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Sheriff: Couple Are Scammers

Rochester Hills Man Robbed Of \$1,100, Sheriff's Office Says

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ROCHESTER HILLS, Mich. -- The Oakland County Sheriff's Office said they're investigating a scam that recently surfaced in one Rochester Hills neighborhood.

The office said an 87-year-old resident was scammed out of \$1,100 when a man and a woman knocked on his door on Red Oak Lane last week, offering to fix his chimney.

The resident was told he could only pay the couple with cash, so he made a trip to the bank and returned with the money, the office said.

The couple left, never making any repairs.

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Neighbors in the area said they don't usually have any trouble with crime, and they like to keep watch over each other.

"If that is going on, that is a definite concern that I and the rest of the neighbors have," said resident Ryan Dillon.

The Sheriff's Office said elderly residents should be cautious, as they may be more popular as targets for the scammers.

Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said a good rule-of-thumb is to reject any unsolicited job request. "Start the conversation off with a flat 'no', right out of the box," he said.

Bouchard also urged residents to call if they have questions and said no situation should be considered minor.

"We want the call (from residents). If we can help protect somebody from being the victim of a financial or personal crime, we want to do that -- especially our seniors," Bouchard said.

Resident Bob Tarran is 90 years old. He said he only hires help he knows and that he's ready to ward off anyone who tries to scam him on his doorstep.

"Oh, you know, I'm ready in more ways than one I tell ya," he said.

Authorities said they're looking for the couple, who was seen driving a red-colored pickup truck with a leather cover over the back. Witnesses also reported seeing a dog with them.

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