

A close-up, low-angle photograph of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown against a clear blue sky. The statue's face is in profile, looking upwards and to the right. The crown features seven prominent spikes. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the copper patina.

2021

New York Division Calendar

12-Month Planner beginning January 2021



THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY ARM OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE



Treat yourself right this New

Year—protect your identity by

shredding unwanted PII*

documents!

Personally identifiable information (PII) is any information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual's identity, such as name, social security number, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name, and information such as medical, educational, and financial.

Protecting your PII:

- Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight or on weekends; deposit outgoing mail at the post office and promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery.
- Shred unwanted documents that contain personal information before discarding them in the trash.
- Every year, order and thoroughly review copies of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies. It's free once per year.
- Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet or purse.
- Never give out personal identifying information over the telephone or Internet unless *you* initiated the contact.

Who to Call for Help

If you're a victim of identity theft and the U.S. Mail is involved, call Postal Inspectors at 1-877-876-2455 and your local police.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Identity Theft: Stealing your name *and* your money

Identity theft occurs when a crook steals key pieces of personal identifying information which may include a name, address, date of birth, Social Security Number or mother's maiden name, to gain access to a person's financial accounts. Armed with this information, an identity thief may open new credit or financial accounts, buy cars, apply for loans or Social Security benefits, rent an apartment, or set up utility and phone service—in your name.





BEWARE

Romance
SCAMS

A romance scam is a confidence trick involving acting out romantic intentions towards a victim, gaining their affection and trust, and then using that goodwill to commit fraud. Don't be a fool for "love"!

Protecting your assets – and your heart.

- If you develop a romantic relationship with someone you meet online, consider the following:
- Research the person’s photo and profile using online searches to see if the material has been used elsewhere. This is called a reverse photo look-up.
- Beware if the individual attempts to isolate you from friends and family or requests inappropriate photos or financial information.
- If you haven’t met the person after a few months, for whatever reason, you have good reason to be suspicious.
- Never send money to anyone you don’t know personally.

If you suspect an online relationship is a scam, stop all contact immediately.

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Valentine’s Day</i>	15 <i>President’s Day</i>	16	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

When you are the victim of “love”

Dating and romance scams often take place through online dating websites, but scammers may also use social media or email to make contact. Scammers may create fake online profiles designed to lure you in. They may use a fictitious name, or falsely take on the identities of real, trusted people such as military personnel, aid workers or professionals working abroad. Dating and romance scammers may also pose a risk to your personal safety as they are often part of international criminal networks.





WHAT IS THE **DARK WEB**

The World Wide Web has many layers. These include the **Open Web** (websites indexed by search engines such as Google, Safari, etc.), the **Deep Web** (websites that require a login such as bank or medical sites, not indexed by search engines) and the **Dark Web** (only reachable through software for enabling anonymous communication) – it's here on the Dark Web, that many illegal activities take place.

What you need to

know:

- The dark web does not refer to a discrete part of the internet, but rather to websites that can only be accessed through browsers that provide encryption and anonymity, such as TOR software.
- Dark web traffic is the sort of content that demands anonymity, like stolen financial records, selling drugs, selling child pornography, or politically sensitive information.
- The sale of stolen personally identifiable information (PII) is a growing industry on the dark web. Security breaches of information from major organizations happen regularly. Follow our January tips to protect your PII.

To reduce the chances of your computer being hacked, change your passwords regularly and “stay off” the dark web.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	15	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Passover Starts Palm Sunday</i>	29	30	31			

What lies beneath

Some of the most commonly found content on the dark web is child pornography. For more than a century, Postal Inspectors have investigated the sexual exploitation of children. The Postal Inspection Service was the first federal law enforcement agency to aggressively identify, target, and arrest those who produce, sell, and purchase child pornography.





HELP US

PROTECT THEM

Tax season is prime time for financial scams against seniors. Fraudsters prey on people's fear of the IRS to steal seniors' hard-earned savings. Elders are also twice as likely to be targeted for scams. Why? First, older Americans usually have more money invested in their homes and retirement savings. They also grew up in a more trusting time. As a result, scammers steal tens of billions of dollars every year from older Americans and the programs that serve them.

