

CRIME PREVENTION ALERT

JACKSON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special points of interest:

- Beware of home improvement scams
- Don't let your self get distracted
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Home improvement scams

Spring and summer are the times that the "Travelers" or "Gypsies" generally arrive in our area. These traveling con men, and women generally prey on the elderly. A common method of locating potential victims is to cruise the neighborhoods looking for elderly people working outside. Once they have located a the target they look to see if your house need any obvious work. Out of the blue a person shows up offering you a great deal on any needed home improvement. In the past residents have been contacted by a person indicating they just completed a black top driveway in the area and have some leftover material. They offer to repave your drive at a fraction of the normal cost just to get rid of



the "excess material". Once the project is underway they might need more material at an increased cost to you, or the project makes a bigger mess than what you were attempting to repair. This type of scam can apply to almost any home project from

painting your house with watered down paint, to trimming the trees.

If you are considering having any work done around your home please remember to use a reputable contractor. If you are approached by anyone offering this type of deal please contact the Police Department.

DON'T GET DISTRACTED

Along with selling bogus home improvements another favorite is the Distraction Burglary. This is also known as an imposter burglary. In this scam the perpetrator identifies a victim, again normally an elderly person, although mothers with small children have also been targeted. Once identified the imposter will approach and pretend to be a utility worker,

volunteer, or someone contracted for survey work. While on person distracts the homeowner an accomplice enters the residence and removes jewelry, cash, credit cards, or anything else of value. The person distracting the homeowner may even be on the cell phone to the person inside your residence.

A variation of this is while posing as a utility worker to gain entry into the residence, the thief will ask you to perform functions that keep you distracted. You may be asked to go to the basement to turn on water, or sent to retrieve an item such as a phone bill, or pen/pencil. While you are away the thief will take the opportunity to remove your valuables.