



BRAZOS Telephone

www.brazosnet.com

July 09 Newsletter

TELEPHONE FRAUD *Can You Recognize It?*

According to the Federal Trade Commission criminals use the phone to commit many different types of fraud, including sweepstakes, and lottery frauds, buying club memberships, and credit card scams. They are good at what they do, and will say just about anything to cheat you out of your money. They may call you and imply that they work for a company you trust, send you mail, and or advertise hoping to convince you to give them your money and information.

The Who's Calling brochure produced by the Federal Trade Commission explains several deceptive telemarketing schemes, and how you can protect yourself against them. In short you can:

•**Recognize** - how to identify the most

common telemarketing scams.

•**Report** - phone fraud to the FTC, providing important information to help law enforcement officials bring scammers to justice.

•**Register** - your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Registering can help limit the number of telemarketing calls your receive, so you can be more alert to calls you do get.

Brazos Telephone has made it easy for you to register, just click on the *Register For Do Not Call* link on our home page at www.brazosnet.com. Recognizing fraudulent callers is important, reporting them to the appropriate law enforcement authorities is critical, too. When you report, you can help stop telephone scammers. Report telephone fraud to the FTC and your state Attorney

General so they can prosecute fraudulent telemarketers who try to steal your money. For more information and to learn more about how to recognize and report phone fraud, go to ftc.gov/or call 1-877-FTC-HELP.

Common Phone Scams

- Buying Club Memberships
- Charities & Fundraising Fraud
- Credit & Loan Offers
- Government Grant Scams
- Identify Theft & Telemarketing
- Medical Discount Plans
- Reloading Scams
- Sweepstakes & Lotteries
- Travel Scams
- Work at home & Business Opport

Source: <http://www.ftc.gov/phonefraud>



Kid Bytes

Ever notice how kids, animals and adventure just go together? So, get out the camo and take them exploring to one of the many internet sites just for kids. It is so easy, start at www.brazosnet.com/internet/links. Once there you will see *kids links* with many fun sites to discover. One of my

favorites is www.kids.discovery.com. It is full of fun and games, with movies, interesting animal facts, and more that will have your kiddos learning and laughing at the same time. Pre-schoolers and adults will love *Play with Paz and friends* or the entertaining antics of the loveable cartoon characters at www.looneytunes.warnerbros.com. *Kid Bytes...your help for a long hot summer.*



ATTENTION

Effective July 1, 2009 all reconnect and return check fees will increase. Right now you can stay ahead of these rising fees with our **Automated Payment Service**. This is the easiest way to pay your telephone or internet bill! You can arrange to automatically deduct your telephone or internet bill from your checking account each month. To sign up call 1-800-687-3222. One of our customer service representatives will be happy to help you.

Check Out & View Anytime:

Website Compass - is an online quarterly internet magazine packed with interesting internet related articles, helpful sites, tips and tutorials. View it anytime @ www.brazosnet.com/internet.



you can afford TELEPHONE SERVICE

Brazos Telephone Cooperative offers reduced rates to eligible residential consumers under two programs: Lifeline and Link Up. Lifeline provides monthly discounts to an eligible customer's basic local service. Link Up offers eligible customer's a reduction in installation charges for telephone service equal to one-half of the service connection charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. Customers who are eligible for the Life-line and Link Up Programs are also eligible for toll blocking at no charge. To be eligible for Lifeline and Link Up, customer's annual income must be at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, or a customer must receive benefits from or have a child in the household who receives benefits from at least one of the following programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly Food Stamps); Supplemental Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA); Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); or Health benefits coverage under the state Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Brazos Telephone Cooperative business office at 940-564-5659 or by contacting the Low Income Discount Administrator (LIDA) at 1.866.454.8387 (1.866.4.LITE-UP).

FAQ'S... Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I pay my telephone bill with a major credit card?

A: Yes, Brazos accepts most major credit cards including MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and debit cards for payment.

Q: I'm not sure who my Long Distance carrier is, does my telephone bill show this?

A: Yes, your primary Intra-lata and Interlata Long Distance Company is listed on the first page of your telephone bill. (Right hand column under your account summary information.)

GET FEWER BILLS

If you are ready to get less mail and reduce postage cost, Brazos can help. Sign up for free e-bill service with Brazos and you can opt not to receive a paper bill.

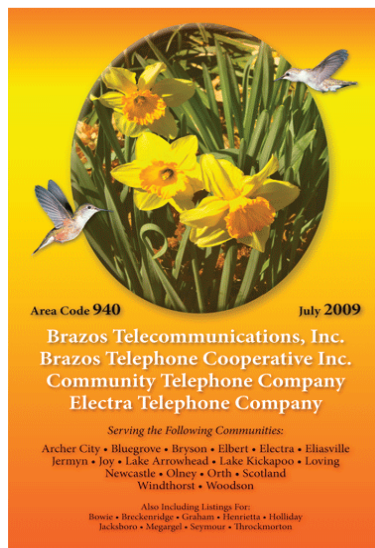


www.brazosnet.com/onlinebillpay



Post news of your upcoming event using the Brazos Community Calendar link. Just another way Brazos is Keeping You Connected.

NEW DIRECTORIES



Brazos Directories will be mailed directly to you during the month of July.

DID YOU KNOW?

Brazos never sells your proprietary information. Keeping your data private has always been our policy; and now it's not just Brazos' policy, it's the law.