Can't tell if it is really the tax collector?

The IRS does not:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- Demand that you pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they claim you owe. You should also be advised of your rights as a taxpayer.
- Threaten to bring in local police, or other law enforcement to have you arrested for not paying.

The IRS also cannot revoke your driver's license, business licenses, or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>April Fools' Day</i>	2 <i>Good Friday</i>	3
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> <i>Passover Ends</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 <i>Tax Day</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21 <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	22 <i>Earth Day</i>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>Arbor Day</i>	

How to make sure tax season is fraud free

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to defraud individuals, businesses and tax professionals. The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam.



**Does that
“giveaway”
sound like a
bunch of
hot air?**



It might be. While most contests and sweepstakes offer entrants a real chance of winning great prizes, there are also scams that prey on the hopes of winning. It's important to recognize the signs of sweepstakes fraud in order to protect yourself from falling victim to a scam.

Play to win, not to be cheated

- **Never pay to play.** It's illegal for a company to require you to buy something or pay a fee in order to win or claim a prize.
- **Buying something doesn't improve your chances of winning.** It's illegal for a company to even suggest that your chances of winning will increase if you make a purchase.
- **Don't believe you have to give the company money for taxes on your prize.** If you win, taxes will be deducted from your winnings or you will pay them directly to the IRS.
- **Guard your credit card and bank account numbers.** A legitimate sweepstakes company will never ask for this information. Keep your financial information safe from scammers by not giving it out.
- **Be on guard for imposters.**

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 May Day
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14	15 Armed Forces Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					

Don't trust your "luck"

Congratulations! You've won a car, valuable jewelry, cash, or some other fabulous prize! Is this really your lucky day, or is your luck about to take a turn for the worse? Be cautious before you claim your big prize or sweepstakes winnings. Don't be fooled by official-looking advertisements. It's not necessarily legitimate just because the envelope is marked "urgent" and the contents look impressive. One clue that you haven't really won is if the letter was sent at bulk mail rates. That means thousands of other people are receiving the same letter.





Honoring our fallen Postal Inspectors and Postal Police

Charles Fitzgerald (1908, MS)

Elbert P. Lamberth (1917, TN)

George W. Daniel (1919, UT)

Levi Chance (1923, GA)

Walter Ton (1938, MT)

Finton McMahon (1939, OH)

Ernest Harkins (1949, OK)

Brune Shaffer (1951, MO)

John McAuliffe (1960, IL)

Benedetto Spizzirri (1960, IL)

Michael Healy (1981, IL)

Terrance Asbury (1990, CA)

Robert Jones (2000, DC)

Preston B Parnell (2012, AL)

The mission of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is to support and protect the U.S. Postal Service and its employees, infrastructure, and customers; enforce the laws that defend the nation's mail system from illegal or dangerous use; and ensure public trust in the mail.

About us:

- As one of our country's oldest federal law enforcement agencies, founded by Benjamin Franklin, we have a proud and successful history of fighting criminals who attack the nation's postal system and misuse it to defraud, endanger, or otherwise threaten the American public.
- U.S. Postal Inspectors are federal law enforcement officers who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants, and serve subpoenas. Inspectors work with U.S. Attorneys, other law enforcement agencies, and local prosecutors to investigate cases and prepare them for prosecution.
- Inspectors throughout the country enforce more than 200 federal statutes related to crimes that adversely affect or include fraudulent use of the U.S. Mail, the postal system, postal employees and customers.

June 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>D-Day</i>	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16	17	18	19
20 <i>Father's Day</i> <i>Summer Solstice</i>	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Fallen Personnel

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service wishes to commemorate the U.S. Postal Inspection Service employees who have died in the line of duty. Their names have been etched on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall and on a Postal Inspection Service plaque at the agency's national headquarters, both located in Washington, DC.



DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

Protect your mail so you can relax

Protect your mail and home by placing mail on hold when out of town. Don't leave delivered mail and packages unattended. Just as wallets and purses shouldn't be left on the front seat of an unlocked car, mail and packages shouldn't be left uncollected in mailboxes or on front porches for any length of time.

How to request a hold mail:

- To request a hold mail call 1-800-ASK-USPS, use the USPS.com website or complete a "hold mail" form at the post office.
- You can make the request up to 30 days in advance or as early as the next-scheduled delivery day. The postal service will hold mail from 3 to 30 days.

Packages:

- With a "hold mail" request, the Post Office will also hold packages for you.
- If you didn't put a hold on your mail and the letter carrier could not find a secure location to leave your package, most packages will be held at the Post Office for 15 days.
- If the addressee does not claim the package at the end of this period, the package will be returned to the sender.

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Hold Mail Request

Thieves never take a vacation from crime and are on the lookout in neighborhoods for accumulated mail in mailboxes. If you're going away for an extended period, the Postal Service recommends taking advantage of its Request Hold Mail Service. The service is free and they'll keep your mail safely at your local Post Office until you return.



A group of five diverse college students are sitting on a green lawn in front of a large, multi-story wooden building with many windows. They are engaged in conversation. From left to right: a young woman with long dark hair wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt; a young man with short dark hair wearing a light blue t-shirt and jeans; a young woman with long brown hair wearing a red tank top and jeans; a young man with short dark hair wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans; and a young man with short blonde hair wearing a white t-shirt and jeans. They are all looking towards each other, suggesting a group discussion.

BACK TO SCHOOL SCAMS

With college students heading back to school, there is a great deal of excitement and activity. Scammers and thieves take advantage of this rush of activity, and the confusion it can cause. It's an opportune time to steal the personal and financial information of students and their parents.

Get educated about scams:

- **Financial Aid Scams:** There are a number of scams promising scholarships, financial aid and “money-saving” seminars or loan consolidation services.
- If a company requires a payment or processing fee to access a scholarship or student loan, it’s a red flag that it’s a scam.
- **The Unpaid Tuition Scam:** Thieves will call or email students or parents claiming to be from the college admissions, or financial services department. The scammer claims tuition or other fees are late and claims the student will be dropped from classes if a payment isn't made immediately by credit card or wire transfer.
- **Online Income Scams:** What college student couldn’t use some extra money? Scammers prey on this need by targeting students with a quick and easy way to make money. If a company is asking for money up front to work for them – it is a scam.

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Make sure that money lands in the right hands

Scam artists prey on the vulnerable – that doesn’t take a college education to figure out. But what makes a student vulnerable? Access to money but no experience in the adult world makes college students the perfect target. With college students away from home for the first time in their lives, and handling their own finances, they may not be aware of the techniques fraudsters use to scam people out of money.



NEVER FORGET 9/11



We will never forget that devastating day in September. Our hearts remain heavy, but our spirit is strong. These beams of light serve as a reminder of the lives that were lost.

9/11

This year marks 20 years since the 9/11 terror attacks devastated the country and shocked the world.

On September 11, 2001 a series of terror attacks took place against the United States in New York City at the World Trade Center; the Pentagon in Arlington VA; and in Shanksville PA.

In New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania almost 3,000 people died in these attacks.

Did You Know....the Post Office has a facility near Ground Zero?

The Church Street Post Office faced World Trade Center building 7 to the west and buildings 5 and 6 to the southwest. Building 7 collapsed and buildings 5 and 6 sustained critical damage.

The Church Street Post Office sustained damage from the debris of the fallen buildings and the force of the explosion, but remained structurally intact.

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Labor Day</i>	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 <i>Yom Kippur</i>	17	18
19	20	21	22 <i>Fall Equinox</i>	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Honoring first responders

Issued in the fall of 2018, this stamp recognizes the men and women who respond to critical situations with skill, dedication, and uncommon bravery. Fires, medical emergencies, accidents and violent crimes require us to look to those who possess the training and knowledge to treat the injured, rescue the endangered, and restore safety and order.





$$P = 2l + 2w$$

Textbook Scam 101

In today's lesson, we will cover the textbook scam and what unsuspecting students and parents need to know. As the cost of college textbooks continue to soar, unscrupulous scammers set out on a course to defraud unsuspecting students with lower textbook prices, knowing they will never deliver the goods. Now we'll teach you what to look for in these offers.

