

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**NEWS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 3 AT 10:15 AM
SCDA 5th FLOOR LAW LIBRARY, RIVERHEAD CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE**

INDICTMENT SAYS CHIMNEY SCAMMERS RIPPED OFF TWO ELDERLY WOMEN

Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota and Suffolk County Police Department Chief of Detectives William Madigan will announce tomorrow morning (9/3/2014) the indictment and arraignments of two men facing bias crime charges for allegedly burglarizing the homes of two elderly women in Suffolk County approximately two weeks ago.

Less than a week before entering a 92 year old woman's home on Bieslin Road in Bellport on the premise they were performing a chimney inspection, the defendants, Bruce Wimmer, 32, of Bohemia and Michael Windland, 28, of Lake Ronkonkoma scammed a 77 year old Huntington woman by telling the victim that they were chimney repairmen and they needed to get into the house as part of an inspection.

Suffolk detectives have established the pair stole jewelry in the Huntington case from the victim's bedroom.

It was a few days later in Bellport when Wimmer and Windland allegedly stole \$160 cash, some of the money from church envelopes, as well as victim Violet Vetter's prescription medication. The pair also quoted a price of \$3000 for chimney work and offered to drive Ms. Vetter to her bank to withdraw the money.

Wimmer and Windland will be arraigned on the grand jury indictment tomorrow morning in Riverhead before Judge John Toomey. The calendar will be called at 9:30 am.

The news conference will be held in the 5th floor Law Library of the District Attorney's offices in the Riverhead courthouse.

District Attorney Spota and Chief of Detectives Madigan will talk about the bias crime charges in the indictment, and Chief Madigan will describe the police department's new strategy to enhance and expand the resources the department dedicates to the investigation of bias crimes against the elderly.

The start time is 10:15 am.

Contact SCDA Communications 631-853-4118/631-774-6150

Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the people to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.