

NORTHEAST PRECINCT

Omaha Police Department

April 2021

POST COVID-19 VACCINE SURVEY SCAMS

Justice Department Warns About Fake Post-Vaccine Survey Scams

The Department of Justice has received reports that fraudsters are creating fraudulent COVID-19 vaccine surveys for consumers to fill out with the promise of a prize or cash at the conclusion of the survey. In reality, the surveys are used to steal money from consumers and unlawfully capture consumers' personal information.

Consumers receive the surveys via email and text message, and are told that, as a gift for filling out the survey, they can choose from various free prizes, such as an iPad Pro. The messages claim that the consumers need only pay shipping and handling fees to receive their prize. Victims provide their credit card information and are charged for shipping and handling fees, but never receive the promised prize. Victims also are exposing their personally identifiable information (PII) to scammers, thereby increasing the probability of identity theft.

Unless from a known and verified source, consumers should never click on links in text messages or emails claiming to be a vaccine survey.

Schemes that use links embedded in unsolicited text messages and emails in attempts to obtain personally identifiable information are commonly referred to as phishing schemes. Phishing messages may look like they come from government agencies, financial institutions, shipping companies, and social media companies, among many others. Carefully examine any message purporting to be from a company and do not click on a link in an unsolicited email or text message. Remember that companies generally do not contact you to ask for your username or password. When in doubt, contact the entity purportedly sending you the message, but do not rely on any contact information in the potentially fraudulent message.

If you receive a text message or email claiming to be a COVID-19 vaccine survey and containing a link or other contact information, please report the communication to the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF) by calling 866-720-5721 or via the NCDF Web Complaint Form at: www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud. Intellectual property crimes such as these also may be reported to federal law enforcement at the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) at <http://www.IPRCenter.gov>.

If you believe you may have entered information into a fraudulent website, you can find resources on how to protect your information at: www.identitytheft.gov.

To learn more about identifying and protecting yourself from phishing attempts, visit <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/how-recognize-and-avoid-phishing-scams> or <https://www.fbi.gov/scams-and-safety/common-scams-and-crimes/spoofing-and-phishing>.

Further information about major scams targeting American consumers can be found at the Justice Department's Transnational Elder Fraud Strike Force website: <https://www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch/transnational-elder-fraud-strike-force>.

This alert is provided by the IPR Center and the Consumer Protection Branch of the department's Civil Division.

For more information about the Consumer Protection Branch, visit <http://www.justice.gov/civil/consumer-protection-branch>.



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Police Response

The following precautions have been put in place and remain in place until further notice: **Precinct Front Desks** will be closed.

The Front Desk at Central Police Headquarters, 505 S. 15th St., will remain open (8a-4p)

Call Center is active. Citizens are encouraged to call **402.444.4877** for any **non-emergency reports**

Illegal Dumping and Littering Are Crimes!



If you see illegal dumping in your neighborhood, please contact the Mayor's Hotline at 402-444-5555 or download the Mayor's Hotline Mobile App for your smartphone and submit the complaint, along with a photo using the app.

You can download the "Mobile Omaha" app through Google Play and Apple App Store.

It works great for reporting all kinds of neighborhood problems.

Illegal dumping is another inexcusable crime that pollutes our land and violates the rights of others. This unhealthy and unsightly crime promotes the deterioration of neighborhoods and attracts criminal activity. There are many resources available to properly dispose of solid waste.

Areas used for illegal dumping may be easily accessible to people, especially children, who are vulnerable to sharp objects, hazardous chemicals, and many other health and safety hazards.

Illegal dumping is everybody's problem. Whether we pay directly or indirectly -- we all pay! Make a clean and healthy choice by pitching in to keep the community clean. Pitching in to keep your community clean means getting involved -- not standing by, but standing in.

Penalties for illegal dumping: Up to \$1,000 fine and six months in jail

Call 444-5555 to report illegal dumping.

