

BBB advises to be aware of this smart TV cyber scam

Scammers can target victims through any device connected to the internet, and your TV is no exception.

The Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker has seen an influx of reports about scammers catching people off guard with pop-ups on their smart TVs, according to a news release. Their objective is to steal your personal information and money.

How the scam works:

You open a familiar streaming service on your smart TV. However, you can't log in. Instead, a pop-up appears, telling you there is a problem with your device or your streaming subscription. You need to call a phone number or visit a website to fix it.

Don't fall for it:

If you call the number, scammers pretend to be customer service representatives. They will insist you pay an activation fee or allow them remote access to your smart TV. These con artists will get your credit or debit card number if you pay the fee, the BBB warns. If you give them access to your device or click on a link they provide, the scammers may install malware on your TV and use it to gain access to sensitive personal information.

Sometimes scammers ask you to "fix" the issue by paying them in gift cards. One consumer reported that after calling a number that appeared in a pop-up on their smart TV, a scammer instructed them to

purchase three \$100 Xbox gift cards to add "anti-hacking protection" to their account. After buying the gift cards and contacting the number again, it became clear they were dealing with scammers.

How to avoid smart TV scams:

Double-check any fees you have to pay. If scammers ask you to pay an activation fee, antivirus protection fee, or any other kind of fee, do some research beforehand. For example, scammers claim you need to pay an activation fee to start using your Roku. However, a quick online search reveals that Roku never charges activation or registration fees.

Don't fall for fake websites. Scammers love to create imitation websites using URLs that are just a letter or two off. Fake websites are a threat, even on smart TVs, so double-check the URL. Another way to protect yourself is to avoid clicking on links in pop-ups and, instead, type web URLs directly into your browser.

Check before you call. If a "customer service" phone number appears in a pop-up, double-check it before you call. Contact a streaming service or TV manufacturer's website to find their customer support number.

Never let anyone control your device remotely. Scammers usually ask for remote computer access, but they could also ask for access to your smart TV. Don't ever give control of your device to a stranger.

Choosing meal delivery service

Meal delivery services give consumers a more convenient way to make home-cooked dinners by delivering fresh, pre-measured ingredients and easy-to-follow recipes to your doorstep.

But just like any other service, each company is different.

Pricing, ingredients, and preparation requirements vary greatly between services. You'll need to do some homework to pick the one that best meets your family's needs. If the appeal of a meal delivery subscription is learning new recipes and experimenting with ingredients, you might choose one company. But if your main interest is speed and simplicity, another may be a better fit.

The following tips will help select an ideal meal delivery service for your household:

- **Research the delivery service.** Ask friends and family, read reviews, and check BBB.org to learn about past customers' experiences.

- **Set a budget and check the fine print.** Pricing can vary from one company to the next. Make certain the service aligns with your budget. In addition, not all meal delivery services include shipping fees in their pricing and read the fine print.

- **Know your skill level.** Before committing to a plan, research what kind of cooking techniques you'll need to know. If a company's recipes require searing, roasting, and braising, do you know how? If not, make sure you have the time to learn new

techniques.

- **Consider ingredient quality.** Not all companies offer organic, non-GMO, or free-range meal ingredients. If these are must-haves for your family, make sure the company offers them.

- **Determine how much prep work you want.** Some companies do more chopping and sauce-making than others. This seemingly small difference can make a big difference in how long each meal takes to make.

- **Contact customer service.** If there ever is a problem - a missing recipe card or ingredient, for example - you want to know you can count on customer service. Make sure there are clear, easy ways to contact the company, even late in the evening. Read the company's reviews and keep an eye out for any indication that customer service is lacking.

- **Check the cancellation policy.** Before making a decision to subscribe to meal delivery, understand the cancellation policy. Each company is different and some may have very strict policies.

- **Be careful with personal information.** Most food delivery services process payments online. Make sure the company is legitimate before offering up personal information such as financial information and address.

- **Review BBB tips for shopping online.** Since meal delivery services don't usually have brick-and-mortar storefronts, consider the tips in BBB's tips for smart shopping online.

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"I appreciate the support and confidence they've shown in me," Gillis said. "We've got an excellent group of chiefs here in the Commonwealth."

In this position Gillis hopes to focus on improving recruitment numbers for police within MA. Across the country police departments have been facing difficulties with recruitment, both in getting and retaining officers.

"We've seen a dramatic decline nation-

ally in folks who are interested in becoming police officers and we've seen officers stay less time as police officers," Gillis said. "There's an increased demand for law enforcement nationwide and yet there's an inverse interest in the profession."

Gillis plans to take every opportunity he can to improve outreach and have discussions about recruitment with nearby police departments.

Currently, they are looking at the civil service system that many communities in MA are a part of. According to Gillis, that

system has been dysfunctional in the past few years, so he and others on the MCOPA are working to fix those issues.

"We are working within our group to discuss ways to improve the system," Gillis said.

This system is meant to help with recruitment and the process of obtaining qualified officers. Gillis hopes to be able to smooth out the system and increase its efficacy.

"We've been meeting on the regular with folks from the civil service commission in an effort to improve the process and the

way we do things in an effort to boost our ability to be able to get qualified people in a timely fashion," Gillis said.

Gillis is prepared for the work ahead of him in this position. He hopes that his efforts will work toward improving the system for all involved.

"There's a sense of duty to do more and help out and to try to make a difference," Gillis said. "I think that when you're on a bigger stage like this you have a greater ability to affect the profession in a long-term way."

Public Notices

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of MassDOT on property located near the Route 5 On-Ramp from Route 57.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

01/18/2024

Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on **February 05, 2024 at 8 a.m.**, at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2019 Chevy Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZD5ST2KF127616
Plate # TRP895 / MA
Last known reg. owner:
Donna Viel
129 Valley View Ave.
Woronoco, MA 01097

01/18, 01/25, 01/01/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P0063GD
In the matter of:
Richard Gauthier
Of: Feeding Hills, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
To the named Respondent

and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept Of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Richard Gauthier** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Edward J Wojtowicz of South Deerfield, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding.

If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **02/08/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 10, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/18/2024

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

