



WESTERN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

CRIME ALERT

Western Springs, IL - January 29, 2014

The Western Springs Police Department would like to inform residents about a possible, theft by deception crime pattern that has been identified. Since the week of January 20, 2014, this department in conjunction with several Police Departments in the area has generated active investigations regarding individuals who are selling subscriptions for the Chicago Sun Times or Chicago Tribune.

During this Police Department's investigation, it was learned that these individuals are not employed by the Sun Times, Chicago Tribune or any other company that is subcontracted to solicit newspaper subscriptions. These individuals will often walk independently and will sometimes claim they are attending Malcom X or Truman Colleges and are supporting themselves by selling the subscriptions.

Here's what you can do to avoid scams and annoying solicitors:

- Visit the Police Department and receive "No Soliciting" signs. The signs are free and will discourage all but the most aggressive solicitors. Post them in clear view near all your entrances to your home.
- Keep informed about what solicitor licenses have been issued by the Village. The list of licenses issued is available at www.wsprings.com.
- Check through your peep hole or window before opening your door to anyone. Trust your instincts and don't judge by appearances. Scam artist and solicitors often dress professionally to earn your confidence.
- Don't answer the door if you feel uneasy and keep your phone handy. Indicate that you are home, but too busy to open the door.
- Never bring a purse to the door.
- Never invite solicitors inside.
- If you're interested in service or items offered, ask to see the solicitor's Village of Western Springs permit or identification.
- If you do purchase merchandise or services from the solicitor, do not pay in advance.
- Keep all doors locked while working in your garage or in your garden/yard and remember that screens are easy to break into.
- If you feel threatened by an aggressive solicitor, call the Western Springs Police Department immediately by dialing 9-1-1. Be prepared to describe suspicious subjects including their vehicles in detail to the duty Telecommunicator.

Taking a few precautions can go a long way in preventing you from becoming the victim of a crime. If anyone has any information regarding these crimes or any other crime, please contact the Western Springs Police Department at 708-246-8540.