



## NEWS RELEASE

Town of Culpeper  
400 S. Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Howard Kartel, Finance Director/Town Treasurer  
Phone: (540) 829-8220

August 22, 2018

### Utility Phone Scam Alert

Local businesses and individuals in the Town of Culpeper have been receiving phone calls from fraudsters posing as your utility company demanding immediate payment or the utilities will be disconnected. They are leaving a call back phone number directing callers to a fraudulent call center, which uses a recorded greeting that is identical to the Town of Culpeper Treasurer's office recorded greeting.

The Town of Culpeper does not contact customers by phone or in person asking for confidential information. Nor does the Town threaten disconnection of utilities for immediate payment in cash or pre-paid cards. The proper number to call the Town of Culpeper Treasurer's office to discuss utility accounts is (540) 829-8220.

#### **Ways to protect yourself from utility imposter scams:**

1. If someone calls you pretending to be a utility representative and you feel pressured to provide payment or other personal information, capture the phone number and then hang up and call the Town of Culpeper Treasurer's office at (540) 829-8220.
2. If you are approached by someone in person claiming to be from the Town utility or the 'Power Company', always ask to see a Town-issued picture ID badge.
3. Scams are not limited to impersonating a utility company. For more information on the wide range of scams, visit the Better Business Bureau Scam Tips website at [www.bbb.org/scamtips](http://www.bbb.org/scamtips).

**Any business or individual(s) that have been contacted with this type of scam, or any other type, are asked to please contact the Town of Culpeper Police Department at (540) 727-3430.**

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