

OGUNQUIT POLICE DEPARTMENT



POLICE NEWSLETTER



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CHIEF'S MESSAGE

PUBLIC SAFETY AWARENESS SEMINAR



The Ogunquit Police & Fire Departments will present issues with carbon monoxide, furnaces, house numbering, security systems, calling 911, and more. Discount coupons will be given out to purchase carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors at reduced rates at Eldridge Lumber & Hardware in York, ME.

Chief Patricia Arnaudin

Thursday, November 19th

10:00am to 12:00pm

Dunaway Center

(upstairs)

“NIGERIAN LETTER” OR “419” SCAM

In recent years, the Ogunquit Police Department has investigated an increasing number of financial scams being perpetrated against town residents and businesses. One of the most common scams is known as the “Nigerian Letter” or “419.” This department’s aim is to prevent any further loss due to fraud. Despite this police department having some success in returning scammed funds, this is very rare. The vast majority of those who are scammed will never have their lost funds returned. Below is information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation about this type of scam and how to prevent being defrauded.

Nigerian letter frauds combine the threat of impersonation fraud with a variation of an advance fee scheme in which a letter, mailed from Nigeria, offers the recipient the "opportunity" to share in a percentage of millions of dollars that the author, a self-proclaimed government official, is trying to transfer illegally out of Nigeria. The recipient is encouraged to send information to the author, such as blank letterhead stationery, bank name and account numbers and other identifying information using a facsimile number provided in the letter. Some of these letters have also been received via E-mail through the Internet. The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a "propensity for larceny" by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons.

Payment of taxes, bribes to government officials, and legal fees are often described in great detail with the promise that all expenses will be reimbursed as soon as the funds are spirited out of Nigeria. In actuality, the millions of dollars do not exist and the victim eventually ends up with nothing but loss. Once the victim stops sending money, the perpetrators have been known to use the personal information and checks that they received to impersonate the victim, draining bank accounts and credit card balances until the victim's assets are taken in their entirety. While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually. Some victims have been lured to Nigeria, where they have been imprisoned against their will, in addition to losing large sums of money. The Nigerian government is not sympathetic to victims of these schemes, since the victim actually conspires to remove funds from Nigeria in a manner that is contrary to Nigerian law. The schemes themselves violate section 419 of the Nigerian criminal code, hence the label "419 fraud."

Some Tips to Avoid “Nigerian Letter” or "419" Fraud:

If you receive a letter from Nigeria asking you to send personal or banking information, do not reply in any manner.

- Send the letter to the U.S. Secret Service, your local FBI office, or the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. You can also register a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission’s Consumer Sentinel.
- If you know someone who is corresponding in one of these schemes, encourage that person to contact the FBI or the U.S. Secret Service as soon as possible.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as Nigerian or foreign government officials asking for your help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts.
- Do not believe the promise of large sums of money for your cooperation.
- Guard your account information carefully.

(FBI, 2009)



OGUNQUIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

20 Cottage Street
Ogunquit, ME 03907

Emergency: 911

Dispatch: 207-646-9361
Office: 207-646-9362
Fax: 207-646-5761

Town Info

Fire Dept.....207-646-4947
Transfer Station.....207-646-0478
Land Use Dept.....207-646-9326
Town Clerk.....207-646-9546

Become a Fan of the
Ogunquit Police Department on



PROJECT GOOD MORNING

Just a reminder: Our *Project Good Morning* program entails having members of our community check in by phone with the police department each morning. Should a participant in the program fail to check in for the day, an officer will be dispatched to their place of residence to check on their condition. If you would like to participate in the program, or know of someone you feel could benefit from the program, please contact Diane Moore or Sharma Damren at the police department by calling 207-646-9362.

OFFICER BIOGRAPHY

Sergeant Michael Faia

Sgt. Faia was hired by the Ogunquit Police Dept. as a Reserve Officer in June of 2002 and was hired Full-Time the following November, completing the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program in June of 2003. In August of 2006, he was promoted to the position of Sergeant. Sgt.

Faia is a 2001 graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, and a minor in Psychology. He was a member of the university's football team for 3 seasons. Sgt. Faia is an instructor for firearms, defensive tactics, and ASP baton. He is also certified as a Basic EMT

and Glock armorer. Sgt. Faia can be reached via e-mail at sgtfaia@maine.rr.com.



America's Community Information Service

Nixle is a service that allows you to receive trusted, up-to-the-minute neighborhood information.

Nixle is a service that allows you to receive trusted, **up-to-date neighborhood information for where you live, work, visit** – or for where your family and friends are located throughout the country. The service is at no cost to you. However, standard text messaging rates apply.

- You choose the information you want, for the locations you want, from urgent public safety alerts to less time sensitive advisories and community information.
- You choose how you want to receive the information, whether it is over your cell phone by text message, by email, or over the web.
- You stay connected to what is happening in the communities and the locations that are relevant to you!
- Registration is **SIMPLE, QUICK, and SECURE**.
- Sign up at WWW.NIXLE.COM

The Ogunquit Police Department and the Town of Ogunquit are now using the NIXLE service to provided rapid notifications to members of the community. If you have any questions regarding this service, please contact the police department at 207-646-9362.