



**Warren C. Evans**  
**Sheriff**

# News Release

[www.waynecounty.com/sheriff](http://www.waynecounty.com/sheriff)

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**Contact:** Ofc. John Roach, 313-213-5162

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## Sheriff warns of tax refund email scam

### ◆ *Fake IRS messages solicit personal info by claiming victims are owed cash*

Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans is warning local residents about an online identity theft scam that uses bogus emails, designed to look like they have been sent by the IRS, to trick people into providing personal information. Evans said his Internet Crime Unit has received several complaints from people who have received these “spoof” emails.

Evans said that the bogus emails bear the logo of the IRS, or in some cases, the IRS’s tax return processing company, eFile, and inform the recipient that they are owed a tax refund. Contained in the email is a link to a fake IRS website, which prompts the victim to provide personal information that the scam artist can use to steal the person’s identity.

“With a poor economy and this being the height of tax time, a lot of people could fall prey to this scam because the emails look legitimate and offer the promise of money to the targeted victim,” Evans said. “We want to help protect citizens from being swindled out of a lot more money than they are being offered as part of this scam.”

Typically, a spoof email often starts out saying something along these lines: “After the last calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined you are eligible to receive a tax refund,” and then specifies an amount the recipient is supposedly due. Evans said that it is important for people to know that the IRS does not notify people via an unsolicited email if they have a return due to them.

“Typically, these are believable amounts, ranging from \$50 or \$60 up to several hundred dollars, to draw people into the scam,” Evans said. “The insidious part of this con is that it doesn’t really play on a person’s greed. The victims are being led to believe that this is their hard earned money being returned to them.”

#more#

The email contains an embedded link to direct victims to a website, which appears to be an IRS website, but will have a web address that has nothing to do with the IRS or federal government, Evans said.

The look-alike website offers the victim the opportunity to get their refund applied to his or her credit card and asks the individual to provide their account information and Social Security number.

“With just that information, an identity thief can be off to the races and your life can be turned upside-down before you even know anything is wrong,” Evans said.

Evans said that because the emails are likely being generated outside Michigan, and perhaps outside the United States, anyone receiving a suspect email should report it to the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov), which investigates such complaints.

“We hope that by educating the public to this fraud, no one will fall victim to it,” Evans said. “But if they do, or even if they receive one of the bogus emails, they should make a complaint immediately through the FBI’s website, rather than a local agency.”



After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of **\$873.20**. Please submit the tax refund request and allow us 3-9 days in order to process it.

A refund can be delayed for a variety of reasons. For example submitting invalid records or applying after the deadline.

To access the form for your tax refund, please [click here](#)

**Note:** For security reasons, we will record your ip-address, the date and time. Deliberate wrong inputs are criminally pursued and indicated.

Regards,  
Internal Revenue Service

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Subject: IRS Notification - Tax refund



## Internal Revenue Service

United States Department of the Treasury

After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of **\$249.30**. Please submit the tax refund request and allow us 3-6 days in order to process it.

A refund can be delayed for a variety of reasons. For example submitting invalid records or applying after the deadline.

To access the form for your tax refund, please [click here](#)

**Note:** For security reasons, we will record your ip-address, the date and time.  
Deliberate wrong inputs are criminally pursued and indicated.

Regards,  
Internal Revenue Service

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## Internal Revenue Service

United States Department of the Treasury

### Tax Refund

Get Tax Refund on your VISA or MasterCard

Please enter your Social Security Number and a valid Credit / Debit Card where you want the refund to be made.  
\*See our [Privacy Notice](#) regarding our request for your personal information.

Social Security Number ▶  
or IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification  
Number [shown on your tax return.](#)

 -  - 

Credit / Debit Card ▶  
Please enter the following information here:

Name on card:

Card Number:

Expiration Date:  /

Cvv Code:

ATM Card PIN:  [Why is my pin required?](#)

Refund Amount ▶

\$ 134.80

▶ Note: For security reasons, we recommend that you close your browser after you have finished the refund process.

Look alike IRS  
webpage

asking for YOUR  
information