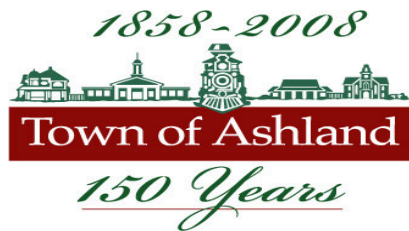


Date: 1/29/2008



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**The Ashland Police Department is notifying the community about a phone scam, which has affected several households in the area.**

Citizens have notified the police department in reference to unusual telemarketing phone calls they have received recently. Some of these phone calls display the numbers "44" prior to the area code on the citizen's caller identification devices.

One report stated that the automated voice on the call informed the individual that there was a mistake with their bank account and that they needed to follow their instructions in order to correct this mistake. In this case, the citizen recognized that it was not a credible call and hung up the phone.

We remind the community that fraud and identity theft can occur to anyone and anywhere. In order to protect yourself from phone scams and fraud, never give out your personal information to include your credit card or bank account numbers over the phone unless you are familiar with the person on the other line. If you receive one of these calls or become the victim of telemarketing or identity fraud, please notify the police immediately. You can research more information in reference to phone scams on the Federal Trade Commissions website linked here... <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/tmarkg/crossbrdr.shtm>

Please read this information on phone scams from the Federal Trade Commissions:

*Consumers who report their complaints about cross-border telemarketing fraud are providing information that is critical to shutting down the boiler rooms. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S., Canada and abroad. If you experience telemarketing fraud of any type, report it. If you are in the U.S., contact the FTC toll-free at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or complain online at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).*