Con artists prey on elderly people

Time and time again, the Farmington Hills Police Department responds to complaints from senior citizens, who



have allowed criminals to come into their homes under false pre-tenses and then have fallen vic-tim to theft.

While people over age 65 make up only 12 percent of the population, they constitute about 30 percent of scam victims. Often the victims of such ploys are older women, but can artists are not partial to either gender. They are looking for an easy mark.

When a solicitor comes to your door, do not allow him entry to your home. Do not be embar-rassed to check for identification before opening your door. Ask for

before opening your door. Ask for proof of association with a charity, such as a company identifica-tion card with a photograph of the person.

Take the time to check the

image on the ID card with the face that you looking at and make sure that they are the

same.
If you still feel uncertain, look my but attir et uncertain, took up the company's telephone number and call to verify the employment of the solicitor, asking if the business being conducted at your home is legitimate. If you have allowed entry, make sure that this individual is not sure that this individual is not left alone in another room while you do this. Do not alert anyone to where your purse or wallet is kept by going to that room to get money. Should the selicitor not be logitimate, he/she now has important information of where you keep quick money and they may plan on coming back later to help themselves.

Always write a check instead of paying with eash for charitable contributions or purchases from a fund-raising organization. Make checks payable only to the organization amme, never to an individual who is collecting for the organization. Be sure not to

individual who is collecting for the organization. Be sure not to leave any room on the check for unauthorized alterations, such as adding a number in front of yours, changing the figure from five to 75. Your purso, wallet, check book should not be visible

Be cautious of the solicitor who Be cautious of the sourctor wan is trying to rush you into making a decision to spond your money. Watch for the signal, "this can only be offered to you now, while I'm here." If it sounds too good to true, it probably is!

Don't be high-pressured into making a snap decision and

be true, it probably is!

Don't be high-pressured into making a snap decision and make sure that you are in the presence of a legitimate business person before you sign anything or give a doposit.

Another ploy is to distract the senior and then ask for sensitive financial information, such as bank account numbers or credit card numbers. This can lead to the resident having his/her life savings stolen. Your social security number, bank account numbers and your credit card numbers are private and should not be shared with any stranger that might call you on the phone or come to your door. Avoid headache and heartache down the road and do not give these numbers out to strangers.

Be auspicious of solicitors asking you to discuss your finances by giving you bogus information about their personal finances. This could be an effort to make you comfortable about disclosing your financial information.
You are probably thinking that

your financial information.

your financial information. You are probably thinking that this is going to embarrass you or make you feel foolish. Criminals are pros. They are good at what they do, conning residents; and they don't care how much pain or suffering they cause. Make sure that your home is secure. Unsure? The Farmington Hills Polico Department offera a free residential security survey to its residents. Recommendations are made for low cost measures that made for low cost measures that

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can make your home more secure. Also, be sure to pick up pamphlets and brochures regardpampines and orectures regarding home security from the now Farmington Hills Community Police Vehicle. We will be out and about the city throughout the summer. For more information call the Crimo Prevention Section at 473-9640.

Juliet McGlinch is a crime pre-cention technician with the farmington Hills Police Depart-

The following are police and fire incidents that occurred in Farmington and Farmington Hills during the past week.

MEFI
In Farmington Hills:
Someone stole 150 wooden pallots worth \$330 from Reynolds
Water Conditioning on Hathaway the night of July \$-9.
A woman put on a sweater and
walked off without paying for it
at The Gold Peddier on Orchard
Lake July 8. The police report
said the woman had her nafis
done and left. Attempts to reach
her at work have been unsuccaseful, the store manager said.
Someone stole 11 prepaid
phone calling cards and three
cell phones from 7-Eleven on 10
Mile July 11.

WORKER DISPUTE

Mile July 11.

WORKER DISPUTE

In Farmington Hills:

Two employees at Feldbre
Quality Meats on Middlebelt got
into a fight around 6 p.m. July
11. One employee said he was
punched three times while the
other was cut on the arm by a
knife his coworker was holding
at the time. The man who was
cut said he didn't believe the
knife was oused with an intent to
injure him.

