community's foster youth," said Dr. Ron Silver, president of the organization's Board of Trustees.

She joins the Elizabeth-based nonprofit from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey in Hillside, where she was Director of Agency Relations, overseeing more than 1,000 feeding programs in eight New Jersey counties. Among Cherry's community service efforts in Union County are serving on the board of Moms Helping Moms, a diaper and baby supply bank in Plainfield, and remaining active with the local chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Eta Omicron Zeta, including serving as its Health Fair Chair. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kean University.

"I'm very thankful for the wonderful opportunity to join the CASA family," said Cherry. "As a resident of Union County, this new position aligns perfectly with the last 20-plus years I've devoted to advocating for our community's underserved and voiceless. I'm

looking forward to meeting with key stakeholders and community members to help move our mission forward. Ensuring the best interests of every Union County youth in foster care through no fault of their own will remain my top priority. As the organization reaches its 15th year of advocacy, the goal continues to be providing an advocate for every fragile youth that needs one. To do this, we need the support of our village. From monthly gives, employer matches and event sponsorships to corporate and business partnerships, every dollar of support for our small-but-mighty nonprofit directly impacts how many waiting foster youth we can reach. Simply, writing a check means writing another chapter. Help us Change a Child's Story."

Through court-ordered access to foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists and teachers, CASA volunteers ensure the best interests of foster youth remain a priority while parties work toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home. There are nearly 500 Union County youth in foster care and the organization currently serves just over half those. Its goal is to provide an advocate for every youth that needs one.

To make a tax-deductible donation, log on to casaofunioncounty.org/donate.

To learn about how to become an advocate for a foster child, contact Courtney at cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org or Call 908-293-8136.

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request a temporary card (good for 90 days) by calling the Summit Free Public Library, Monday-Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at 908-273-0350, extension 815 (punch in the extension # during the outgoing message to reach the Help Desk). The library is currently closed to patrons indefinitely. We will notify the public when we are allowed to reopen.

There are many online resources you can tap into from your home available through our website—some require a library card in order to access and may require you to download an app. Go to summitlibrary.org and click on the Resources tab at the top of the page. Scroll to Online Courses (Lynda.com); Online Services for Libby/Overdrive (eBooks/eAudiobooks); Hoopla (eBooks, music, movies, TV shows); Flipster (eMagazines—including back issues); and Kanopy streaming services as well as Rosetta Stone for foreign language learning.

You can also get free access to The New York Times online as well as Star Ledger and other local newspapers (go to the Resources tab and select Databases). Note, The New York Times needs to be renewed every 3 days, however, there is no limit on the number of times you can renew. We also offer an online arts and craft service, Creativebug, which can also be accessed under Databases.

Kids and teens also have a host of online resources available to them including TumbleBook Library, World Book Online (versions for preschool, kids, and students), and Muzzy foreign language learning. Teens have access to online test prep materials, World Book Encyclopedia Online, Spark Notes, CliffsNotes, eBooks, newspapers and more. All of these resources can be accessed by visiting our website and going to the Kids or Teens tab at the top of the homepage.



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The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.

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HICKORY TREE CHORUS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL \$1,000 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a high school senior woman who has applied for a college music program? Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is pleased to offer the \$1,000 Diane Cecala Memorial Scholarship to a musically talented high school senior woman interested in pursuing a career in vocal music. Rehearsing in Stirling, New

Jersey, we are dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing four-part, acappella harmony. Hickory Tree Chorus has awarded an annual scholarship for over 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

Qualified high school senior girls with good academic records and exceptional

talent in vocal music are encouraged to apply. Students should also have applied for acceptance into a music program at a college or university. Completed applications and recordings of at least two vocal performances must be received by April 30, 2020.

Details and applications are available on the chorus web site at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 music scholarship.

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FIVE SUMMIT BOY SCOUTS COMPETE IN ANNUAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

Summit Boy Scouts Alexander Seymour, Anderson Lee, Gavin Lowenberger, Raahil Subba, and Ryan Seymour recently competed at the 7th annual Munsee District Boy Scout Chess Tournament. This year's tournament was held at the Cranford Community Center on Saturday, February 22, 2020.

The First place winner of the tournament was Joshua McDonald from Whitehouse Station. Second place was awarded to Alexander Beke from Berkeley Heights, and third place went to Anderson Lee from Summit. Trophies in the form of traveling chess sets were awarded to first, second, and third place finishers.

Thirty-one contestants participated in the annual tournament that was organized by Joe Renna of Renna Media, and Tournament Director John Moldovan of Garwood. This tournament also met part of the requirements for earning a Chess merit badge.



(above) Ryan Seymour



(above) Alexander Seymour



(above) Gavin Lowenberger



(above) Raahil Subba

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) - Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



(above, l-r) Tournament Sponsor Joe Renna, Third Place Winner Anderson Lee, Cranford Troop Volunteer Jim Parlapiano, Tournament Director John Moldovan.

