The Village Of Larchmont Police Department

Senior Crime

Helping Seniors Protect Themselves
Targets:

Scam artists assume seniors are unaware of potential harms or overly trusting of strangers.

But often the exploitation or harm is preventable if the would-be victim is educated and well-informed about the latest techniques used by those who would victimize our seniors.
General Safety Concerns

When You Are Home Alone:
- Beware of strangers at your door, requesting to come inside your residence.
- Never let a stranger in, even to use the telephone.

Telephone / Computer Solicitation Scams

These things happen all of the time, to everyone, but thieves and scam artists target who they think are the most vulnerable.
Scam Patterns

“Grandchild in Jail”
In this scam, the caller will claim to be a friend or relative that got into trouble or was involved in an accident in another country and needs money to get out of jail. In some cases the scammer will tell the victim they are a police officer and their grandchild has been arrested and needs to have money sent to them for bail. The scammer will require that a Gift Card be purchased at a local pharmacy chain or Home Depot and the card number must be provided to the caller. Victims have also been required to send money via Western Union MoneyGram.
"IRS Tax Warrant"

The caller will claim to be an agent or police officer from the Internal Revenue Service calling about a past due tax balance that is owed. The caller will tell the victim that unless the debt is paid immediately, they will send a team to the victim’s home to immediately arrest them. The scammer will also request that the “IRS Tax Warrant” be paid with Gift Card or Western Union MoneyGram.
“Delinquent Con Edison Bill“

The caller will claim to be a representative of Con Edison. In some cases the scammer has the victim’s correct Con Edison Account Number. The scammer will then advise the resident that their Con Edison bill is past due and must be paid immediately to avoid termination of service.

Investigation has determined that the suspects committing these crimes have often obtained personal information via Facebook, Instagram or other social media.

Residents are reminded that no government agency will ever demand a fine be paid via Western Union or pre-paid debit card.
“ATM/Distraction Scam“

The targeted victim will go into an ATM vestibule and insert their bank card. After entering their PIN, a stranger will come up behind them and place a couple of dollar bills on the ground. The scammer will then tap them on the shoulder, informing them that they seemingly dropped some cash.

As the victim goes down to pick up the cash, the scammer reaches into the ATM and switches the bank card with a dummy card. They will then take off with that card and use it elsewhere, thereby stealing the victim's money.

This can also happen while entering your vehicle after completing a bank transaction where the scammer has an accomplice that takes your pocket book or contents in the pocket book.
Check Washing

Holiday Time? Birthdays?
-Sending out a card with to a loved one celebrating an accomplishment, holiday or birthday?

Please be aware of check washing.

Scammers will fish a check out of a mall box and re-issue the check out for a larger dollar amount for themselves.

Try to change over to online banking
Additional Safety Facts

Secure Your Personal Items

Lock your car doors at any time of the day/night when you are not operating your vehicle

Do not leave valuable items in vehicles unattended

Lock your bicycles
Questions

Non- Emergency Lines

Larchmont Police Department- (914)-834-1000

Town Of Mamaroneck Police Department- (914)- 381-6100

Village Of Mamaroneck Police Department (914)- 777-1122