“Counterfeit bills circulating in the Norfolk area”

The City of Norfolk Police Division has been receiving reports of counterfeit $50 and $100 bills being used in the Norfolk area in the last few weeks.

“There have been a couple of thousand dollars worth of counterfeit bills that have been discovered in usage in the Norfolk area. The Secret Service and detectives at the Norfolk Police Division are working the case together to find the source of these fake bills,” said Police Captain Mike Bauer.

That investigation includes reviewing the surveillance video of businesses where the counterfeit bills have been used and tracking down leads from clerks and other possible witnesses.

“Be mindful especially if someone wants to pay for a large ticket money with all cash. If you do take large bills for a transaction make sure to get as much information from that person as you can to track them down if the bills later turn out to be counterfeit,” Bauer said, “It’s around. This week there was $2.65 million in counterfeit bills confiscated at the Detroit airport. We believe the money used here in the Norfolk community was not produced here. Still, innocent people are getting stuck with fake bills and they will be out that money.”

Bauer said many times it’s the banks that discover the counterfeits as a store is depositing their cash. The banks will return the counterfeit bills to the store and the manager then contacts the police. If the banks don’t know which store the counterfeits came from, they turn the bills over to the Secret Service in Omaha.

Businesses can use counterfeit pens or ultraviolet lights to detect if a bill is counterfeit or not. New bills now have holograms and security strips on them that can be detected only with an ultraviolet light. Every bill also has its own serial number on it so Bauer said to make sure each 50 or 100 bill has its own serial number. If anyone suspects that any bills are counterfeit they are to call the police division at 402-644-8700.

For more information about how to identify counterfeit money go to www.uscurrency.gov.