



CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*******FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE*******

Citizens Should Be Vigilant of Potential Home Improvement Scams

Date: April 2, 2012

(Christiansburg, Virginia) - Spring is the time of year for home improvement projects and the Christiansburg Police Department asks that citizens be particularly aware of potential scams during this season.

A few examples of scams seen around town include:

- **Driveway Paving**

Someone comes to your door and offers to re-top your driveway. They use a kerosene mixture that initially looks professional but then washes away when it rains.

- **Home Improvement Contractor**

Someone arrives at your door and tells you they need to look at your fence or something inside your home. While they distract you, another person enters your home to steal cash or other small valuables.

If you believe you have been the victim of a scam, please contact the police department at (540) 382-3131.

TIPS:

- 1) Keep your screen door locked at all times, as this keeps a barrier between you and the person at your door. It makes it more difficult for them to be pushy or try to get inside your home.
- 2) Never invite sales people inside your home.
- 3) Ask to see a business license from the Town of Christiansburg. If they cannot produce one on demand, do not purchase anything from them.
- 4) When in doubt, call the Police Department at (540) 382-3131 or, if you feel an immediate threat, dial 911. As always, citizens are reminded to be vigilant at home, when contacted via the phone and when using email and/or the internet.

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