

CONSUMER FRAUD BULLETIN

April 2016

Top Stories in this Bulletin:







Zika Virus & Disease Related Investment Scams



Money Smart Week 2016



Sweepstakes Scams

Don't Be April Fooled By Roofing Scams



Following a heavy storm, you may get a knock on your door from a roofing company representative who "just happens to be in your neighborhood" looking at damaged roofs. After a quick inspection, they convince you that your roof has damage that will likely be covered by your insurance company. All you have to do is put in a claim and use that money to get a brand new roof installed --except you may wait many months after you've paid the roofing company for work to begin, if it ever does. Not only have you lost the insurance money, but you may also face liens from material suppliers who were never paid, and you might lose your insurance coverage altogether. So, what do you do to avoid becoming a victim of this wide-spread scam?. Find Out>>

Investor Alert: Zika Virus and Disease-Related Investment Scams



In 2013 the news was inundated with cautions and concerns about Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS. In 2014 and 2015, it was Ebola. Now, we are being informed of the looming threat of the Zika Virus, currently spreading through parts of South America. These reports can be scary in and of themselves, but there is a less advertised, more insidious threat that looms beneath the surface when the news headlines focus on potential health epidemics. That is the financial threat that arises when fraudsters exploit news of a disease in order to make money off fake stock scams and "pump and dump" schemes. Learn More>>

Money Smart Week is April 23-30, 2016

Created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002, Money Smart Week® is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances. This is achieved through the collaboration and coordinated effort of hundreds of organizations across the country. Programming is offered to all demographics and income levels and covers all facets of personal finance. Partnering Organizations will host their events for next year April 23 - 30, 2016.

<u>Learn About Money Smart Week>></u>
<u>Watch the Money Smart Week video>></u>



Sweepstakes Scams



Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman reminds all consumers who want to try their luck to be on the alert for fraudulent sweepstakes and foreign lottery scams. "Every year Coloradans are inundated with phony claims that they have been selected to win a sweepstakes or foreign lottery prize," said Attorney General Coffman, "and every year some unfortunate consumer presses their luck and sends in entry fees, insurance, tax or other payments in order to 'claim' their prize. Sadly, their luck—and their money—has run out." Sweepstakes and foreign lottery scams use direct mail offers, telephone calls, emails, and even text messages, to try to persuade unwary consumers that they have been specially selected to receive a valuable prize. Learn more>>







