

**Friday, February 7, 2014**

### **Persistent Phone Scammer Posing as Gas Company Rep**

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Recently, after repeatedly ignoring an incoming phone call from the same unknown number, a Village resident finally decided to answer the phone. The male caller told the resident that he could save her 10% on her energy bill. He then asked the resident for her address and her Washington Gas account number.

The resident grew suspicious and did not provide any information to the caller. She then turned the tables on the caller and smartly asked him several questions regarding his identity and that of his employer. The caller quickly hung up on the resident. Resident 1, scammer 0.

Such scams are rampant nationwide. The Chevy Chase Village Police Department urges everyone to use the following precautions whenever they are dealing with someone over the phone whose identity is uncertain:

- Consider ignoring calls from unfamiliar phone numbers. You donâ€™t have to answer the phone at all; let those calls go to voicemail and decide later whether or not you want to call back.
- Donâ€™t give out information. Period. If a caller asks you for any personal or financial information, assume that they are a crook.
- Never allow yourself to be pressured into making an immediate decision.
- Hang up. You donâ€™t have to be polite to a crook.
- Report suspicious calls to the police.

To learn more about avoiding phone fraud, go to [www.ftc.gov/phonefraud](http://www.ftc.gov/phonefraud).

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### **Parking Law Refresher**

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The Chevy Chase Village Police Department receives numerous parking complaints every week, and we write many parking tickets. While some who park illegally are commuters who violate the parking restriction signs, others are our own residents who may be unaware of some important parking laws that directly affect traffic and pedestrian safety. Below is a short list of parking laws that apply everywhere in Montgomery Countyâ€”including Chevy Chase Village:

It is **illegal** to park:

- Within 30 feet of a stop sign
- Within 35 feet of an intersection
- Within 5 feet of a driveway opening
- More than 1 foot from the curb
- Less than 2 feet from the front or rear of another parked vehicle

- In a direction other than the flow of traffic (a.k.a. “left wheels to the curb”™)

Please share the above with the other drivers in your household, and we ask for your voluntary compliance with our parking laws.