

CON GAMES AND SCAMS

Residents should be aware of scam artists and con-men (or women) who prey on innocent victims, frequently the elderly with a variety of tactics. They may pose as salespersons, repairmen, bank examiners, government officials, charity workers, utility meter readers, even clergy or police officers. If someone shows up at your home claiming to be one of the above and you are unsure, ask for identification. If they can't provide proper identification, they are probably not who they claim.

While con artists may be difficult to detect by looks alone, they can often be spotted by their words or expressions. Watch out for offers, arrangements and deals that involve the following:

- ✓ *"Cash Only"* – Why is cash necessary? Why not a check?
- ✓ *"Last Chance"* – If it's worth it, why is this the last chance?
- ✓ *"Secret Plan"* – Why are you being asked to keep it a secret?
- ✓ *"Get Rich Quick"* – Any scheme of this type should be thoroughly investigated.
- ✓ *"Something for Nothing"* – Any time you are offered something for nothing, you usually end up with nothing.
- ✓ *"Contests and Sweepstakes"* – Beware if you are required to pay money to enter or to receive your prize.
- ✓ *"Today Only"* – If it's such a good deal today, then why not tomorrow?
- ✓ *"Too Good to Be True"* – Such a scheme is likely neither "good" nor "true".

If you believe that you have been the victim of a "con" or a "scam", call the Justice Police Department at (708) 458-2191 to report the crime.