



# CRIME PREVENTION TIP SHEET



This month's crime reduction tip deals with Fraud. We have to be mindful that Fraud exists in every manner and form here in Florida and across the country. There are many people that want to catch you at a weak moment. The Fake lottery scam seems to be rearing its ugly head once again. There will be an official notification where you will be told that you have won a major award of \$250,000 and when you call to check on this you get a very professional sounding person. This individual will take all the information from you and will lull you into a sense of false security. They will talk about your plans for the money and tell you how excited they are that you have won, by the time they get to asking you for the taxes and fee's in advance you are already fast friends. They want to make sure that they get all the information correct and caution you not to send cash as it might be stolen. They are very believable. I was talking to someone about fraud and how some people could fall for some things that to me seems very implausible and I was given this comparison: When you go to Disney World and get on the Pirates of the Caribbean ride you really get into the ride and by the time it is over you feel like a Pirate yourself and you really want to be involved, and that is how they get you. It does not feel like something bad, it feels like you are special and being part of something good, like winning a lot of money. Don't fall for it. If someone calls you and says have won a foreign lottery ask yourself a couple of questions such as:

Did you enter the lottery?  
Is the lottery legal?

If you did not enter any contests and the lottery is from another country it is probably not legal for you to win anyway. This scam gets people all caught up and excited and at the end of the day all they have for their efforts is lost money and cancelled checks. Once again if you get notified you have won, call the Crime Prevention Unit and speak with someone who knows about these type of lotteries and are able to advise you. The unfortunate thing is that most of the people who fall victim to these scams cannot afford the losses, but the bad guy does not care about your losses, he only cares about stealing from you. Have a safe month and avoid these scams.

**National Night Out** around the nation was August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a time when neighborhoods come together and celebrate an evening out with their neighbors. Night Out in Aventura will be recognized this year in October during National Crime Prevention Month. Stay tuned to AVTV and check our website for Aventura's Night Out event.