

Paving Scammers Hitting the High Country

Written by Steve Frank

Friday, 13 September 2013 11:06

The paving scammers are at it again in the area, after a couple of quiet years. Sheriff Len Hagaman sent a text message this morning that a reliable and confidential source reported a solicitation from a paver who claimed 'excess materials' were available for a job in his area. The source told the sheriff that it was a typical high-pressure solicitation, saying they would apply the 'excess' they had on their trucks, then return with a fresh load to finish the job. The Deep Gap area resident called the price 'estimate' discussed 'extremely high,' with the target of the solicitation knowledgeable in the costs of paving, and appeared a clear scam. Sheriff Hagaman cautioned resident across the High Country about the paving and other home improvement scams, and encouraged residents to call and check out anyone with the Chamber, Better Business Bureau, or to get references and check them out. He said any unsolicited home improvement should be immediately rejected, and only utilize trusted, local, reliable and recommended contractors for any work. One of the frustrations of the Sheriff's Department or any area law enforcement is that the matters turn out to be civil matters first instead of criminal matters, and there is little initially that can be done by law enforcement. That being the case, there are a number of paving and other contractors who have been ordered to cease and desist orders, and should be reported to the NC Attorney General's Office.