



## JUSTICE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Justice Police Department is reminding residents to not allow strangers access to their yard, home, or garage. In the past week there has been two attempted Ruse Burglaries (Gypsy Scam). The suspects have been described as Hispanic looking males in their early to late 20's. The suspect attempts to lure the homeowner outside or even to the rear of the residence to discuss an issue with their home or neighbor's home. Once the homeowner is distracted a second suspect will enter the home to commit the burglary. The Justice Police Department offers the following safety tips:

- Be aware of anyone coming to your door or approaching you for unsolicited business. Always keep the storm door locked.
- When outside gardening or doing lawn maintenance, carry a house key in your pocket and keep the doors to the home locked. Have a cell phone handy to call 911 in case suspicious people approach you.
- Take note of any suspicious vehicles in the area—cars, vans, trucks—particularly those with missing front and/or rear license plates or in bad condition with identifying business markings on the sides.
- Request identification from anyone who approaches and tell them you will verify any work conducted in the area with the police.
- Keep jewelry, cash and other valuables in a safe place, preferably a bank safety deposit box.
- Ruse burglars are usually non-violent, but don't confront them. If they're inside your house, get to a phone and call 911. You don't have to speak to the operator, just leave the phone off the hook.
- Most ruse burglars are only in the house for five minutes or less. If you can't get to a phone, try to get a license plate number and note the direction the offenders leave in. Call 911 immediately after they leave so police have a better chance of catching them.