

SCAM Alert for Contra Costa County Taxpayers

By Vera Kochan

Scammers are using every form of media in order to bilk an unsuspecting public out of their hard-earned cash. Whether it's by text, a phone call, an email or a letter delivered inadvertently via the United States Postal Service, consumers must be ever vigilant when receiving "it's too good to be true" news, because more often than not, it is.

The latest scam to make the news targets taxpayers, more specifically, property owners. The Contra Costa County Assessor, Gus S. Kramer, issued a July 28 press release, warning taxpayers of the latest consumer scam alert after several residents reported receiving documents in the mail with regards to having their property's taxes reassessed.

The press release stated, "These mailers have the appearance of an official government document. However, the correspondence is not

from the Contra Costa County Assessor. Nor does it come from any other Contra Costa County Office."

Kramer's office went on to state that "current scam mailers are requiring both a \$40 county filing fee with the Clerk of the Assessment Appeals Board for a formal appeal, and a contingent fee of 30% of any tax savings as a result of filing the application. Property owners should know that the Contra Costa County Assessor's Office does not charge a fee to complete an informal value review."

Any property owners who believe that the current market value of their property is less than the assessed value can file a "Request for Value Review" form with the county assessor's office for free. Visit: <http://www.cccounty.us/assessor> and select "Review Your Value" for a downloadable application.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta has also posted additional warnings on his office's State Department of California -- Department of Jus-

stice website: https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/prop_tax_scam. "Companies using official-sounding names like "Tax Review," "Tax Adjusters" and "Tax Reassessment" seek to scam homeowners who are worried about their property taxes and declining property values. They send misleading mailers that look like official government agency documents to trick you into sending them money to try to lower your property taxes. They also use addresses like "Regional Processing Center" to make you think the mail is coming from a government agency. Sometimes, they threaten to impose a late fee if you don't send them money by a certain date."

If anyone believes that they have been a victim of this scam, file a complaint with the Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit, or write to: Attorney General's Public Inquiry Unit, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244.




TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974653

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

COMPASS

A local you can count on.



Daniel will be your trusted guide to Lamorinda real estate, empowering you to navigate the market with confidence.

Daniel Estopinal
DRE #02128888
Realtor® | 925.259.1525
daniel.estopinal@compass.com

Call today to make your real estate dreams a reality!

*Compass is a real estate broker licensed by the State of California and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. License Number 01991628, 01527235, 1527365. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but has not been verified. Changes in price, condition, sale or withdrawal may be made without notice. No statement is made as to accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footage are approximate.

LeapFrog Plumbing



Got gas? Many people think plumbers deal only with water and sewage. Not true! We install and repair all types of gas lines and fixtures too.

Mo's sizzling summer specials...

- Outdoor kitchens
- New gas lines for cooktops and dryers
- Fire pits & patio heaters
- Pool heaters & hot tubs
- Natural gas barbecues

We're poly-pipe certified, (better than iron)
Approved vendors of PG&E

LeapFrog Loot \$25 off
Any plumbing job*

LeapFrog Loot \$100 off
Gas line installation over \$600

LeapFrog Loot \$75 off
Tankless water heater installation*

*1 coupon per service, exp. 9/28/23

We Hop To It!
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993
green solutions!

(925) 377-6600
www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report July 23 - Aug. 5

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	16
Suspicious Vehicle	13
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	17
Vacation House Check	23
Welfare Check	15
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	3500 Block Brook St.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Police Department
Police Department	1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
Reckless Driving	Los Palos Dr./Glenside Dr.
	Moraga Rd./Moraga Blvd.
	Reliez Valley Rd./My Rd.
	Reliez Valley Rd./Rossi St.

Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.
Olympic Blvd./Olympic Oaks Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
Mt. Diablo Blvd./El Nido Ranch Rd.
1100 Block Rahaara Dr.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Village Center
1000 Block Brown Ave.
700 Block St. Mary's Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vehicle Theft
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.

