



VALLEY PARK POLICE

A St Louis County Police Partnership

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2024

The Valley Park City Hall is moving. The new City Hall will open for business on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 8:00 am.
55 CRESCENT AVE.
VALLEY PARK, MO 63088
(636) 225-5171
www.valleyparkmo.org



The St. Louis County Police Department's, Valley Park Detail, will remain located at the rear of the old City Hall at 320 Benton Street.

How often do you monitor your child's social media accounts/online activity?

Technology is unavoidable and online access has its positive and negative affects on our children. The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program encourages the "S.M.A.R.T." approach to monitoring your child's online activity.

#9PM Routine

- ✓ Cars Locked?
- ✓ Garage Closed?
- ✓ Windows Shut?
- ✓ Doors Secured?

Don't be an easy Target. Do the #9PMRoutine

S.M.A.R.T.

PARENTING TIPS FOR ONLINE SAFETY

Set-up: Devices/Accounts/Passwords
Monitor: Online Use/Connections
Approve: Apps/Games
Restrict: Content/Permissions
Talk: #StartTheConversation/Teach

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, clocks are set forward 1 hour to "spring forward." The time change will move sunrise and sunset about 1 hour later starting March 10, which means more light in the evening.

ICAC Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program
WWW.ICACTASKFORCE.ORG
INFO@ICACTASKFORCE.ORG

Walk This Way

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS



Keep your phone down and your head up. Remove ear buds and listen for traffic.



Always obey traffic signals and use the crosswalk



DO NOT cross mid-block. Always be aware of on-coming traffic.



Wear bright or reflective clothing at night



THINK TWO STEPS AHEAD - STAY ALERT - USE CROSSWALKS



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AVOIDING TAX SCAMS



With tax season in full swing, we would like to remind you about scammers claiming to be from the I.R.S. demanding money from you.

Common phone, text message & e-mail scams:

- Scammers aggressively target taxpayers and may use threats of arrest or seizure of your property and assets. Some calls have even threatened a “lawsuit” against the taxpayer.
- Scammers will claim to be employees of the I.R.S.
- They may use false names and fake I.R.S. Id or badge numbers to deceive you, and might mask their phone number, making the call appear authentic.
- Victims are often told they owe money to the I.R.S., which must be paid immediately through a prepaid debit card, gift card, or wire transfer.
- Victims might even be told they have a refund due to persuade them into providing personal and/or financial account information.

Remember, the I.R.S. will NEVER:

- Call you by phone and demand immediate payment. They will send you official written correspondence by mail.
- Have you utilize a prepaid debit card number, gift card, or wire transfer for payment.
- Ask you for a debit or credit card number, or any other personal or financial information over the phone.
- Threaten you with incarceration or other law enforcement action.

If you receive these calls, text messages or emails, do not respond to them. Call the I.R.S. directly at (800) 829-1040. If you have fallen victim to one of these scams, go to www.tigta.gov and click the “Report a Crime” tab. You should also report the incoming phone number on the Federal Trade Commission “Do Not Call” registry complaint website: complaints.donotcall.gov

HOW TO AVOID TAX SCAMS

FILE EARLY

Doing so ensures that scammers can’t file a tax return on your behalf, thus further lessening your exposure to fraud.

MIND WHERE YOU SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Data is currency for cybercriminals; treat your personal data the same way. Cybercriminals can use digital copies of your tax returns and even seemingly simple information like an email address to make a profit.

THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Be aware of red flags in socially engineered phishing emails, calls or text messages pretending to be from the IRS demanding immediate payment or requesting personal data or tax records.

PRACTICE SECURITY HYGIENE

Use strong passwords and enable multifactor authentication to secure your online accounts. The IRS also issues an Identity Protection PIN to eligible taxpayers to help prevent abuse of their Social Security numbers. Regularly monitor your credit report for anomalous changes.

USE SECURITY SOFTWARE

Protect yourself from phishing and malware by using a security solution that can promptly block them. Regularly update your security software, operating system, and applications.

**Fraud
Alert**

**Beware of Tax
Related Scams**

