Monthly Update from Security

11/26: Possible Porch Pirates??? During Thanksgiving week, some of the privately owned security cameras in the neighborhood picked up a group of people going around houses that were unoccupied and by-passing those with vehicles in the driveway. When Oscar Callejas challenged them, they said they were ATT employees. But when they saw him on the phone, they immediately left the area in a black Genesis (license plate GLX J49).

12/03: Kite Surfer Killed. A kite surfer was injured and later died of those injuries he received while surfing off the Beach. The kite surfer was identified as 49-year-old Adam D. Myers of Toronto, Canada.

Deputies responded to 112 Costa Bravo Drive in Islamorada at approximately 3 p.m. regarding a kite surfing accident. Paramedics were already on scene treating Myers, who was found unconscious on the ground behind the residence at that address. He was about 100 feet from the waterline. Trauma Star landed at nearby Island Christian School soon thereafter to airlift Myers.

Witnesses who were with Myers told Detective Ben Elmore that Myers lost control of the kite and it dragged Myers from the water, across the beach, onto the property at Costa Bravo Drive and into a sliding glass door at the residence. Witnesses said Myers was no more than five or six feet off the ground, but the kite was above the roof of the house.

The wind was blowing between 20 mph and 30 mph Monday.

12/13: Selling Online? Be Safe! The Sheriff's Office is offering the lobbies of its substations and headquarters building as safe zones for residents making online transactions or to anyone buying or selling in person.

Those who are worried about giving strangers their home address — or meeting with strangers in general — to make transactions can now do so in a safe place. The rise in popularity in websites such as Craigslist and eBay among others have changed the way many make transactions, especially during the holidays.

Sheriff Rick Ramsay said both the buyer's and seller's privacy is protected in this way.

"I saw Key West Police Chief Sean Brandenburg's plan to offer this service and I thought it was a fantastic idea," said Sheriff Rick Ramsay. "I'm happy to announce the Sheriff's Office is also on board. Myself and Chief Brandenburg want to ensure that we're doing everything we can to make every resident safe from Key Largo to Key West."

County residents who wish to use one of the Sheriff's Office substation lobbies can do so during working hours between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. 305-664-6480

Islamorada Substation
86800 Overseas Highway
Islamorada, FL 33036

Be Smart About Smart TV's Smart TVs are called that because they connect to the Internet They allow you to use popular streaming services and apps Many also have microphones for those of us who are loo lazy 1o actually to pick up the remote Just shout at your set that you want to change the channel or mm up the volume and you are good to go.

A number of the newer TVs also have built-in cameras In some cases, the cameras are used for facial recognition so the TV knows who is watching and can suggest programming appropriately There are also devices coming to market that allow you to video chat with grandma in 42* glory.

Beyond the risk that your TV manufacturer and app developers may be listening and watching you that television can also be a gateway for hackers to come into your home A bad cyber actor may not be able to access your locked-down computer directly but it is possible that your unsecured TV can give him or her an easy way in the backdoor through your router

Hackers can also take control *of* your unsecured TV. At the low end of the risk spectrum, they can change channels, play with the volume, and show your kids inappropriate videos. In a worst-case scenario, they can turn on your bedroom TV's camera and microphone and silently cyberstalk you.

TVs and technology are a big part of our lives, and they aren't going away. So how can you protect your family?

- Know exactly what features your TV has and how to control those features. Do a basic Internet search with your model number and the words "microphone," "camera," and "privacy"
- Don't depend on the default security settings. Change passwords if you can - and know how to turn off the microphones, cameras, and collection of personal information if possible. If you can't turn them off, consider whether you are willing to take the risk of buying that model or using that service.
- If you can't turn off a camera but want to, a simple piece of black tape over the camera eye is a back-to-basics option.
- Check the manufacturer's ability to update your device with security patches. Can they do this[7] Have they done it in the past?
- Check the privacy policy for the manufacturer and the streaming services you use. Confirm what data they collect, how they store that data, and what they do with it

As always, if you have been victimized by a cyber fraud, be sure to report it to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at **ic3.gov**.

Game Apps for Christmas? Be Careful! Sometimes fraudsters disguise mobile apps that steal personal information as games. This holiday season beat scammers at their own game. Before downloading an app from an unknown source, research the company that made the app and read third-party reviews. Report fraud or attempted fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at **ic3.gov**.