



Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office Crime Solvers



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(540)582-5822 OR 1-800-928-5822

OCTOBER 23 THRU OCTOBER 29, 2019

TIP OF THE WEEK

Scams and older consumers: Looking at the data October 23, 2019

The FTC just sent a report to Congress called Protecting Older Consumers 2018-2019. The report suggests steps to take to help protect older consumers from fraud. But the evidence also shows a thing or two everyone else can learn from them. Check out the sometimes surprising findings in this year's report.

Older adults were the least likely of any age group to report losing money to scams. The overwhelming majority of fraud reports filed with the FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network by people 60+ didn't indicate any monetary loss. What's more, consumers in that age group spotted fraud and reported it before losing any money at nearly twice the rate of people between 20 and 59. *What that tells us.* Even if they were able to spot scams before losing money, older consumers have heeded the law enforcement call to report fraud. Consumers of all ages can follow their example by reporting their scam stories at ftc.gov/complaint.

But when older consumers experience consumer fraud, their reported financial losses were greater than what younger consumers reported. Compared to 2017 numbers, reported median losses among consumers 60 and over increased, and the increase was particularly large for people 80+. *What that tells us.* In addition to ongoing FTC law enforcement, sharing information with older consumers about scams is still very important. Exposed to Scams: What Separates Victims from Non-Victims?, a report from the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, and the Stanford Center on Longevity, suggests that people are much less likely to lose money on a scam they encounter if they've heard about it before. So spread the word about scams you hear about in the news or from the FTC. *Even though older consumers are less likely to report losing money to scams, certain scams are more likely to strike them.* For example, older adults were more likely than younger consumers to report losing money on tech support scams, prize, sweepstakes & lottery scams, and family & friend impersonation. Phone scams did the most financial damage. And while gift cards became the payment of choice for scammers, wire transfers still take the top spot for total dollars paid. *What that tells us.* Rather than general reminders to "be careful," offer older consumers targeted tips about tech support scams, bogus prize promotions, and scammers who impersonate family and friends. In addition, talk to older friends and family about specific strategies for reducing the number of unwanted calls and spotting when a phone fraudster is on the line. And tell older consumers within your circle that if anyone contacts them and insists on payment by a wire transfer or gift card, it's a scam. Protecting Older Consumers 2018-2019: A Report of the Federal Trade Commission includes details about the cases the FTC has brought to protect older consumers and includes links to new topics in Pass It



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On, an FTC resource you can use to help educate family and friends about fraud. Lesley Fair, Attorney, Division of Consumer & Business Education

BREAKING AND ENTERING NIGHTTIME-SALEM FIELDS~FAIRFIELD CFS 19-99310

11000 block Taney Drive, on October 29, 2019 between 9:32 and 9:39pm unknown persons kicked the front door in an attempt to gain entry. The door did not open and the suspects ran away. Two males were seen nearby running away. The tenants were upstairs. Damage to the door is \$300.00.

GRAND LARCENY FROM BUILDING-APARTMENTS AT SOUTHPOINT LANDING CFS 19-97099

Abberly Village Construction Site, 4900 Allertow Road, between October 22 6:00pm and the 23rd at 9:53am 2019, unknown persons broke into three company's building on the Oxford properties. The Oxford office trailer door was damaged; it is estimated at \$300.00. D&M Electrical-38 work tools, guns, saws, harnesses, saws, tinkle gun, glue guns, nail pouches, and extension cords, valued at \$5,540.00. Velocity Construction of Virginia, a container door was damaged and the cost is \$1,000.00. A Mini excavator was used to tear off the back door of the storage trailer. CFS 19-97099

GRAND LARCENY SHOPLIFT CFS 19-97213

Sprint, 10035 Jefferson Davis Highway, on October 23, 2019 between 2:28 and 2:30pm 3 males entered and two went to a phone display case. The two disconnected and took a blue Samsung S10+ and a silver Samsung Galaxy Note 10+. Both phones are valued at \$1,099.99. The three males are black. One is 6'2", skinny short dreads with bleached tips, wore a black and gold shirt and black jeans. The other has light color dreads, beard and wore a black North Face hoodie or jacket. The other is wore a black hoodie with "Nirvana" in yellow on the front and a yellow smiley face on the back and wore black and yellow sneakers. CFS 19-97213

GRAND LARCENY SHOPLIFT-SOUTHPOINT INDUSTRIAL PARK CFS 19-98879

Wal-Mart, 10001 Southpoint Parkway, on October 28, 2019 between 2:07am and 2:13am a male placed three televisions from a stack and put them in a cart and then exited the store without paying for them. The sets are 32" Element brand valued at \$297.00 each. The suspect is a black male wearing a blue shirt. CFS 19-98879

PETIT LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILE-TIMBERS CFS 19-97299