*Provided by the City of Omaha's Environmental Quality News and Announcements

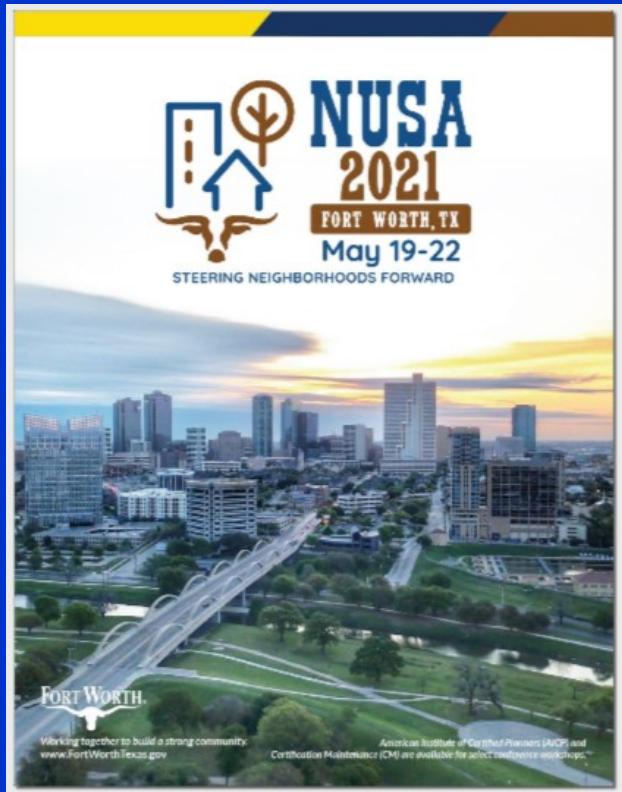


Get involved in your neighborhood spring clean-up! Call the Omaha Spring Cleanup Hotline at 402-444-4636 or contact Nick Chapman at nick.chapman@cityofomaha.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES



Capt. Williamson and Lt. Swanson met with representatives from the New Life Family Alliance.



For more information or to register, go to: <https://www.nusa.org/conferences/>

Clair Memorial United Methodist Church , 5544 Ames Avenue
The Clair Cares Food Pantry, every 3rd Saturday from
10am until 2pm

A screenshot of the Omaha Parks & Recreation April Newsletter. The header features a green and blue design with the text "OMAHA APRIL NEWSLETTER". Below the header, a large section is titled "SUMMER 2021 JOB OPPORTUNITIES OFFERING IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS". It lists two interview dates and times: "Sunday, April 11th, 2:00pm - 4:00pm" at Camelot Community Center - 9270 Cady Ave, and "Saturday, April 24th, 10:00am - 12:00pm" at Common Ground Community Center - 1701 Veterans Dr. The page also features circular icons for "GOLF", "RECREATION FACILITIES", "AQUATICS", "PARK MAINTENANCE", and "DAY CAMPS", each with a small image. At the bottom are two green buttons: "Apply Here!" and "Interview Timeslot".

To apply or for more information: go to
<https://hr.cityofomaha.org/employments>



Sgt. Malsam and Lt. Swanson have coffee with Miller Park/Minne Lusa residents.



NORTHEAST PRECINCT LATEST CRIME TRENDS



Capt. Keith Williamson

Hello community partners! I am the new Northeast Precinct Captain now that Captain Mark Matuza has changed assignments to the Northwest Precinct. I want to start by saying how excited I am to be back working in our precinct. I have worked here for the majority of my career as a patrol officer and sergeant and additionally as a Gang Unit sergeant and lieutenant. I look forward to working with all of our partners to ensure we have a safe and welcoming community for everyone.

The month of March saw an increase in theft of motor vehicle parts. Specifically, the thieves are targeting catalytic converters on vehicles. These parts are an exhaust emission control device and are located and accessed underneath your vehicles. They have to be cut out from the vehicle and thieves often use reciprocating saws or hacksaws. This can cause thousands of dollars worth of damage to a vehicle. Please look out for your friends and neighbors that cannot secure their vehicles in garages and call 911 if you see anything suspicious. If anyone has any information on these crimes please contact our Auto Theft Unit at 402-444-5590 or you can anonymously report information to Omaha Crime Stoppers at (402) 444-7867. Crime information resulting in an arrest is worth a reward.

Additionally, we saw an increase in individual robbery reports. Most of these victims were trying to sell or buy items using on-line apps. We strongly encourage anyone using these on-line apps to sell or buy anything, to please use well lit, public places, and have others with you. If something does not feel right, trust your instincts and cancel the transaction.

Finally, the warmer weather unfortunately can also bring an uptick in shots fired calls. These are dangerous incidents that have a serious effect on neighborhoods in our Precinct. I am pleased to report that Northeast officers made several arrests for shots fired incidents last month. Please continue to call 911 for any shots fired calls and do not assume our Shotspotter program will alert us. 911 calls are always preferred. We aggressively follow-up on shots fired calls looking for any suspects, victims or damaged property. Any evidence located we try to link to other crimes through investigative techniques.

Oftentimes, these are valuable pieces of information we can use to further other investigations or show a crime link. Gunfire should not be tolerated or dismissed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any crime related concerns or questions. Thank you and stay safe everyone.