



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
February 14, 2013**

Alliance Bank Statement in regard to Latest Phishing Text Scam

Francesville, Monon, Monticello, Otterbein, Oxford, Rensselaer, & Winamac IN - Recently a phishing text message appearing to be sent by Alliance Bank was received on a number of cell phones. These fraudulent text messages were an attempt by criminals to persuade recipients to divulge card information.

Non- customers of Alliance Bank, as well as customers, received these messages. There was NO compromise of information by Alliance Bank.

Bank President Terry Stevens had this to say, "Thanks to everyone for their phone calls and Facebook posts regarding the recent phone "phishing" scam. I know many wonder how such things happen and mostly it is through the "wonders" of technology. An automated system is set up to dial every number in an area-code & prefix. In our case 219-204 or 219-863, etc. They have no idea who they are calling but they know that Alliance Bank serves those areas and they make it sound like they are us. Sometimes they even have the first four or six digits of a card number because those are identical on all Alliance Bank cards. Alliance Bank is not alone in facing this particular scam. This is a nationwide problem. When dealing with any financial institution, know that it is not a business practice to ask you to verify entire account numbers."

Phishing is not a new scam; however this type of criminal activity has become more prevalent in recent years. A phishing scam is an attempt to utilize public or

other known information in an attempt to persuade consumers to divulge additional private information that will allow access to personal accounts.

Phishing scams often target customers of financial institutions and retail merchants in an attempt to get account numbers, social security numbers, passwords, etc. with the ultimate goal of stealing cash from their victims. Alliance Bank follows common banking and business practices when verifying a customer's identity or other information. We do not utilize account numbers or whole tax identification numbers to verify your identity. **We strongly advise that you never divulge this type of information to anyone.**

Even if you bank "the old fashioned way", always be on guard as you are the target of these crimes and you are the best line of defense against this type of attack. As technology evolves, so do the methods used by these criminals. Each of us must be as cautious of unusual messages, whether by phone call, email, or text, just as we would be of a stranger at the door.

If you receive a request for information in any manner, always call the banker you know at their bank phone number thus derailing any attempts to gain your personal information.

Alliance Bank is proud to be your local Real Community Bank[®] with offices in Francesville, Monon, Monticello, Otterbein, Oxford, Rensselaer, and Winamac.