

JANUARY 2021



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

Happy New Year! Each new year brings with it celebrations, excitement, and opportunity. Unfortunately, we can also count on con artists to come up with new scams that may hurt you and your loved ones. This edition of the Community Newsletter features tips on how to spot and avoid imposter scams as well as information about National Train Your Dog Month, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Month and National Mentoring Month. We hope you will share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors.

HOW TO SPOT, AVOID AND REPORT IMPOSTER SCAMS

Imposter scams often begin with a call, text message, or email. The scams may vary, but work the same way – a scammer pretends to be someone you trust to convince you to send them money or share personal information.

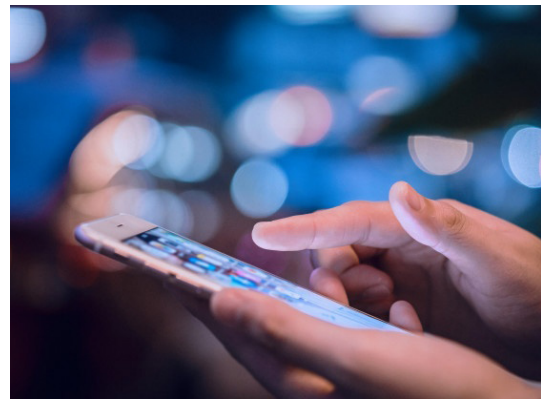
Scammers may ask you to transfer money from your bank, wire money using a company like Western Union or MoneyGram, put money on a gift card, or send cryptocurrency, because they know these types of payments can be hard to reverse. Scammers call, email, or text and claim to be:

- **A family member** (or someone acting for them), saying your relative is sick, has been arrested, or is in serious trouble and needs money right away.
- **From Social Security**, claiming that COVID-19-related office closures mean your benefits have been suspended.
- **From your bank**, claiming they need to verify personal information before they can send you a new debit or credit card.

Follow these tips to help protect your money and personal information:

- **Be suspicious of any call from a government agency asking for money or information.** Government agencies don't use threats and they don't call you with promises of – or demands for – money.
- **Don't trust caller ID** – it can be faked.
- **Never pay with a gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency** to anyone who tells you to.
- **Check with the real agency, person, or company.** Don't use the phone number they give you. Look it up yourself.

If you spot an imposter scam, report it to the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). Your report can help the FTC's investigators identify and stop imposters.



Tipsters can call Raleigh CrimeStoppers at (919) 834-HELP or visit raleighcrimestoppers.org for text and email reporting options. CrimeStoppers pays cash rewards for anonymous tips that help solve cases.



LEARN WAYS TO PROPERLY TRAIN YOUR DOG

Sit, stay, roll over—while not every canine can be a show dog, every pup can benefit from proper training. And since January is National Train Your Dog Month, it's the perfect time for owners to try their hand at some commands.

During the month of January, we are featuring our Animal Control Officers in a series of videos that provide tips on how you can train your canine friend. Subscribe to our videos on [YouTube](#) or you find them on the following YouTube [playlist](#).



RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In 2012, President Obama designated January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month, with January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.



Many of the anti trafficking organizations arrange awareness raising campaigns all year round, but particularly in January when this awareness day is recognized and publicity is at its peak. It is important to know the signs of human trafficking and who you can contact should your suspicions be raised.

Throughout the month, the RPD is providing information on what human trafficking looks like and who it can affect on our social media channels. You can also find the full [playlist](#) on YouTube.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

National Mentoring Month is an annual designation observed in January. This month, focus on how we can all work together to increase the number of mentors to make sure young people in our communities have dependable people to look up to and follow in their footsteps. NMM celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

- Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms.
- Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people.
- Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

HOW TO OBSERVE

- Look into a mentor program to see how it can benefit you – and how you can benefit it – and use #National-MentoringMonth to post on social media.

