

I trust everyone had a great weekend. I wanted to pass along some things to share with your neighbors.

First off, the scammers remain persistent in trying to trick and confuse residents into sending money to them. Below is another scam being highlighted by the Federal Trade Commission. Many scammers are requesting victims pay using crypto currency. Just remember, a legitimate business will NEVER ask for payment to be made using gift cards or require payment in crypto currency.

[https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2022/08/only-scammers-demand-utility-payments-cryptocurrency?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2022/08/only-scammers-demand-utility-payments-cryptocurrency?utm_source=govdelivery)

Also, if you or someone you know drives a lower trim Hyundai or Kia that require a physical key to start it, be aware that these vehicles don't have ignition immobilizers installed and unfortunately are pretty easy to start without a key and steal. Attached are two articles on the problem and a possible solution that would reduce the risk of theft:

<https://swp.thedrive.com/guides-and-gear/drive-a-newer-hyundai-or-kia-a-steering-wheel-lock-could-keep-it-from-getting-stolen>.

<https://www.fox2detroit.com/news/police-warn-kia-hyundai-owners-to-stop-leaving-usb-plugs-inside-after-rash-of-thefts>

I'm not aware this has become a problem in Pinellas County, but wanted to pass along the trend happening in other communities.

Again, only vehicles that require a KEY to start the vehicle are effected. Push button Hyundai/Kia vehicles remain as safe as any other vehicle.

Have a safe week,

***Deputy Chuck Skipper***

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