Other criminal activity

Commercial Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Grand Theft
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft
Police Department
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Residential Burglary
10 Block Black Forest Ct.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
1500 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Disturbing The Peace
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.

Drunk In Public
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
Toledo Dr./Toledo Ct.
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Kelley Ct.
Stanley Intermediate School

Loud Party
3900 Block Franke Ln.
3400 Block Hamlin Rd.

Public Nuisance
3500 Block Golden Gate Way
Olympic Blvd./Branch Las

Trampas C
1000 Block Brown Ave.
900 Block 2Nd St. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Vandalism
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.

Other

Animal Cruelty
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Animal Cruelty - Unfounded
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loitering
900 Block Moon Ct.

Trespass
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
Police Department
1400 Block Tichenor Ct.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Commercial Burglary
Moraga Commons Park
Fraud Credit Card
400 Block Center St.
Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
Grand Theft
Police Department
Moraga Commons Park
30 Block Laird Dr.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Identity Theft
300 Block Constance Pl.
Petty Theft
100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Petty Theft From Veh
100 Block Oxford Dr.
Shoplift
Safeway
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-fight
1300 Block Camino Peral
Loud Music
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Not Available
Vandalism
Not Available
Other
Failure To Obey
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Trespass
Moraga Swim And Tennis Club

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 16 - July 29

Alarms	58
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	74
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	18
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	19
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	Moraga Way/Overhill Rd.
	Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Auto Burglary	20 Block Orinda Way
Dui Misd	No Location
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	600 Block Orindawoods Dr.
	Police Department
Reckless Driving	Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24 (20)
	El Toyonal
	Moraga Way/Stein Way
	San Pablo Dam Rd/Wildcat Canyon Rd.

Other criminal activity

Identity Theft	100 Block Ivy Dr.
Residential Burglary	40 Block Muth Dr.
Warrant Arrest	Orinda Way
	Police Department

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Noise	70 Block Estates Dr.
Loud Party	Moraga Way
	Public Nuisance
	Camino Sobrante
	Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.
	Camino Sobrante
Vandalism	10 Block Southwood Ct.

Other

Litter	40 Block Vista Del Mar
Mentally Ill Commit	No Location
Revocation Of Probation	Theatre Sq.
Terrorist Threats	20 Block Acacia Dr.
Trespass	Theatre Sq.
	Camino Sobrante(5)

go electric and SAVE

Replace your gas HVAC system with a high-efficiency all electric heat pump system and save big on your utility bills.

- ✓ 2023 Rebates (limited time only)
- ✓ Great Warranties
- ✓ 0% financing O.A.C
- ✓ Great Service

ASK ABOUT OUR SENIOR DISCOUNT!

UP TO \$2000 HEAT PUMP TAX CREDIT!



Bradford AIR HEATING (925) 455-4AIR | (925) 455-4247 | BradfordAir.com

Locally Owned American Made

Certech Environmental Services



www.certechpest.com
(925) 300-1094

CERTECH PEST PREVENTION & TERMITE PROTECTION

ONE MONTH FREE
MONTHLY & BI-MONTHLY ANNUAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

SUMMER SPECIALS \$50 OFF
MENTION THIS AD ONE TIME SERVICES

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 25 - Aug. 7

Alarms	21
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	67
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	3
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Public/School Assembly Check	4
Supplemental Report	3
Vacation House Check	1
Welfare Check	1
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Excessive Speed	600 Block Moraga Way
	Camino Ricardo/Moraga Way (2)
	Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
	Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori (4)
	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
	Moraga Way/School St.
	Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
	Moraga Way/School St.
	St Andrews Dr./Moraga Way
Reckless Driving	Moraga Way App Ivy Dr.
	Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
	1500 Block Canyon Rd.
	Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
	Campolindo High School

Other criminal activity

Child Molest	10 Block Hansen Ct.
--------------	---------------------

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com