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## SCAM ALERT!



A Consumer Update from Mat Heck, Jr., Prosecuting Attorney



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### Home Improvement Scams

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It's that time of year when many homeowners think about home improvements, especially with the housing market taking a turn for the better. Beware of home improvement scams. Throughout Ohio and neighboring states, hundreds of reports have been made regarding these types of scams. Here's what to look out for:

- Someone comes to your door and offers to do work without you seeking them out.
- They require payment up-front.

- They don't provide you with any written contract for the work, which would describe their responsibilities or your cancellation rights.



These scams commonly involve tree trimming, roofing, or driveway sealing or repaving.

To avoid these scams, do your research.

Specifically:

- Check out potential contractors with the Better Business Bureau;
- Ask your neighbors for recommendations of people they have used in the past;
- NEVER pay for the job up front;
- Seek out your own professional to do the work instead of using a door-to-door solicitor.

**Keep in mind, if the price seems too good to be true, it probably is!**

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The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Kimberly Melnick, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Anthony Schoen, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.

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