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POLICE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2020 SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

The Summit Police Department has announced upcoming dates for its 2020 Youth Academy. Two, one-week sessions will be held from July 20 to July 24 and July 27 to July 31 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily and are open to children ages 11 to 14. Applications will be accepted now through May 1, and are available on the City of Summit website: cityofsummit.org, and at the Summit Police Department in City Hall and at Lawton C. Johnson Summit Middle School.

Now in its sixteenth season, the popular program provides area youth with an opportunity to develop an understanding of the role of the police officer in the community. Modeled after actual Union County Police Academy curriculum, recruits undergo physical training, drill and ceremony training, instruction in criminal investigation techniques, and evidence recovery and patrol practices. Cadets visit the

Union County Police Academy and attend demonstrations from the police canine unit, SWAT team and bomb squad.

Cadets are provided an official Summit Police Youth Academy uniform to wear during the course. Upon successful completion of the program, cadets participate in a graduation ceremony and receive a certificate of completion, official Summit Police Youth Academy patch, and DVD with photos taken during their session.

Applicants will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis with preference given to Summit residents who are first-time applicants; former recruits and out-of-town applicants may be placed on a waiting list. To be considered, a tuition fee of \$100 must accompany each application. A limited number of scholarships are available to those experiencing financial hardship.

For more information, please contact Detective Sergeant Ryan Peters at rpeters@spd.nj.org 908-273-5871 or Lauren Montanya at lmontanya@spd.nj.org 908-277-9473.



(above) Students age 11 to 14 can register for this year's Summer Youth Academy.



(above) Registration is now open through May 1 for the Summit Police Department's Summer Youth Academy.

Photos by City of Summit

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(above) Sewers and quilters interested in making their own fabric face masks will also find CE's FREE face mask video tutorial on Instagram @culturedexpressions.

GOT KIDS AT HOME? LET THEM SEW, CRAFT &

With schools closed indefinitely and an increasing number of work-from-home parents and guardians due to the COVID-19 situation, planning daily activities for your favorite little people will obviously be key for the well-being of all involved!

Once their online schoolwork is complete, try using your own interest in sewing and quilting to keep them occupied. Depending on the age group, they could be happy gluing colorful scraps to cardstock to create collage artwork. Older kids might want to stitch together fabrics in their favorite color (by hand or machine) to make a simple pillow or tote bag.

Whether they've expressed an interest in learning more about the needle arts, or the suggestion is yours, we've gathered a few tips for quilting with children to make the process both fun and successful!

- Keep it simple – begin with quick fabric crafts like bookmarks, sachets, fabric pendants, pouches or a fabric collage that can also become a simple art piece suitable for framing.
- Mending is Trendy! Show them how to creatively mend their clothes and/or add decorative patches and pockets with hand stitching and easy embroidery stitches.
- Take into account the child's personality when planning your quilting session. For younger kids, keep it fun (and safe) by avoiding projects that require precise measuring and cutting. Instead, pull out some precuts from your stash, focusing on the fun of design and the creativity of blending colors and patterns.
- For older kids, or those who are naturally inclined to math and geometry might be open to the more precision-based aspects of quilting, where templates & rulers are used.
- Remember that children's taste levels are more sophisticated than ever; have a variety of fabrics and embellishments available for experimentation. Provide the opportunity to

work with batiks and other cool "adult" fabrics that aren't strictly juvenile in design and coloration.

- Let the child work with scraps of one of your own current projects, to create a small "featured block" you can use as the back label for your quilt. The label can include both of your signatures.
- Remember, creative expression can help to relieve some of the stress of the situation for people of any age – with any luck, you might also create a budding new fiber artist in the process! Have a follow-up project in mind to keep up the momentum and encourage their efforts as they work. The follow-ups can introduce new techniques to gradually increase their quilting skills.

Stay safe, and keep creating!



(above) AfriCrafts fabric activity kits feature supplies for fun and easy projects for kids – Call Cultured Expressions.866-683-2568 or email info@CulturedExpressions.com.

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SUMMIT POLICE CHIEF ROBERT K. WECK ANNOUNCES INTENT TO RETIRE ON JUNE 1, 2020

On February 26, 2020, Summit Police Chief Robert K. Weck notified Mayor Nora Radest and members of Common Council of his intention to retire on June 1, 2020 after 31 years with the department and nine years as its Chief of Police.

“Chief Weck has made a profound and lasting impact on our city, and I sincerely thank him for his dedicated service,” explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. “The Police Department is better for his leadership and I have every confidence that his preparation has it set for much future success.”

Chief Weck was appointed Chief in 2011 by former Mayor Jordan Glatt. He has served under Mayor Ellen Dickson and current Mayor Radest for the past five years. Radest is expected to announce his successor in early April.

“It has been an honor and privilege to lead the Summit Police Department for the past nine years,” explains Chief

Weck. “It is through the dedication and teamwork of some of the finest law enforcement professionals in the

country that I leave behind a police department that is rich with notable achievements and a succession plan to

ensure its future success. It was a difficult decision to make but after 31 years with the department, I look forward

to this next chapter of my life. Over the next three months, I will work closely with the city and SPD administration

to secure a smooth transition of authority.”

Chief Weck is credited with facilitating initiatives to increase youth programs and community outreach and partnerships, promote safety and keep crime rates in Summit low. He established a Community Policing Unit and reinstated a Traffic Safety Unit that includes motorcycle patrols. During his tenure as Chief of Police, he has been the recipient of TransOptions Government Official of the Year Award, Boy Scouts of America Good Scout Award, Summit Keeper of the Dream Award and Summit Star of Excellence Award.

A formal statement by Chief Weck in the form of letter to the community will be sent closer to his planned

retirement date of June 1.

Additional information on the Summit Police Department is available on the City of Summit website.



(above) Summit Police Chief Robert K. Weck

SUMMIT POLICE WILL RESUME USE OF TEXT NOTIFICATIONS WITH ITS NIXLE ALERT

In an effort to increase communications with individuals who live or work in the City of Summit, the Summit Police Department has upgraded its current contract with the Nixle Alert System to include text notifications.

The Nixle alert system is used by the Summit Police Department to provide information on severe weather, traffic congestion and accidents, missing persons, local events and more to people who live and work in the Summit community. To receive text alerts by Nixle, citizens are advised to text 07901 to 888777 to opt-in.

“The Nixle community alert system provides the Summit Police Department with the ability to send real time public safety messages on localized news and emergency situations to citizens who live or are employed within the City of Summit,” explains Police Chief Robert Weck. “People can opt-in to receive alerts from the SPD by text or email. The service is secure, reliable and easy to use for our department.”

While Nixle is used by the Summit Police Department to relay real time information to send alerts and advisories, official emergency communications from the City of Summit are provided through the Swift Reach emergency notification system.

Chief Weck continues: “I strongly advise citizens to opt-in for Nixle alerts and sign up for Swift Reach emergency notifications to be prepared for any possible event or emergency.”

For more information on the Summit Police Department, go to cityofsummit.org/police.

SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES

The Summit Police Department is taking a lead role in enforcing social distancing guidelines that health officials describe as critical to containing the COVID-19 Coronavirus by dispersing small groups of people on city streets and in public spaces. These enforcement measures are in response to police observation of a lack of compliance by citizens to restrictions issued by the State of New Jersey.

“People are not being discouraged from getting out for a breath of fresh air by themselves, as a couple or with their family,” explains Summit Police Chief Robert Weck. “If we see people in groups or participating in activities like team sports or outdoor gatherings, we are going to ask them to disperse, and if they do not comply, summons may be issued.”

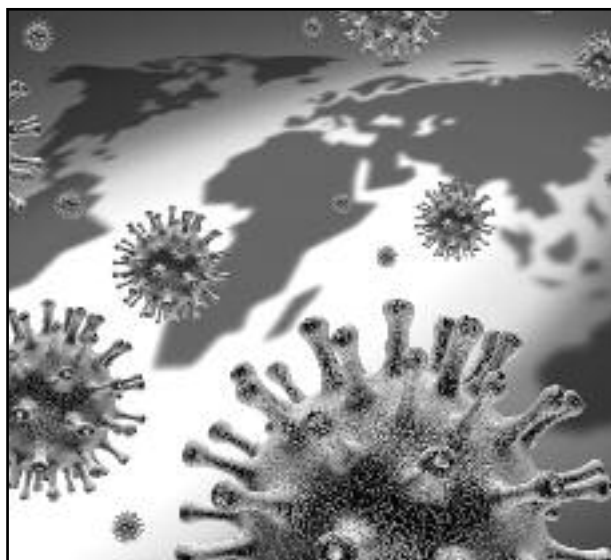
Summit Mayor Nora Radest is considering closing public parks if people do not comply with State of New Jersey density and activity guidelines.

“We have an opportunity to control the spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in our community, and I will do everything possible to reduce the impact on our already over-burdened health care system,” reports Mayor Radest. “This is a time to think beyond what you may want to do and focus on how your actions will impact us all. Please do your part by staying

home if you are not an essential worker, and follow social distancing protocols.”

In a March 27, 2020 news release, State of New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal stated: “Staying home and maintaining social distance is not just good advice to stay healthy, it is the law. Make no mistake, we will do what it takes to keep our residents and police officers safe, and that means we will not hesitate to file criminal charges against those who violate the emergency orders.”

