

BUSINESS CRIME WATCH

BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Scam spotted thanks to a clever store clerk

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You're going about your normal day at work when, suddenly, there's a call that looks like it's from your electric company. That's what the caller ID shows, and what the person on the line says. The voice on the line tells you that, because of late payments, the power to your business is about to be cut off. Without power, you can't keep your business running, so that's an emergency. Or is it?

The next line of the story tells you that this is not an emergency at all. Instead, it's a straight-up scam. Because the caller next tells you to go to the store right away and buy a cash reload card. And the caller wants the card's PIN code – which, of course, means the money is gone right away. But no legitimate business – and certainly no legitimate power company – will ever demand that you pay with cash reload cards like MoneyPak, Reloadit or Vanilla Reload. Or insist that you pay with a gift card or by wiring money.

Luckily, several people who've reported this scam to the FTC figured out it was a scam before they sent the money. At least one uncovered it thanks to a store clerk who spotted the scam for what it was and stopped the transaction in its tracks. But give everybody you know these reminders, whether you're at home or at work:

- Caller ID can be faked, so the person on the phone is not always who caller ID says it is.
- Never wire money, put money on a cash reload card or gift card and give the PIN code to anyone who asks you to. The person who insists on one of those forms of payment is scamming you, so tell the FTC about them.
- If someone threatens to cut off your power, get off the phone, look up the real power company number, and check with them before you do anything.

And, maybe, the next time you see an attentive clerk at the store, thank them for having your back.

INDEPENDENCE BRIDGE CLOSED TO VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

During the construction on Independence Bridge (January - March), the bridge is closed to both pedestrians and vehicles. This project includes replacement of the bascule span deck grating, span stringers, and sidewalks. Due to the nature of the work, it is unsafe for pedestrians to cross the bridge. Pedestrian traffic should use the same detour as vehicular traffic. The detour follows Marquette and Woodside to cross the Saginaw River over the Liberty Bridge.

Investigation of Multiple Robberies

On Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 7:31am, Bay County Central Dispatch sent officers from the Bay City Department of Public Safety to King's Party Store at 1029 S Madison Ave, for a report that a subject attempted to rob the store. The suspect left after not getting any money and went to McDonald's at 2200 Broadway Ave. There, he demanded money from an employee and left after getting a sum of money. The suspect began running from the scene after seeing a responding officer. A short foot chase ensued after which the suspect was arrested with the money from McDonald's recovered from him.

The night prior, Monday, January 29, 2018 at 11:32pm, the 7-11 store at 1510 Kosciuszko Ave was robbed by the same suspect, who went in and demanded money. Upon leaving the store, he stole a vehicle that had been running in the parking lot which was later recovered. Officers conducting that investigation were able to develop a suspect, who was the same person who committed the morning robberies. No weapons were seen in any of the incidents and no one was injured.

The suspect, a 34 year old Bay City resident, was interviewed and lodged in the Bay County Jail on Robbery, Vehicle Theft, and Resisting and Obstructing Police charges.

A Citizen's Guide to Cold Weather Practices

Help prevent storm water pollution this winter!

Winter brings with it lots of fun activities, like sledding, ice skating and skiing. But winter also means mounds of snow to shovel and layers of ice to remove from our sidewalks and driveways. We often make the job easier by applying deicers like salt. Besides sodium chloride, many deicers also contain chemicals like cyanide. When ice melts, the salts and chemicals dissolve and flow into street drains that lead directly to the river, endangering aquatic life. Here are a few tips to reduce salt use and prevent pollution year-round.

Below are some approaches to reducing storm water pollution from household salt:

1. Try an Alternative

Calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) was developed as a deicing alternative because it has fewer adverse environmental impacts than salt and doesn't cause erosion.

2. Reduce Your Salt Use

By limiting the amount of salt we use on sidewalks and driveways, we can reduce the amount of polluted storm water washing into our waterways. One 50 lb. bag of salt can pollute 10,000 gallons of water. Using less salt at home will help protect water in your neighborhood and save money.

3. Use De-icing Products Based On Winter Conditions

When applying a deicer to your sidewalk, think about the air temperature, potential for sun exposure, and how much product you'll need. Remember to follow label directions carefully and use products sparingly. It's easy to over apply deicers, but applying more than you need won't melt your ice any faster.

