



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL HESSLER

Funny: Fake credit cards are displayed during the session that helped folks who handle money and credit cards learn to spot counterfeit cards and cash.

Counterfeit from page A1

ing ink. By turning the bill slightly at an angle, the numeral on the lower right corner switches from green to black.

When holding the note up to a light, there should be a watermark to the right of the photo. At the far left on \$20s and \$100s, there is a security thread embedded in the paper. On \$50s, the plastic thread is on the far right.

Granted, a McDonald's cashier with 10 people waiting in line doesn't have time to thoroughly examine every bill, Pupillo said. That's why the texture is important.

The real McCoy has raised ink and is made of a special cotton

fabric.

"I have people who tell me they notice the feel," Pupillo said. "They'll say, 'This one felt different. Sure enough, I put it aside and it was counterfeit.'"

Authorities suggest cashiers keep the bill and try to delay the passer and then phone police. If not, then they should get a physical description and a plate number of the person's vehicle.

Pupillo passed around plastic sheets containing bogus bills. At a glance, the made-up money would pass the muster.

Upon closer inspection, where there are supposed to be lines there are dots or blotches. Pupillo recommends holding a suspect

bill next to an authentic one.

"Look for the differences and not the similarities," he said.

Along with counterfeit bills, participants also learned about stopping bad checks and fake credit cards, which are also prevalent during holiday periods.

Stores need to train employees on check cashing policies, said Hills police Detectives Dave Stasch and Dave Lee. The key is sticking to those procedures.

"Your check passers ... are going to try to make their purchases when you're rushed and you have a lot of customers," Lee said.

Gardening schools hosts open house for enthusiasts Nov. 16

All gardening enthusiasts are invited to attend an open house for The Michigan School of Gardening 7-9 p.m. Monday, in the school's classroom at McFarland Florist's Garden Shop, 28916 Grand River (four blocks east of Middlebelt), Farmington Hills.

The school, which will hold classes January through June, provides comprehensive, practical training for professional gardeners and serious amateurs.

Call (248) 442-7336 for more information on the open house or curriculum. The

Michigan School of Gardening was founded in 1996 by Mary Lore, president of McFarland Florist, and Janet Macunovich, a gardening columnist, radio talk show host and author.

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Stick handling session offered at arena

A special Stick Handling session will be offered at the Farmington Hills Ice Arena for kids 12 years old and over during

school closings.

Sessions will be available from 1-2:50 p.m. Nov. 17 and Nov. 19. Full equipment is required for youth 18 and under and children

must also be accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$7 per session with a limit of 30 skaters. This session is reserved for puck handling and passing skills only.

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