

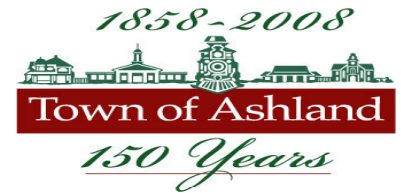


News Update
Ashland Police Department

www.ashlandpolice.us

Thomas A. Clark, Chief

Date: 5/23/2008



At approximately 1:30 pm today, the Ashland Police Department responded to the Ponderosa Steakhouse to recover a backpack, which had been left behind by a customer several hours earlier. The manager of the steakhouse was not initially concerned, but after the customer, who had visited the establishment alone, had still not returned for bag, he decided to contact the police to report the situation. When officers arrived on scene they made a determination to evacuate the restaurant and contact the Hanover County Fire Marshall's Office to inspect the package prior to removing it. A specialized unit was called upon to inspect the package and determined that it was safe. The restaurant and any temporary road closings were reopened shortly afterwards.

The Ashland Police Department thanks the Ponderosa Steakhouse for their excellent observations and cautious actions in contacting the police in this situation. We remind you to remain vigilant in your efforts to keep our community safe and contact the police department should you observe any suspicious packages, individuals or behavior.

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