

**CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MAJOR ACTIVITY**

<b>OFFENSES – FEBRUARY 2009</b>	<b>NUMBER</b>
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	2
Theft / Other	5
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	5
Assault	1
Aggravated Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1153</b>

The Spring Valley Village Police Department has received several reports in the last few weeks from senior citizens who have been targeted as victims of what is known as the “Grandparents Scam”.

In this scheme, the victim will receive a phone call from someone claiming to be the victim’s grandchild. The caller may begin the conversation with a greeting such as, “Hi, Grandma. Do you know who this is?” The victim will reply with the true name of her grandchild, and the caller will then claim that he is in some kind of trouble. He may claim to have been involved in an auto accident (often claiming to be in Canada), need money for overdue rent, or be in some minor brush with the law. He may also add a statement such as, “Can you please help me? But don’t tell Mom. She’d kill me if she found out.”

The caller will then ask for an amount of money from hundreds to thousands of dollars. He will request that the victim wire transfer the money, often times giving instructions on how to do so through services offered at grocery stores or similar facilities. A criminal receiving money in this way is very difficult, if not impossible, to identify and locate. If you are ever asked to wire transfer money or provide your bank account information or social security number to someone, it is almost always certain that this request is being made for inappropriate reasons in pursuit of a scam or swindle. Never provide this information to anyone over the telephone unless you are absolutely certain to whom you are speaking and for what purposes the information is needed.

As mentioned in the example of the conversation above, if a potential victim is asked, "Do you know who this is?" the victim should answer, "No, I don't. Who is this?" If the caller says, "It's your grandson", reply, "Really? Which one?"

Anyone who receives such a call should verify the grandchild's whereabouts with other family members before agreeing to send money. Tell the caller to call you back in thirty minutes and then check with your family to confirm the scenario.

If you learn that the call is indeed a scam, call the Spring Valley Village Police Department immediately so that we may take the appropriate action.

For those of you who are reading this and are not grandparents, please help distribute this information to your "grand" friends and neighbors who may not have a computer or e-mail service in place to receive this warning.

Thank you.

Gary Finkelman  
Chief of Police