

The Waite Hill Police Beat



May – July 2018

Hello to all residents.

Now that spring is “almost” here, we have to remember to take care with pedestrian traffic. Our Village has had an increase of bicyclists and joggers over the years. There have been a few incidents with bicycle crashes and near misses of pedestrians versus vehicles. We are trying to be diligent with the speeding vehicles on our roadways, contact us with any areas of concern that you may have.

Lt. Brian Beaumier is currently attending the FBI National Academy for a ten week program which involves extensive academics and physical training. We are very fortunate to be able to have an officer attend this very prestigious training. Only one-and-a-half percent of officers from the United States and several other countries are able to attend. Brian is the second officer that has been able to attend from our department. I was able to attend back in 2004. The focus of this type of training involves leadership, management skills, and most importantly networking capabilities. The FBI does pay for all of the training.

Village Events

Unfortunately, we will not be having a Memorial Day Tribute this year due to many conflicts with scheduling.

We are currently planning a combination of a summer picnic and car show for this year. Any resident may come with a classic vehicle or motorcycle, sports car, hot rod, or whatever you may want to bring. Of course if you do not have a vehicle of this type you certainly are still welcome to come to the picnic. We are in the planning stages so if you have any suggestions please contact me at 440-942-6279.

Coyotes

A few residents have been reporting coyote sightings during the middle of the day and are concerned for their safety. I spoke with a representative from Ohio Department of Natural Resources who responded with the following: Coyotes are rarely dangerous to people. The key to living with coyotes is remembering that they are naturally afraid of people. The most effective way to prevent a bad encounter with a coyote is to reinforce this natural fear through your behavior. If a coyote is seen in its natural habitat, it is fine to watch it from a distance. Coyotes are often seen in neighborhoods near natural areas. Never approach a coyote, let your dog approach it, or feed it. If you are approached by a coyote, or it comes into your yard, scare it away by shouting at it and waving your arms over your head. Using an air horn or whistle will also help scare coyotes away. These actions will reinforce the coyote’s natural fear of people and teach it that your yard is not available territory. I have also included the following website for further information on coyotes. Our coyote population is under control and we are keeping a close eye on it.

<http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/mammals/coyote>

AG Warns of Tax Scams

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine is warning Ohioans to avoid scams this tax season. Since January, the Attorney General’s Office has received about 190 reports of tax-related scams.

“Con artists are very good at what they do,” DeWine said in a statement. “They rely on scare tactics and surprise. When people get scared, they do irrational things. That’s why we want people to know the warning signs. Awareness can make all the difference.”

Common tax scams include the following:

- IRS impostor scams. This is the most common tax scam reported to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. It generally

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begins with a phone call claiming you owe back taxes or that a warrant has been issued for your arrest. You're told to call a certain number immediately, and eventually, you're asked to send money or to provide personal information to resolve the supposed problem.

- W-2 phishing scams. This scam targets employers and payroll employees. Typically, an HR or payroll employee receives an email that appears to come from the boss or the head of the organization. The email instructs the employee to send all employees' W-2s. Although the email may appear to be legitimate, it's actually part of a phishing scam. (The IRS warned that this scam surged in 2017 and encouraged employers to report any W-2 thefts immediately to the IRS.)

- Tax identity theft. Tax identity theft generally occurs when someone steals personal information to file a tax return and fraudulently obtain the refund. This year, there are extra concerns about tax identity theft because of data breaches that have exposed individuals' Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

Tips to avoid tax scams include:

- File the tax return promptly. This makes it less likely that an impostor will be able to file a tax return in your name to steal your refund.

- Don't respond to threatening robo calls. If you receive an unexpected phone call from someone who threatens to arrest you for not paying taxes, it's probably a scam. Don't respond to the call, and don't provide payment or personal information over the phone.

- Don't pay taxes using gift cards. In IRS impostor scams, con artists often ask people to buy gift cards and then read the card numbers over the phone. Using this information, the con artists drain funds from the card, making it difficult to trace or recover the money. The real IRS won't demand that you pay over the phone using a gift card.

- Protect personal information. If you file your taxes online, make sure you use a secure Internet connection. If you file by mail, take your completed return directly to the post office. Keep sensitive documents in a secure place. Before getting rid of any unneeded documents that contain a Social Security number or other sensitive information, shred them.

- Research tax preparers and tax-preparation companies. Before giving out any personal records or information, check a tax preparer's credentials. For example, review information in the IRS's directory of federal tax return preparers. Consider asking trusted friends and family for referrals.

- Watch out for phishing scams. Be wary of email messages that appear to come from your boss, financial advisor, or bank and ask you to provide personal information. The message may be part of a phishing scam.

Consumers who want help detecting a potential scam should contact the Ohio Attorney General's Office at www.OhioProtects.org or 800-282-0515. IRS or U.S. Treasury impersonation scams can be reported to the U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at www.treasury.gov/tigta or 800-366-4484. Tax identity theft should be reported to the IRS (for federal taxes) and the Ohio Department of Taxation (for state taxes).

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Please remember, if you notice anything that does not look right or looks suspicious, please contact us. The best way to reach an officer is through the dispatcher at 440-942-1660. If it is an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

The Waite Hill Village Police Department, as always, looks forward to serving the community. Your safety and security is always our concern!

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A. DeWitt, Chief of Police