

THE ROZZI

Report

From State Representative
MARK ROZZI
126th Legislative District

WARNING: BEWARE OF UTILITY SCAMS

I would like to caution residents to keep an eye out for utility scams. Scammers are attempting to gain access to people's homes under the premise that they are utility company workers trying to check on the home's furnace or hot water heater. The imposter utility workers generally work in pairs and as the homeowner escorts one supposed repair worker into the home, the other individual robs the house.

Scammers are also attempting to phish for information via phone calls and emails. Some may threaten to cancel service if personal information is not provided. These are scare tactics aimed at getting you to surrender your personal information.

Utility companies do not normally come to your door unless you have called them. Be sure to ask for identification before giving access to your home. If you still have doubts, contact the utility company directly to verify that they sent a representative to your home. Whether they are on your doorstep or requesting information, be sure to ask for the name of the supplier and review the terms and conditions of their offerings and agreements. Again, any reputable company will not use high pressure scare tactics to earn your business. This is a big red flag!

Customers can follow these tips to help avoid scams:

- If customers receive a call from someone stating they are calling to collect a bill payment, the caller should be able to provide specific information including account name, account address, account number and amount of current balance.
- Never provide your Social Security number, or banking or credit card information via the phone unless you have initiated the call.
- Never provide anyone access to your home who claims to be from a utility or repair company unless the person has proper identification. Customers can always contact the company to confirm an official visit.

A warning when selecting your electric provider

I've received reports from seniors that reputable electric companies have used high pressure sales tactics to lure them into a contract. They are not upfront about the details of the contract and some of the contracts include rate spikes that boost company profits.

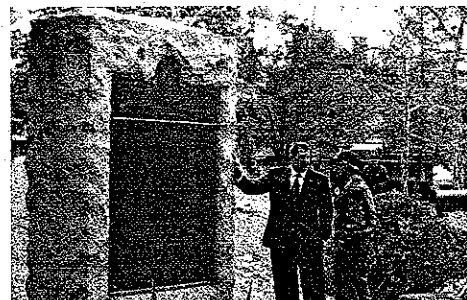
When selecting your energy supplier, I urge you to take a look at the fine print to make sure you're actually saving money. Also, be careful choosing adjustable rates as we have seen prices go as high as 28 cents per kWh. Visit www.papowerswitch.com for details and to compare plans.

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Monument Preservation Committee update

The Berks County Monument Preservation Committee and Fund are up and running. In spite of the weather, we are making progress in improving the condition of the monuments that preserve Berks County's rich history.

Please contact my office at 610-921-8921 for information on how you can be a part of our efforts.



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