

Hello everyone,

The following is from Westerville Police Department that was sent out to their residents earlier today. Since we share borders with them, it is likely that we could see this activity as well. If you have any questions, please do not respond to this email, but you can contact me at [mrhiehl@genoatwp.com](mailto:mrhiehl@genoatwp.com).

Over the past several days, individuals have reported several scams to the police department. These scams involve older adults in the community receiving phone calls from people claiming to be associated with organizations like Publishers Clearing House. The people conducting the scams will inform the residents that they have won a jackpot or some other prize to draw residence interest . The caller will then tell the citizen, for tax purposes that in order for them to claim their prize, one must send them money via mail/wire or send visa gift cards in the mail. In the most recent cases the mailing addresses were located in Florida and New York.

Please treat any unexpected correspondence whether by mail, email, or telephone as suspicious. Below are a few tips for avoiding phone scams:

- Scammers want to remain anonymous. If you receive a call from an unknown number, do not answer. Call the number back once your phone has stopped ringing. If the number is unavailable the chances are it was a scam.
- Listen to the callers voice. Individuals involved in a phone scam will try to hide their natural voice or talk fast to confuse the listener.
- Ask for a mailing address, website, business name, tax I.D. number or call back number if it is something that might be of interest. Take your time to make your decision, scammers will often try to rush you into handing over your money.
- Check on older adults. Many times they are just looking for someone to talk to thus making them an easy target for these scammers.
- Contact your local [Better Business Bureau](#) if you have any questions or suspicions about a potential scam.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it more than likely is.



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*"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired"*