



GREENE COUNTY SHERIFF

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CPT. Jim Farrell

Media Release

Asphalt Scams

Sheriff Jim Arnott and the Greene County Sheriff's Office want the citizens of Greene County to be aware of Asphalt contractors that scam the local citizens. Typically these contractors are not from Greene County. They generally conduct these scams in the rural areas. They will contact you at the door of your residence or leave a business card. They will state they just completed a job close by, and have Asphalt or driveway sealant available and would "repair, lay asphalt or seal your driveway" for a price that is typically way below the normal rate. They will give you a quote that sounds very reasonable. If you choose repair or to have asphalt laid, they lay asphalt that varies in thickness from as little as a half an inch to generally no more than an inch and a half. If you hire them to seal your driveway, the sealant used is well below normal standards and has been know to "wash away" with a heavy rain. Upon completion of the requested job, they will then tell you it took longer and required more material than anticipated. They will then tell you they are now owed more money than the original quote. Typically the cost jumps several thousand dollars from the original quote. If you hesitate or refuse to pay, the normal response is that they refuse to leave, intimidate or even "bully" the customer into paying. They appear very confident and make the consumer believe they legally owe the extra money. In an effort to show they are right in asking for extra money, they may even suggest you contact law enforcement. They also target elderly or people they can easily intimidate.

In the event you do encounter these people, we suggest that you **DO NOT hire them. Should you fall victim and do hire them, when you are told you owe more money than originally agreed upon, do not let them in your house and call 911. If, after the fact you feel as if you were scammed, please call 911.**

This type of operation and scam is not restricted to asphalt layers. It can include many different types of business including, but not limited to, sealing your roof, in particular sealing around chimneys, siding work and tree trimming.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office recommends if you need any type of work done to your home, that you hire a reputable company that gives bids in writing. Ask to see and examine their insurance work. You can contact the Better Business Bureau at 417-862-4222 or go their website at www.bbb.org