



SCAM

To: Tewksbury Township Seniors

From: Kathy Reddy, Senior Corner

IRS Phone Scams on the rise as Tax Season Begins

N.J. residents lose \$660K to IRS phone scam, seventh highest in nation

With tax season under way, the IRS and police departments across the state are again warning people to hang up on anyone claiming they're from IRS and demanding immediate payment. In recent days, police have been reporting an increase in the number of residents who have found themselves on the end of a scam call. **"Don't be fooled by callers pretending to be from the IRS in an attempt to steal your money."**

The IRS doesn't call to demand immediate payment. If taxes are owed, you would have first received a bill in the mail. **The agency also doesn't ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone, require payment using a specific method or threaten to send local police to have you arrested for not paying.**

The callers "are smooth talkers" who "frighten people into thinking that the IRS will be coming to arrest them."

Once the money is sent, it's too late. Many of these scammers are overseas, and many are hard to trace, so we focus on prevention. "These scams are supposed to create a sense of panic and urgency and they are just trying to get that call back."

Residents are reminded to never call the phone number the scammers leave, since this just makes you a target for more of these calls. When the taxpayer returns the call, the conversation quickly escalates to threats of imminent arrest, deportation or suspension of driver's license unless a payment of thousands of dollars is made immediately.

If someone calls you claiming you owe back taxes:

- Terminate the call
- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, **call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040**
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 or online at www.tigta.gov