

Using voice search? Use caution when asking for auto dial from a smart device

Tell Alexa to play your favorite song. Ask Siri about the weather. Use Google Assistant to turn down the air conditioner. But don't ask your smart device to look up a phone number, because it could accidentally point you to a scam.

How the scam works You need the phone number for a company, so you ask your home's smart device, which might be Google Home, Siri or Alexa, to find and dial it for you. But when the company's "representative" answers, you start to notice some red flags. This representative may insist they can only help you if you make a payment by wire transfer or prepaid debit cards. Other times they demand remote access to your computer or point you to a scam website.

One recent victim reported to the Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker: "I used Siri to look up the United Airlines customer service line. Somehow the call was connected to a different company. The agent pretended to be a United Airlines agent and said he could help me cancel my flight. The fee was \$125. I was convinced it was United Airlines, but the next day I realized my mistake. They said they would refund my money, but only after I threatened to call the police. I'm still waiting for a refund." Read more about airline booking scams here: bbb.org/article/scams/24106-bbb-warning-beware-of-twist-on-third-party-airline-ticket-booking-scam.

In another version of this scam, a consumer tried using voice search to contact Roku with a question about setting up their device. Instead, someone pretending to represent Roku charged them an \$80 "activation fee" for a service that doesn't exist. Learn more about similar cons targeting smart TV owners here: bbb.org/article/scams/28221-bbb-scam-alert-scammers-may-be-target-your-smart-tv.

In all versions of this scam, the "representative" isn't from the company you were searching for at all. Instead, scammers created a fake customer service number and bumped it to the top of the search results. These bad actors hope that when consumers do a voice search using Siri, Alexa, or another device, the algorithm will accidentally pick their scam number and an unsuspecting victim will contact them directly.

Tips to avoid this scam

- Be careful when searching for support phone numbers. Rather than doing an online search or letting your smart device look up a number, use the contact information on the business's website (always double check the URL) on your bill, receipt, or in your confirmation email.
- Beware of fake ads. Scammers create bad ads with fake customer service numbers. Using voice search to find a number can make it harder to tell a phony listing from the real one.
- Get your information from the official company website or official correspondence.
- Go straight to the source. For example, if you need to get in touch with Amazon, use the Amazon mobile app or website. This goes whether you're seeking customer service, tech support, or when looking to make changes to your account. Visit the Message Center on Amazon.com or on the official app to review authentic emails from Amazon. Remember that reputable companies like Amazon will never ask you to provide payment information for products or services over the phone.
- Make payments with your credit card. It's easier to dispute a credit card payment. Paying by wire transfer or prepaid debit card is like using cash. There is almost nothing you can do to get the money back.

Holiday Craft Market Scheduled for November 18

All craft vendors are invited to exhibit and sell their creations at the Holiday Market for Missions sponsored by the Wadesboro First Presbyterian and United Methodist Churches on Saturday, November 18.

The proceeds from renting the tables go to the local mission efforts of the sponsoring churches, including utility assistance to enable recipients to keep the lights and the water on, Christmas gifts for needy children, and two weeks of groceries during the holidays. The proceeds from vendors' sales are theirs to keep.

The cost per table is \$45. Set up will begin at 8:00 a.m. Patrons may shop from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Vendors wishing to participate should contact First Presbyterian Church by calling 704-694-3818; emailing fpcwadesboro@gmail.com; or coming by the church at 208 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro.

Wadesboro Christmas Parade is December 7

The Wadesboro Christmas Parade will be held on Thursday, December 7 at 4:00 p.m. After the parade be sure to stay uptown and enjoy Christmas in the Village.

Anyone interested in participating in the parade can visit this site to sign up: form.jotform.com/232854458550058. You can get more information by emailing uptownwadesboro@windstream.net.



MARTIN FURNITURE FACTORY OUTLET

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NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR ANSON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

The MUNICIPAL ELECTION will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

The polls will be open for voting on Election Day from 6:30am to 7:30pm.

Anson County registered voters in the following Municipalities (Towns) are eligible to vote in this election:

TOWN OF ANSONVILLE

Mayor and 5 Town Council Seats

Ansonville Mayor

Angela (Tina) Caraway
Joe Estridge

Ansonville Town Council

Mark Beloin
Sarah Burns
Denise Watkins Cannon
Jesse T. Huntley
Phyllis Watkins

TOWN OF LILESVILLE

Mayor and 5 Town Commissioner Seats

Lilesville Mayor

Bernice Bennett

Lilesville Town Commissioner

Lewis Adams
Charles (Chuck) Cook
Christopher Harrington
Gaye Harrington
Randy Henry
John Montgomery
Hannah Spencer

TOWN OF MCFARLAN

Mayor and 5 Town Council Seats

McFarlan Mayor

Diane Timmons

McFarlan Town Council

Debbie Bryant
Michael Foster
Kim Gainey
Gene Harney
Jerry Wilson Timmons
Gail J. Whittington

TOWN OF MORVEN

Mayor and 2 Town Council Seats

Morven Mayor

Marjorie Cole
Tim Watkins

Morven Town Council

Tanya Chance
Corinthia Lewis Lemon
Alvis Snow

TOWN OF PEACHLAND

Mayor and 2 Town Council Seats

Peachland Mayor

Clint Davis

Peachland Town Council

Jeff Davis
Kaylin Blake Treadaway
Alex Xavier

TOWN OF POLKTON

Mayor and 5 Town Commissioner Seats

Polkton Mayor

Myra Thomas Dalglish
Cynthia Williams

Polkton Town Commissioner

Johnny Faulk
Laurin Francey
Russell Goodwin
Jimmy Hildreth
W. Clifton Martin III
Sissy Stegall
Bernard Sturdivant

TOWN OF WADESBORO

Mayor and 2 Town Council Seats

Wadesboro Mayor

John Ballard

Wadesboro Town Council

JoAnn Bennett
Ida Cason
Lewis Evans
Lawrence Parsons
Russell Sikes
Garrett Snuggs

ANSON COUNTY POLLING PLACES:

Ansonville Fire & Rescue

9145 US Highway 52 North, Ansonville NC 28007

Lilesville Fire Department

202 West Wall Street, Lilesville NC 28091

McFarlan Community Building

99 Main Street, McFarlan NC 28102

Morven-McFarlan Fire Department

242 East Main Street, Morven NC 28119

Peachland Fire Department

35 East Passaic Street, Peachland NC 28133

Polkton Fire Department

61 West Polk Street, Polkton NC 28135

Wadesboro SPCC Lockhart-Taylor Center Ingram Room

514 North Washington Street, Wadesboro NC 28170

VOTER ID: Voters will now be asked to present a valid photo identification when voting in person. If you do not have a valid photo ID card, you may obtain one from your county board of elections prior to the election. If you do not have a valid photo ID card on election day, you may still vote and have your vote counted by signing an affidavit of reasonable impediment as to why you have not presented a valid photo ID.

Buffer Zone Notice: All election day voting locations will have signs posted to indicate a 50-foot buffer zone where no electioneering will be allowed per NC GS 163-166.4(a).

Registering: Anson County residents may register to vote by mail or in person at the Board of Elections Office.

The deadline to register to vote on Election Day is 5:00pm on Friday, October 13, 2023. If you are registered to vote in Anson County (and your name or address has not changed) you DO NOT need to register again to vote in this election.

Canvass Day Meeting: Will be held in the Board of Elections Office on Friday, November 17, 2023, at 11:00am.

Questions: Any questions about registration, voting locations, or other election matters may be answered by calling the Anson County Board of Elections Office at 704-994-3223, between the hours of 8:30am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday.



Ross Streater, Chairman
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