Additional information on the COVID-19 Coronavirus is available on the city website.



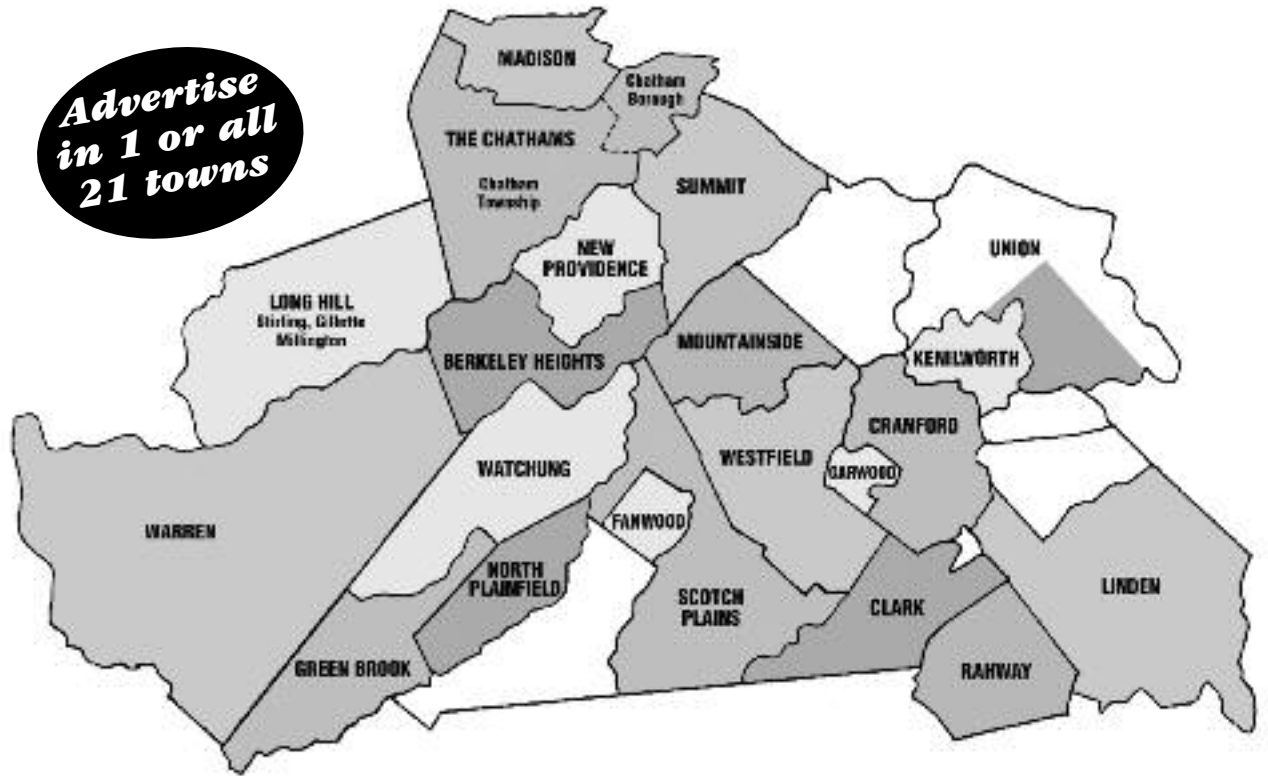
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DON'T FALL FOR SCAM CALLS AND EMAILS IMPERSONATING IRS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

Scammers and cyberthieves continue to use the IRS as bait. The most common tax scams are phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS. Scammers use the IRS name,

logo, fake employee names and badge numbers to try to steal money and identities from taxpayers.

Taxpayers need to be wary of phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS. Often, these criminals will say taxpayers owe money and demand payment right away. Other times, scammers will lie to taxpayers and say they're due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone. The IRS warns taxpayers not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help filers avoid becoming a scam victim.

IRS EMPLOYEES WILL NOT:

- Call demanding an immediate payment. The IRS won't call taxpayers if they owe taxes without first sending a bill in the mail.
- Demand payment without allowing taxpayers to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Demand that taxpayers pay their taxes in a specific way, such as with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest taxpayers for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action, such as a lawsuit.

If taxpayers don't owe or don't think they owe any tax, and they receive an inquiry like this, they should:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.

In most cases, an IRS phishing scam is an unsolicited, fake email that claims to come from the IRS. Some emails link to sham websites that look real. The scammers' goal is to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. If the thieves get what they're after, they use it to steal a victim's money and identity.

For those taxpayers who get a phishing email, the IRS offers this advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
- Don't give out your personal or financial information.
- Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov. Then delete it.
- Don't open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.

For more info visit www.irs.gov or call your local police department non-emergency number.

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