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News Release

HPD Warns of Recent Paving Scam

May 9, 2011

The Harrisonburg Police Department has received several complaints of a recent paving scam.

In late April, two individuals reported that an unknown male came to their door asking to seal their driveways. Before the victim had agreed, several males already started the work.

Once the work was complete, the offender asked for their payment in the form of a check. After the victim signed the check, the offender agreed to fill out the remaining portion. The check was filled out for more than the amount agreed upon by the victim.

After further investigation and information from the victims, police were able to identify the person responsible for two incidents.

Travis Shaffer, 23, of Strasburg is wanted for two counts of obtaining money by false pretenses, one count of attempting to obtain money by false pretenses, and two counts of entering property with intent to damage.

On May 6, a third victim reported that she was also the victim of a similar paving scam.

HPD recommends the following tips for citizens in Harrisonburg:

- Be leery of door-to-door salespeople, check with local businesses first
- Always ask for identification and contact information from the business representative
- Validate the business before handing over any money
- Write down the vehicle description and license plate of vehicles doing work at your residence
- Research and pursue a company if you want work done; not vice versa
- Call police immediately if you feel the salesperson is not legitimate.

All three incidents are still under investigation. Police are working to determine if the most recent scam is connected to the previous scams.

Anyone with information on Shaffer's whereabouts is asked to call Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050. Crime Solvers is an anonymous tip line and callers could receive up to a \$1,000 reward.

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