Get smart about books:

According to publishers, there are several factors contributing to the high price of college textbooks.

- The rapidly changing nature of some academic fields requires publishers to update the facts in a textbook on an annual basis. Each new edition of a book typically costs 45% more than the previous copy.
- Books containing software or other supplemental materials cost much more than books without these extras.
- Books with lots of full-color illustrations cost more to produce than textbooks without these graphics.

Whatever the reason for the increased cost of textbooks, always purchase from a reputable seller or directly from your College or University.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it is.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Columbus Day</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Boss's Day</i>	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>Halloween</i>						

College Text Book Scams

College students can expect to spend approximately \$850 on their books each year. Some students trying to reduce these costs, are being victimized on fake sites offering books at lower prices. Here's how it works: scammers set-up fake websites offering cheaper prices for textbooks, fully knowing these books are either non-existent or do not meet academic requirements. In most cases, students will never be refunded and are left with a double loss from the fraudulent purchase and the cost of the new book.



Has working from home become your reality? Don't let it become your nightmare

DREAM



Don't let it become your nightmare. There are all kinds of home-based businesses, including ones that are set up to fail. Scammers make appealing—but not always truthful—pitches for medical billing businesses, envelope stuffing schemes and craft projects.

Home Sweet Home?

Most of us experienced the benefits and pitfalls last year of working from home; but beware of work-at-home opportunities promoted by scam artists. If you pay in, it's likely that you will spend more than you can earn.

Here are a few to look out for:

- Work-At-Home Business
- Telemarketing Resale Scams
- Invention Promotion Firms
- Envelope-Stuffing Schemes
- At-Home Medical Billing Businesses
- Re-shipping scams

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	26 <i>Black Friday</i>	27
28 <i>Hanukkah Begins</i>	29 <i>Cyber Monday</i>	30				

Work-at-home scams: how they work

Work-at-home scams are designed to entice a victim to respond to an offer to be employed at home, very often doing some simple task in a minimal amount of time. The true purpose of such an offer is for the perpetrator to extort money from the victim, either by charging a fee to join the scheme, or requiring the victim to invest in products whose resale value is misrepresented.

USPIS Publication 300A, Preventing Mail Fraud, highlights this scam and many more. Go to www.uspis.gov to find out more.



Online shopping spikes during the holiday season, so does the risk of falling victim to fake or dishonest retail websites. Steer clear of online shopping scams.



The best way to avoid online shopping scams is to make your purchases at the sites of brand-name retailers you already know and trust. Always pay with a credit card as opposed to a debit card, because the former offers greater protection if you need to dispute charges.

Online Shopping Tips:

- **Conduct research:** When using a new website for purchases, read reviews and see if other consumers have had a positive or negative experience at the site.
- **When in doubt, throw it out:** Links in emails, posts and texts are often how cybercriminals try to steal your information or infect your electronic devices.
- **Personal information is like money: value and protect it:** When making a purchase online, be alert to the kinds of information being collected to complete the transaction. Make sure you think it is necessary for the vendor to request that information.
- **Use safe payment options:** Credit cards are generally the safest option because they afford buyers an opportunity to receive a credit from the issuer if the product isn't delivered or isn't what was ordered.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 <i>Hanukkah Ends</i>	7 <i>Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>
26 <i>Kwanzaa Begins</i>	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	1/2022 <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>Kwanzaa Ends</i>

Online Shopping: how to protect yourself

From the convenience of making purchases at your fingertips, access to endless catalogues of merchandise, next-day delivery and great deals, online shopping has grown in popularity—even more so during the past national pandemic. While the increased availability of online shopping is convenient, it also makes it more lucrative for scammers to trick buyers into paying for goods they won't receive or to obtain their account information for financial gain.



**Happy Holidays from all of us at
the United States Postal Inspection Service**

