

November 4, 2015

***IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES***

Following a question raised at the October 22, 2015, Open Meeting, Board member Rose Mary Colombo visited the Washington Township Police Department. She was treated with respect and given full attention by a ranking police officer at that time, as well as having a second ranking police officer visit her home shortly thereafter. As a result, we have been provided with the attached safety and scam information.

We have also been assured there will be police patrols in Heatherwood on a more frequent and regular basis. While there have been no known recent occurrences of a criminal nature, as good citizens and good neighbors we should all subscribe to the frequently repeated adage of "See something, say something." Obviously it is understood that "say something" should be directly to the police department and not to the Board of Trustees or other neighbors.



## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE

1 McClure Drive • Sewell, New Jersey 08080 • (856) 589-6650



To the Heatherwood Community Residents,

It has come to our attention that some of the residents are concerned about keeping their neighbors safe from crime and telephone scams. Due to this concern, below you will find tips to keep you and your neighbors safe.

### **Keeping Your Neighborhood Safe**

- Utilize exterior lighting on your house during lowlight hours.
- Do not open your door for people you are unfamiliar with.
- Do not provide any information as to when your residence is occupied to anyone you do not know and trust.
- Stay in contact with your neighbors.
- Report any suspicious activity to us. If it is not an emergency, call the Washington Township Police Department's non-emergency line at 856-256-1212.

### **Avoid Becoming a Victim of a Telephone Scam**

The following information was obtained for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) website:

There are warning signs to these scams. If you hear these—or similar—"lines" from a telephone salesperson, just say "no thank you," and hang up the telephone:

- "You must act now, or the offer won't be good."
- "You've won a free gift, vacation, or prize." But you have to pay for "postage and handling" or other charges.
- "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- "You don't need to check out the company with anyone." The callers say you do not need to speak to anyone, including your family, lawyer, accountant, local Better Business Bureau, or consumer protection agency.
- "You don't need any written information about the company or its references."
- "You can't afford to miss this high-profit, no-risk offer."

For additional information on telephone scams, visit <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud>. In addition, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

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