200 block Albany Street, between October 22, 10:00pm and October 23, 2019 7:00am someone entered the victims unlocked Chevrolet Suburban and stole 2 pairs of shoes is Red Jordan size 5 and size 12 and a white pair of Air Force 1 size 10. Collective price for the two pairs is \$290.00. CFS 19-97299

PETIT LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILE-WINDSOR PLACE CFS 19-97358

6000 block Cathedral Road, between October 23, 9:00pm and October 24, 2019 7:36am someone siphoned most of the tank full of gasoline from the 2006 Ford Mustang. CFS 19-97358



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PETIT LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILE-LEAVELLS LANDING CFS 19-97513

5200 block Calvert Court, between October 23, 6:00pm and October 24, 2019 9:00am someone took the front license plate from the victim's vehicle. CFS 19-97513

PETIT LARCENY FROM AUTOMOBILE- SALEM FIELDS~FAIRFIELD CFS 19-97266

11100 block Gander Court, on October 23, 2019 between 12:01am and 12:06am someone entered the victim's vehicle and stole an iPod and a pair of Ray-ban glasses valued at \$180.00; the IPOD is valued at \$200.00. CFS 19-97266

PETIT LARCENY SHOPLIFT CFS 19-98283

ABC Store, 5055 Jefferson Davis Highway, on October 26, 2019 between 6:52 and 6:55pm a black male picked a bottle of Christian Brothers liquor valued at \$6.49 and placed it in a pants pocket then went to another aisle and took a bottle of Paul Masson valued at \$6.99 and placed it in another pocket and then went to the counter and changed money for a \$20.00 bill and left. He was wearing tan pants, a green shirt and wore a black hat. CFS 19-98283

PETIT LARCENY OTHER CFS 19-97281

7700 Old Robert E. Lee Drive, on October 23, 2019 between 5:15am and 7:55pm unknown persons went on the victims from property and stole \$80.00 worth of Halloween decorations. CFS 19-97281

FRAUD-SOUTHPOINT INDUSTRIAL PARK CFS 19-97253

Wal-Mart, 10001 Southpoint Parkway, on October 23, 2019 between 1:00pm and 5:35pm the victim applied for a loan over the internet and was approved by Lending Club Group. The victim was sent \$900.00 and told to place the money on gift cards and to send the cards back as proof that he would pay the bills on time. Then the fraudster would send \$2,223.00 for insurance purposes to the victim's account. The victim felt that something wasn't right and that it was a fraud. It was. CFS 19-97253

FRAUD CREDIT CARD-FOX POINT CFS 19-98497

6100 block North Danford Street, between October 26, 8:00am and October 27, 2019 3:10pm someone used the victim's Visa Debit card and Chipotle account. The suspect four buys from Chipotle totaling \$154.67. The card has a Chipotle account attached to the debit card. The purchases were delivered to an address in Saint Paul, Minnesota. CFS 19-98497

VANDALISM CFS 19-97102

4240 Plank Road, on October 23, 2019 between 7:30 and 8:30am the victim parked the black 2016 Kia for an hour and when the victim returned there was a long scratch marks on the driver's side door panel of the vehicle. CFS 19-97102



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FRAUD CFS 19-99215

Robert E. Lee Elementary School, 7415 Brock Road, on October 28, 2019 between 12:00 and 3:00pm someone use the victim's BB&T credit and debit card numbers and the statement of charges appeared on the victim's work computer. CFS 19-99215

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY CFS 19-98494

Lovely Nails, 10817 Tidewater Trail, on October 27, 2019 between 1:30pm and 2:30pm a female had full set of polished and glow-in-the dark nails and attempted to pay with a \$100.00 counterfeit bill. The female stated she was given the bill by her boyfriend and would wait outside. She stayed than walked away. The female is black, wore a pink Adidas zip up, gray leggings and a black du rag. CFS 19-98494

VANDALISM-SOUTHPOINT INDUSTRIAL PARK CFS 19-98470

Wal-Mart, 10001 Southpoint Parkway, on October 27, 2019 between 11:55am and 12:10pm the victim parked the white 2012 White Kia Forte and went to the store. When the victim returned to the vehicle the hood, the right side and the top of the trunk were scratched. Damage is estimated at \$2,000.00. CFS 19-98470



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From January 2008 through December 2018, the Spotsylvania County Crime Solvers has paid out \$49,750 in **CASH REWARDS** for information through 2,125 calls to the Crime Solvers Telephone Tip line, Crime Solvers Web Tip page, the former Text-A-Tip phone number, and the new P3 App Tip system. Information obtained has resulted in 193 arrests involving burglaries, drug distribution, arson, vandalism, breaking & entering and other crimes against the citizens of Spotsylvania County. To date there has been \$158,632 worth of stolen property recovered, and property and assorted types of drug seized. From June 2010 through December 2018, 63 Wanted Fugitives have been arrested and are facing or have faced their charges.

Remember your phone call, Web Tip or
P3 App Tip can make a difference.

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