



## COMMUNITY ALERT

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### **Attempted Ruse Burglary**

On Friday, February 6, 2023, at approximately 4:10pm, the Lindenhurst Police Department responded to a home on Old Farm Ct. to investigate a suspicious incident. Reportedly, a male subject was at the home posing as a Village of Lindenhurst Public Works employee. The male asked to enter the home to inspect the water due to reported damage to a nearby water pipe. The male subject was wearing all black clothing with a black neck gaiter (scarf) that covered his face. The resident denied the suspect entry to the home and the resident called the Village Hall to verify if Public Works had staff working in the area. The Lindenhurst Police Department was immediately called after the resident learned that the Public Works Department did not have anyone working in the area at the time.

This incident is similar in nature to two other recent reports taken in Lake County and McHenry County. Just prior to the Lindenhurst occurrence, the Lake County Sheriff's Department responded to a similar incident in the Grandwood Park neighborhood. On Saturday, the McHenry Police Department also investigated a similar incident where the resident was lured outside while a second suspect burglarized the home.

Ruse burglaries are committed by offenders who generally travel in pairs. One offender uses a 'ruse' to distract the victim, while the other offender enters the home to search for and steal cash, jewelry and other items. Ruse burglaries occur when victims are physically present at the home and distracted by a 'ruse.'

Common ruses may include, but are not limited to:

- Offering to repair gutters, fences or tree trimming and landscaping
- Blacktop, seal-coating, or driveway repair
- Inquiries about the homeowner's water supply or water pressure
- Informing the homeowner there is an electrical problem outside of the home
- False statements about problems with the neighbor's house
- Questions about homeowner's property lines

The Lindenhurst Police would like to warn the public to be on the lookout for these scams and offers the following safety tips:

- Do not allow anyone in your home unless you know them personally or it is a scheduled appointment.
- If a solicitor comes to your residence, take notice of the vehicle they are driving (make, model, color, type) as well as their attire and physical characteristics.
- If you choose to speak with a solicitor or utility worker, never leave your front door unlocked or unattended.
- A legitimate utility or government worker will never object if you ask for ID.
- You may verify with the utility company or local government agency if the individual was sent to your residence.
- If the scammer refuses to leave, continues to pressure you into letting them in or if you are suspicious for any reason, please call "911" immediately.
- Share these tips with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

The Lindenhurst Police Department is encouraging anyone with additional information regarding this incident to contact them at (847) 356-5400.