



# RIVER FOREST CRIME PREVENTION UNIT COMMUNITY ALERT BULLETIN



INFORMATION OF INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY



## Mail Fraud and Scams



The River Forest Police Department has recently received reports of mail scams in our area. The letter types vary: they may contain a bogus check, an exciting offer or even an intimidating threat. The common theme: the sender is trying to get you to reply with your personal information or your hard earned money.

### What to Look for?

- A request to “Confirm personal information.”
- A request for payment other than by credit card — gift cards, wire transfers, cash.
- A claim that you have been specially selected or won a sweepstakes.
- Poor grammar and/or writing inconsistent with a supposedly “official” business or government letter.
- Use of threats or arrest if you don’t comply.

### What Preventative Steps Can I Take?

There are a variety of resources available online which can help you educate yourself, remove your name from mailing lists and generally protect your personal information:

- [Consumerfinance.gov](http://Consumerfinance.gov) - [illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov) - [uspis.gov](http://uspis.gov) (Postal Inspector) - [usa.gov](http://usa.gov) (Federal Trade Commission)

Opt out of mail lists at places such as:

- your bank/credit card company - [thedma.org](http://thedma.org) - [optoutprescreen.com](http://optoutprescreen.com)

### What if I Receive Suspicious Mail?

Do not attempt to contact the sender. Do not send money or disclose personal information. You can dispose of the letter (or keep for your own records). Call RFPD if you have questions or need additional resources at 708-366-7125.