

VILLAGE OF



BIG CITY ACCESS

SMALL TOWN CHARM

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CHIEF OF POLICE

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During any natural disaster, scammers attempt to take advantage of people. The same is occurring as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. Please visit the Federal Trade Commission website at: [consumer.ftc.gov](https://consumer.ftc.gov) for additional information regarding common scams related to the pandemic as well as information on filing a complaint if you are a victim of a scam. Here are some of the tips listed on their website:

- Hang up on robocalls. Do not press any numbers or provide any personal information.
- Ignore online offers for vaccinations and home test kits. There are no FDA-authorized test kits for Coronavirus.
- Fact-check information related to the Coronavirus before passing the information to others.
- Know who you are buying from. Online sellers claim to have in-demand products when they really don't.
- Do not respond to texts or emails about checks from the government.
- Don't click on links from sources you don't know.
- Watch for emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or experts claiming to have information about the virus.
- Do research before making any donations. Don't let anyone rush you into making a donation. Never agree to send cash, gift cards or wire money.
- As a result of the virus, keep in mind that tax season has been extended until July 15, 2020. Do not provide information over the phone. The IRS does not call and demand immediate payment of delinquent taxes and threaten individuals with arrest. If in doubt, hang up and verify with the IRS at [IRS.gov](https://irs.gov) or call 1-800-829-1040.

Please remember that if you have any uncertainty about an email, phone call, social media solicitation, or a solicitor knocking on your door simply hang up the phone, do not respond to emails and do not answer the door. No solicitors will be allowed to go door to door during this pandemic. If you observe individuals going door to door please call 911. If you suspect that someone attempted to scam you please contact the Forest Park Police Department at 708-366-2425 and an officer will call you back.

Tom Aftanas  
Chief of Police