



NEWS RELEASE

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MAIL LOTTERY SCAMS APPEAR IN LAKEPORT AREA

For further information contact Chief Kevin Burke.

Over the past week a number of Lake County residents have received letters telling them they have won substantial sums of money in various lotteries, such as the "British Random Lottery," or the "Northeast Winner's Circle Jackpot." These types of letters often included an official looking check and letterhead. Ultimately, the letters asked people to contact someone by telephone and/or ask them to provide money up front, supposedly as taxes or fees, in order to claim the large prize.

People should be reminded that virtually all letters such as these, whether they arrive in the mail, or by electronic means (e-mail), are scams. If someone actually sends the money asked for, they will not receive a prize. Additionally, some scams set up offshore telephone accounts that will legally bill at very exorbitant telephone rates when you contact the phone number listed in such a letter. Some victims end up in protracted battles with the telephone company over thousands of dollars in what are technically legal telephone charges. In the event someone becomes a victim of these scams, there is no recourse as the source of these scams is generally international.

Anyone receiving such a letter should not respond to it in any fashion. As a rule of thumb, if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Kevin Burke
Chief of Police