- For Dry, Powdery Snow: Shovel or sweep snow immediately to avoid using deicer.
- For Wet, Heavy Snow: Apply deicer product as soon as snow begins falling in order to prevent it from bonding.
- For Sleet & Freezing Rain: Apply deicer product early on during these conditions to prevent ice from building up.
- For Significant Snowfall: When more than two inches of snow falls, plow or shovel first and then use a deicing product to melt any underlying layers of ice that have built up due to packed down snow.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

- [Charter Commission Meeting](#)
February 13, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM @ Conference Room 306
- [Zoning Board of Appeals](#)
February 13, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [Historic District Commission](#)
February 14, 2018, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [Charter Commission Meeting](#)
February 27, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM @ Conference Room 306

City Commission

- [Special Finance Policy Meeting @ 10:00 am](#)
February 5, 2018, 10:00 AM - 11:59 AM @ Doubletree by Hilton Bay City - Riverfront
- [Finance Policy Meeting 2/5/18 @ 6:30](#)
February 5, 2018, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM @ Commission Chambers
- [City Commission Meeting](#)
February 5, 2018, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- [Finance Policy Meeting 2/19/18 @ 6:30](#)
February 19, 2018, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
- [City Commission Meeting](#)
February 19, 2018, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
- [Special Finance Policy Meeting](#)
February 26, 2018, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ Conference Room 317
Special Finance Policy meeting to review the City goals established by City Commission.

Community Development Block Grant/CDCs

- [Midland/Salzburg Citizens District Council](#)
February 15, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM @ Bay County Community Center
- [South End Citizens District Council](#)
February 15, 2018, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM @ Bay County Child & Senior Center
- [Columbus Avenue Citizens District Council Meeting](#)
February 21, 2018, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ Conference Room 306
- [Northwest Citizens District Council](#)
February 21, 2018, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ Linsday School
- [Northeast Citizens District Council](#)
February 28, 2018, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ Conference Room 317

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

During the month of January, the Bay City Department of Public Safety handled the following calls:

- Responded to or self-initiated 1750 law enforcement related incidents
- Made 355 traffic stops
- Wrote 228 reports
- Took 88 traffic crash reports

For more information on what is happening in your neighborhood, go to www.crimemapping.com

QUALITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

You don't always hear about the community service work our officers do. Here are a few instances where our officers went above and beyond to help out the residents of Bay City.

On December 3rd, an officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation to find that the vehicle was just purchased and not operating properly. The officer found that the battery was corroded so he purchased Coca Cola to clean the battery terminal. The driver was extremely thankful for the service provided by the officer.

On December 11th, an officer found a motorist with vehicle trouble so he helped push the vehicle out of a busy intersection.

On December 12th, officers were dispatched to an 84 year old overdue motorist who suffered from dementia and diabetes. The subject was missing for several hours and had no cell phone. A BOLO was broadcast and an officer located the driver on the east side of the city, several miles from home. The elderly resident was

confused but turned over to their family. The family was grateful for the help provided in bringing their loved one home safe and sound.

On December 21st, an officer saw three grocery carts in the middle of the road that belonged to Save A Lot. The officer returned the carts, which were a block away, back to the store

January Reports:

01/01 - Retail fraud complaint at a west side gas station. Cigarettes & lotto tickets stolen. Suspect was identified from video and a warrant sought for his arrest.

01/09 - Retail fraud of beer from an East side convenience store. Suspect is a B/M, 20's, short & skinny, suspect vehicle is a black G2.

01/09 - Larceny of money from a west side restaurant. Unknown suspect.

01/11 - Armed Robbery of an east side bar in the south end. Occurred at approximately 0900 hours. Money was stolen, suspect showed victim a handgun in his waistband. Suspect is W/M, unknown age, approximately 5'7", 130 pounds. Suspect was wearing gloves & ski mask.

01/15 - Retail fraud at an east side gas station. Occurred at approximately 2200 hours. Cigarettes were stolen by an unknown B/M & a female accomplice. A warrant is being sought on the female.

01/18 - Retail fraud at a west side convenience store. Occurred at approximately 1541 hours. Cigarette related items were stolen by an unknown W/F, early 20's, with dark hair.

01/18 - Retail fraud at a south end grocery store. Two females were caught by a responding officer leaving the area on foot. Warrants are being sought.

01/21 - Retail fraud at a west side convenience store. An unknown W/M, mustache, with dark hair wearing a dark blue robe with a tan coat on over it and driving a tan Olds Alero stole a lotto ticket.

01/23 - Burglary of a south end bar between 0300 hrs & 0700 hrs. A window was broken to gain entry. Approximately \$3,000 was stolen. Case is under investigation.

01/29 - Armed Robbery of south end convenience store. Suspect is W/M, grey coat, red neck warmer used as a mask, orange stocking cap. Suspect stole money then stole a vehicle from the parking lot.

01/30 - Attempted Armed Robbery of a south end convenience store. Suspect was identified by a witness.

01/30 - Armed Robbery of a south end restaurant. Suspect fled the scene on foot and was captured after a short foot chase by responding officers. Suspect was lodged on several charges.





SAVE THE DATE



**Tuesday August 7th
5pm – 8pm**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

This year's event will be held at
1 East Main Street in Uptown Bay City

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW