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The "CAT"

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"MAKE YARMOUTH THE SAFEST COMMUNITY IN THE REGION"

Chief Frank Frederickson

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By Lee Hawkins

The Neighborhood Crime Watch Team continues to work on filling in our blocks that don't have current block captains. These are due to resignations or moves off cape. In April we will be holding another information meeting for targeted blocks using mailings and Code Red. This process worked well in the Bakers Path Colony in South Yarmouth and resulted in new block captains in several open blocks there.

In this issue we will start profiling the new block captains that have come on board relatively recently. This will introduce them and hopefully you will be able to meet them at the upcoming Block Captain's meeting.

We recently held a meeting with residents of Simpkins School that introduced them to Neighborhood Crime Watch. Chief Frederickson also gave them an update on YPD activities. Jay and Audeliz Allain will be joining us as a new block in Simpkins. Thanks to the Allains and property manager Shawna for hosting the meeting.

The Table below is a current summary of our current blocks:

Neighborhood Crime Watch
Block Summary

Area Name	Block Count	No. Homes
Captains Village	7	240
South Yarmouth	35	1506
West Yarmouth	27	993
Yarmouth Port A	21	485
Yarmouth Port B	12	476
Total	102	3700

Meet the Block Captains

SY03 Bakers Path Colony 4, Ed and Chris Morassi

Ed and Chris Morassi are new block captains for one of the seven blocks within the Baker's Path Colony and Friends Association. The Morassi's, longtime residents of Chelmsford, MA, retired to the Cape in January. They have one son living in Chelmsford. They are both currently enrolled in the Yarmouth Citizen Police Academy.

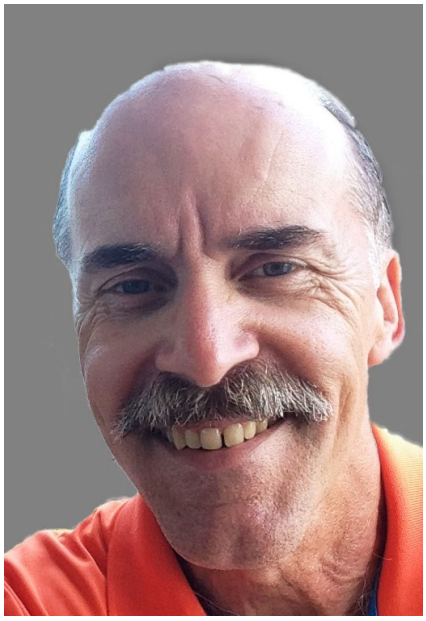
Ed was a music educator for twenty years which included classroom music and middle/elementary school bands. After leaving the teaching profession, Ed spent the remainder of his career as the VP of Operations for a company that manufactures and sells water treatment equipment to the dental industry.

Chris' 40 year career as an educator included a variety of experiences. She began as a private piano teacher and taught general music/chorus at the elementary and middle school levels. During the latter part of her career, her positions included: Assistant Principal, Elementary School Principal, Special Needs Preschool Principal and Title 1 Director.

Ed and Chris are volunteers at the Yarmouth Food Pantry, assisting in the distribution of nutritional food to those families in need. They manage the Baker's Path Colony and Friends Neighborhood Association, which includes writing and publishing the association's quarterly newsletter and assist in organizing several social events throughout the year.

Ed is an avid amateur photographer and holds a certification in digital photography. Chris enjoys cooking, reading, music and crocheting. Together they enjoy hiking, biking and traveling.

YP32 Merchant Ave, Dennis Miller



Dennis lived in Ridgefield Connecticut for 36 years before moving to Cape Cod approximately 2 years ago. Dennis grew up in Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Penn State in Civil Engineering with an MBA from UCONN. Dennis retired in August, 2014 from AECOM, a company involved in engineering projects around the world. He is currently teaching engineering courses at Cape Cod Community College on a part time basis as an Adjunct Faculty member.

Dennis is married with two daughters and three grandchildren. He is a member of the Dennis-Yarmouth Newcomers Club, the Hyannis Rotary Club and a volunteer at the Yarmouth Food Pantry. He also volunteers at the Hyannis West Elementary School, assisting the 2nd grade teacher during math lessons.

Dennis joined NCW after attending National Night Out in 2014. Dennis says of his time as block captain "*This has been a rewarding experi-*

ence in terms of getting to meet all of my neighbors, organizing neighborhood events (picnics, neighborhood clean-ups, etc.) and acting as a liaison with town agencies for neighborhood related issues."

YARMOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE

By Trish Wright

The Yarmouth Substance Abuse Committee (YSAC), held their monthly meeting on March 2 at the Yarmouth Senior Center.

Our Town Hall Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 13 from 6:00pm – 8:30pm, at Mattacheese Middle School, West Yarmouth. The Forum is entitled "Think Before the Drink" and will cover all aspects of underage drinking. Targeted audiences will include Yarmouth middle and high school children who attend school throughout the Cape and their parents. However, the forum will be open to the public so anyone may attend.

Speakers will include an attorney who works on social hosting cases; a Yarmouth Police Department representative talking about the legal ramifications of underage drinking for youth, a Cape Cod Hospital Emergency Physician discussing the medical problems that could occur (alcohol poisoning, etc.), a family member of a loved one that was lost to an alcohol event; and an individual who was considered to be a "lone wolf" because he didn't drink and who will offer some good advice on how not to drink when all of your friends are consuming alcohol.

There will be a variety of exhibitors in the gymnasium area of the Middle School providing hand-outs and relevant information on substance abuse as well as counselors that will be available should an audience member want to speak with someone that night.

Local business members of the Chamber of Commerce will be providing door prizes consisting of Prom tickets and a corsage/boutonniere package for the Junior or Senior Prom.

The Drug Free Community Grant that Yarmouth SAC was going to partner with Gosnold and Falmouth on, will not be available since the grant must be a single community application. We plan on submitting an application next year.

A contest will be held in the future to develop a permanent logo for the Committee.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm at the Yarmouth Police Department. All are welcome to attend.

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

By Lee Hawkins

By now you are probably well aware of the IRS phone scam that has gotten much publicity lately and some good general warnings have come about:

- Don't give out any personal information on a call you receive.
- The IRS doesn't initiate actions via phone calls or email – they only use US Mail.

- The IRS does not arrest people, that would only happen by the justice department.
- Caller ID is not reliable and is controlled by the people making the call.
- Legitimate financial organizations do not make threatening statements giving urgent time lines and do not expect payments via prepaid gift cards.
- Don't call back phone numbers that are left in voicemails. Use the support number from a statement or their web site.
- Keep in mind that these people are skilled con artists who have lots of practice. They sound plausible and are very convincing. They have learned from experience what works.

However, there are also many email scams that don't get as much attention, but are potentially even more dangerous. Email scams come in two types: 1) "phishing", i.e. gathering personal information, or 2) installing malware.

The Phishing type typically start out with a message that there is a problem with your account and you need to log in immediately to fix the issue and avoid getting your account locked. The email will look very legitimate, they copy the organization's logo, and replicate the colors and "look and feel" of the institution. They will then give you a link to click on to log in. However, the link will take you to a fake web site that will again look very legitimate and mimic the organization's real web site. When you enter your username and password, however, they will be sent unencrypted and captured by the scammer, who then has access to your account. The from address on the email may say it is from a bank, IRS, etc. However, like caller ID, this is not reliable and is set by the sender. It may say it came from an account at your bank, but that may not be true and is easily faked by the sender. In addition, links are easily disguised. A hyperlink in an email or document has two parts, the human readable part that you see, and the actual web site address that it will go to. The readable part that you see may say Bank of America, IRS, etc., however this is just a label. The real address is contained in the link, but only visible in your email status bar. If you hover your mouse over the link, you can look at the status bar to see where it is really going to. The address for foreign countries often ends in a two character country code, .de for Germany, .ro for Romania, .br for Brazil, etc. If you see this, you know it is a scam. These types of scams are often broadcast to a large distribution, so you may get one from a bank where you don't have an account. The scammers don't know where you have accounts, they work on statistics, if they send out a large number, some people will have accounts at a particular bank and may bite. For an example, see Figure 1. Some things to do to avoid phishing scams:

- Banks don't make threatening statements in email. If your account is compromised in any way, the last thing they want is someone logging in. Typically, the bank will lock your account and ask you to call their customer support to resolve the issue, they will not give you a link or ask you to log in.
- Don't ever click on links in an email to log in, use the legitimate address that you bookmarked when you set up the account, or typed in off your statement.
- When logged into a shopping or financial web site, look at the address bar to see that it starts with https, not http. The s signifies that it is secure and data is sent encrypted. There should also be a lock icon that looks like a locked padlock on the address bar—see Figure 2
- If you suspect there is a problem with your account, look up the customer support number for the institution and call it to verify and resolve a problem.
- Never send your user ID or password in an email. Email is not secure and can be intercepted on the network. No organization will ever ask you for your password and you should

never share it with anyone. Legitimate employees at the institution can access your information through their account, they don't need your username or password.

Malware email comes in many varieties. The common thing they will try to get you to do is click on an attachment to the email, or a web link. In either case once you click, the attachment or web site will install software, called malware, on your computer, tablet, or phone. This program will run in the background and capture personal information and forward it back to a system controlled by the scammer. One current variation of malware will even encrypt your hard drive and then demand a ransom to unlock your system. These are very hard to overcome and may require a rebuild of your computer, losing any data you have on your system. They may tell you that you have won a prize, or anything else to induce you to click. Remember, if it seems to be too good to be true, it probably is. One variation I recently got claimed that they have shipped my order and attached an invoice. An internet search with the company name and some wording from the email verified that this is a scam, originated from Germany, and the invoice contained malware. Again, these emails can be very convincing and use real company or organization logos and style, but not really be from them. Some things you can do to avoid malware:

- Install and keep current a security suite on your computer. These will scan for viruses and also scan email and attachments. They are often offered free from your internet service provider, but worth the price even if you have to purchase them.
- If you are using an older version of Windows, update to Windows 10 while it is free. It has several security enhancements.
- Don't open attachments or click on links in an email from someone you don't know. If it is offering a prize or something for free, it is likely a scam.

If you are a victim of a scam, do call YPD immediately. Don't be embarrassed to tell your family or report it, there may be ways to get some recourse. Also be aware that if you are victimized, your contact information may be put on lists of people who have fallen for scams and this may subject you to even more phone calls or email. Some even follow up and offer to help fix your computer, or get recourse, which are themselves scams.

Rest in Peace Jane Peterson

By Mike Sahagian, Area Captain for South Yarmouth

We have received the sad news that Jane Peterson, the mother of recently retired Detective Sergeant Chuck Peterson recently passed away.

Jane was one of our first Block Captains on Parkwood Road and three additional streets starting in 2012. She was always willing to help us with NCW in any way or with a special project even if it were stuffing envelopes. Jane and her co-captain Lisa White were also the first contributors to the Yarmouth Police Foundation at it's inception in August 2013.

Rest in peace Mrs. Peterson, we thank you for your service and you will be greatly missed.

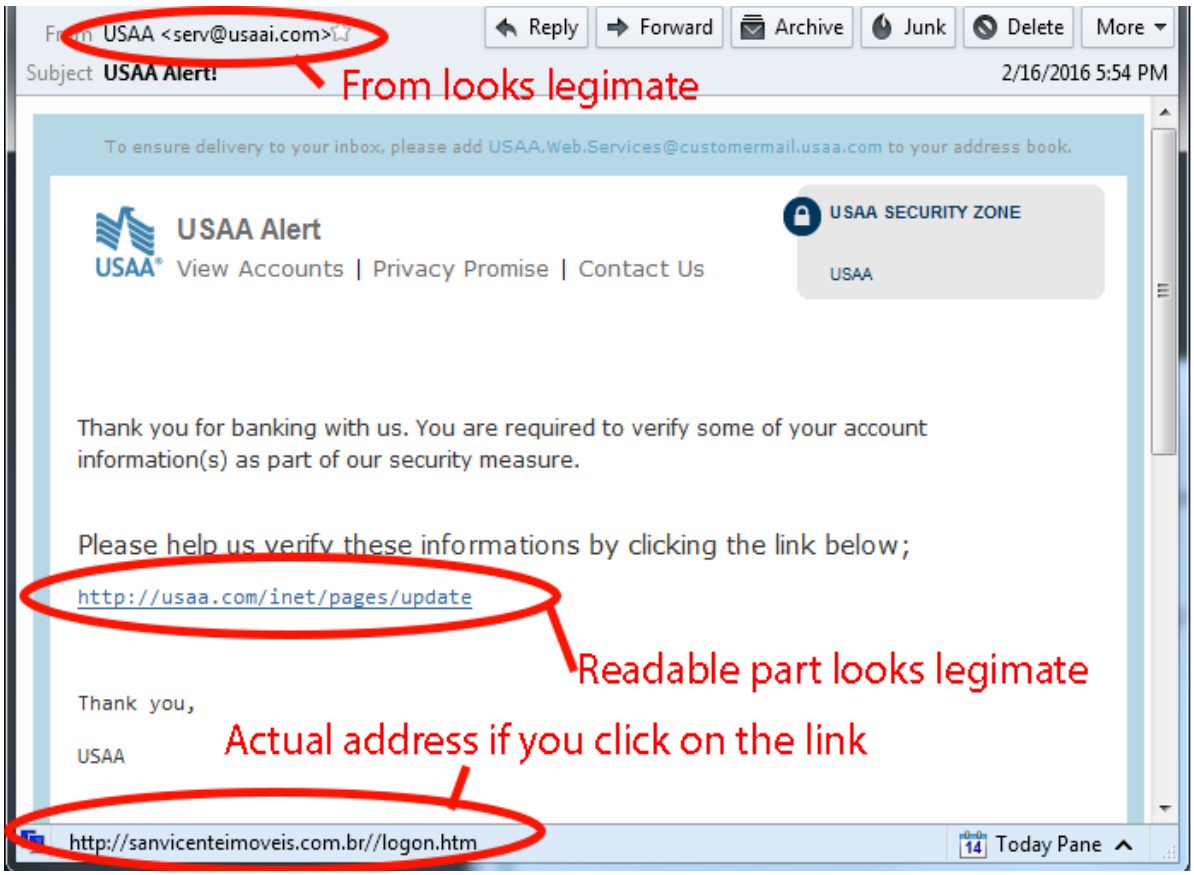


Figure 1. Don't click on links in emails to log on. In this case, the site is in Brazil and has nothing to do with USAA bank. Overall this looks to be from USAA, but poor grammar gives it away.

Figure 2. When shopping or banking online, make sure you have a secure connection

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
Town Hall Forum "Think Before the Drink"	Mattachese Middle School	Wednesday, April 13, 2016	6:00 PM—8:30 PM
Drug Take-Back Day	Yarmouth Police Department	Wednesday, April 30, 2016	All Day
All Block Captains Meeting	Yarmouth Senior Center	Wednesday, May 11, 2016	Doors Open 6:30 PM Meeting 7:00 PM

SHARE THE CAT

We ask that all of you forward a copy of the CAT each month to all he neighbors in your block.

The CAT is a newsletter from the Yarmouth Police Community Advisory Team (YPCAT) relating to happenings in the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program and the community.

Do you have an article you would like to see published in the CAT, or an idea for us to include? If so, contact us at cat@yncw.org.

Interested in learning more about, or joining Neighborhood crime watch—use the contact form at www.yncw.org, or call Lt Patrick Carty at 508-775-0445, ext 2116.