TRESPASSING

TRESPASSING

In Europassing
In Farmington Hills:
A Botsford doctor phoned
police after a woman brought
him food and a lotter demanding
to see him July 9. The woman

has done it before. When ques-tioned by police, the woman said she wanted to see the doctor about medical records. Police and hospital security told her to leave and that she would be arrested for trespassing if she returned.

VANDALISM
In Farmington Hills:
Vandals destroyed a PortaJohn at Power Middle School on
Rhonswood between July 3-4,
causing \$780 damage.
Someone threw a rock and
broke the windshield on a 1994
Ford Explorer traveling north on
Halsted July 9, causing \$250
damage. The driver said an
unknown white male threw the
rock near Diamond Forest
Apartments.

REMAK-WS

BREAK-INS

BREAL-HS
In Farmington Hills:
Someone broke into a 1999
Nissan and stele steree speakers
worth \$200 while the car was
parked at Maxie Collision on
Northwestern Highway between
July 1-8

July 1-8.

RECKLESS DRIVING

In Formington Hills:
Police ticketed a Brighton
man, 46, for rockless driving
after an off-duty Hills officer saw
his 1990 Flymouth Laser
attempt to ram another vehicle,
cearly causing a high-speed collision on eastbound 1-696 July 9.
Both drivers appeared to be
arguing before the incident.

Police stopped the 1990 Plymouth Laser after it exited on Orchard Lake. The driver said the altercation started when the pick-up hit his vehicle and broke a side mirror while on the 1-96 and 1-986 interchange.

DRUKKEN DRIVING

POLICE AND FIRE CALLS

and Luye interchange.

DRUMEN DEFINE

Police orrested a Farmington

In Farmington Hills:

Police orrested a Farmington

Hills man, 43, for drunken driving on 14 Mile and Tenhill at

10:10 p.m. July 9. Police found
the man wandering around a

10:99 Ford pick-up truck after it

struck another vehicle. Police
reports state the man recked of

alcohol, but the refused to take a

Breathalyzer. Police got a search
warrant and took him to Botsford Hospital where two vials of

blood were drawn. Those will be
sent to the Michigan State Police

crime lab for analysis. Witnesses

say the Ford pick-up was speed
ing and hit a vehicle stopped at

Tenhill on the driver's side,

knocking the ear off the read and

pinning the driver inside. She
had to be cut out of the vehicle

and taken to Providence Hospi
tal. A witness said she saw the

pick-up driver get out and uri
nate in nearby bushes before

checking on the other driver.

Folice arrested a Livonia

woman, 19, for drunken driving

near The Allbi on Grand River at

136 a.m. July 10. Police stopped

the 1998 Saturn after nearly

being struck by the car as it

pulled out of the restaurant. The

driver had a blood alcohol level of .22 percent, which is twice above the state legal limit of .10 percent. Police arrested a Ferminate

percent.
Police arrested a Farmington
Hills woman, 26, for drunken
driving on Grand River and
Drake at 1:39 a.m. July 11. The
driver had a blood alcohol level
of 12 percent.

criver had a blood alcohol level of .12 percent.

CONCEALED WEAPON

In Farmington Billia:
Police arrested a Bedford, Ind.
man, 31, for carrying a concealed weapon after finding a 9 millimeter Ruger inside a 1992
Buick on 10 Mile and Middlebelt
July 10. An officer became suspicious after seeing the car at 3:45
a.m. driving through a parking to near Jumbo Video, which is across the street from Smoker's colly, a store that has been breken into recently. The officer saw a shoulder holster and found the unloaded gun underneath an arm rest. He and a passenger, an Indiana man, 25, were questioned in connection to an armed robbery at a Novi speedway station on Eight Mile and Haggerty, but Novi authorities don't believe the two men were involved, police reports and were involved, police reports

Auto thert
In Farmington Hills:
A white 1992 Dodge Spirit was
stolen from Country Glen Apartments on 14 Mile July 10.



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