

September 2007

Newsletter #10

Money! Money! Money!

The good news: If you haven't yet received a substantial check in the mail you probably will soon. The bad news: It's a scam and the check is worthless. Here's the meat and potatoes of this increasingly widespread swindle.

An envelope is delivered by mail addressed to you and inside you'll find a very official looking letter with the unbelievable news that you've won a considerable amount of money. Along with the letter is a real check drawn from a real bank somewhere in the United States. You've won a lottery, declares the writer, and in order to claim your winnings you must deposit the check in your bank account. The check, which is made out in your name, is usually for several thousand dollars and some odd cents, for example \$3844.27. You're told this is just a partial payment from your winnings. To claim the rest of your money, usually hundreds of thousands of dollars or more, you have to send back a money order or cashiers check for just \$1500.00 and best of all you can keep the remaining \$2344.27. The \$1500.00, they say, "is needed to process your claim."

The catch: The "lottery check" bounces and your REAL money in the form of a REAL money order or

cashiers check is in someone's hot little fist ten thousand miles away and you NEVER see your money again!

I recently spoke with the manager of a local bank who told me more than a few of their customers have fallen prey to this type of rip-off. Some bank customers have lost tens of thousands of dollars! Don't be surprised or offended if bank tellers ask you a few questions when you make an unusual or substantial withdrawal from your account. They're not trying to be nosey. Bank employees are trained to protect their customers and the tellers in the Eagle area have helped a number of their clients from being taken advantage of by this latest trick. If you get a suspicious check in the mail and you just can't bring yourself to shred it, (and you should) take it to whatever bank you do business with. Give the check and the letter to any one of the tellers or branch supervisors and they'll let you know if it's legitimate.

Midnight Garage Sale

Officer York has worked a number of third shift tours this summer and into autumn. Third shift is generally 11:00 pm to 5:00 am. He has seen more than a few garage doors open overnight and he's asked me to ask our residents to close up shop before they hit the pillow. We almost never have incidents of theft while an officer is on duty during hours of darkness in Eagle but we do get a few theft complaints when we don't have an officer scheduled to work those hours.

No doubt you've heard the saying "locks keep honest people out." There's some truth to that adage and when the lock is not "on" or the door isn't closed, the less than honest become more than tempted. Eagle is a great place to live and our crime is low. Help us keep crime statistics to a minimum. If we can make stealing difficult the would-be criminal will move along to some other area and you'll sleep better with the knowledge that you're not hosting an "after hours sale."

EPD Has a New Address

No, we haven't moved but we have a new www address. We've put together an Eagle Police website. It's under construction and it's running live while we build it. We would greatly appreciate your review and evaluation. Give the site a visit at www.eaglepolicedepartment.com

Statues Revealed

I enjoy stumbling on strange, whacky or humorous State of Wisconsin statutes and when I do I earmark them for the newsletter.

Wisconsin Statue 943.49 states in part: "No person may operate a recording device in a motion picture theater without written consent from the theater owner or a person authorized by the theater owner to provide written consent."

The statute goes on to grant any adult theater employee the authority to detain, for a reasonable period of time and in a

reasonable manner, anyone suspected of violating the statute. The detained party must be turned over to a peace officer or to a parent or legal guardian in the case of a minor.

I've never seen a bootlegged movie but I would imagine the cost of an illegal reproduction is only a few dollars less than the real McCoy. Given the probability of hearing the bootlegger's seatmate crunching on buttered popcorn would prevent most anyone from trying to save three or four bucks wouldn't it?

Are the kids working the snack counter at theaters actually trained in the pursuit, apprehension and detention of "recording device" violators? Do they have badges or would they just identify themselves with an official box of Jujubes?

I can just hear the prison cell conversation, something like this.
Inmate #1: "I'm in for murder. What are you in for?"

Inmate #2: "Robbed a couple banks how about you?"

Inmate #3: "Grand theft auto and kidnapping, you?"

Inmate #4: "Busted at Marcus recording The Little Mermaid."

As always we look forward to your comments and suggestions. We encourage you to contact any of us at the police department. You can reach us by mail, phone or email.

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