



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RELEASE OF INFORMATION MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE HINSDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER: MARK WODKA, SERGEANT, 630-789-7086, 121 SYMONDS DRIVE, HINSDALE, ILLINOIS, 60521.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**November 3, 2015**

### ***Home Repair Scams***

In the fall months, it is not uncommon for traveling scam artists to approach residents' homes looking to solicit home repair business. Beware of these scam artists who come to your door to offer driveway paving and sealing, roof repair, or tree trimming.

They often target middle-class homeowners, especially seniors. They generally dress professionally, speak politely, and drive well-maintained vehicles, all of which give homeowners the false impression that they are trustworthy.

These professional con-artists typically provide a verbal estimate to pave driveways or repair roofs for a very low price, but they later charge a much higher price, and the quality of the work is shoddy. In many cases, the con-artists lie to homeowners, telling them their driveway or roof needs to be repaired. They often say that they just finished paving a neighbor's driveway and have leftover asphalt that they are willing to sell for a very low price. They work quickly, and then demand a much higher payment.

To protect yourself, watch for the signs of this scam, including contractors who:

- Come to your door unexpectedly
- Notice a problem with your roof or driveway
- Say they have leftover materials from a neighbor's job
- Offer unbelievably low prices
- Accept cash or check only
- Promise an unconditional guarantee on the work
- Start work immediately
- Take only 30 minutes to an hour to finish the job

Before signing a contract or making a payment, check a company's reputation with the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Better Business Bureau. If you observe behavior that is unusual or suspicious, contact the Hinsdale Police Department by calling 9-1-1. It is important to report an accurate description of the person(s) clothing, height, gender, and race. If you observe a vehicle, note the color, make, style, and/or license plate.

See more information about various current scams by visiting the Hinsdale Police Department website: [www.villageofhinsdale.org/pd](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pd), or a good resource which includes videos and current information is the AARP: <http://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>