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### ***SCAMS – SCAMS and MORE SCAMS***

With the economic hard times the con artists (actor) are coming out of the woodwork. A con artist will work hard to part you from your money. Here are several of the most recent scams pulled off in the area.

#### *Water Company Scam*

This is also known as the Public Utility scam. A person appears at your door or is outside walking along the roadway. After he sees that you're looking at him, he comes to the door and states that he is from the water company or the gas company and asks to check the pipes inside the house. Once inside, one of the actors keeps the person busy, either in the basement or another room, while a second actor enters the house and goes thru the bedrooms stealing money, jewelry or anything else they can get their hands on. Always ask to see a company picture ID, and if you're still not sure call the police.

#### *Secret Shopper Scam*

Remember, there is No One who would hire you for a job that you never applied for and send you your first check, hoping you would do the job.

In this scam you receive a letter and forms asking you to be a "Secret Shopper". The letter instructs you to cash the check at your bank. (You need an account to cash the check). You are instructed to take out half of what the check is and purchase several money orders at either a Wal-Mart, K-Mart or any other location that has a money order place that also wires the money. They ask you to wire the money, then fill out an employee evaluation sheet and mail it in. The check you cashed for \$2,500 and sent them \$2,000, bounces at the bank and now you are responsible for the amount. The scammer has your money.

#### *Grandparent Scam*

This is the hottest scam out there. An elderly person receives a phone call in the early morning hours saying "Grandma or Grandpa it's me", and waits for you to reply with your grandchild's name. Once he has the name he says yes it's me and that I'm in trouble or I've been arrested, and need your help. He needs money to avoid going to jail, or to be arrested. He asks you to wire money to a friend waiting for it, he tells you to go to a Wal-Mart or any other place that has a 24 hour money wiring service. He also tells you not to call his parents. You wire the money and you just have been scammed.