



F&M HOSTS ID THEFT PREVENTION EVENT

“Shred It Day” Provides Free Document Shredding

Register To Win a Personal Shredder

COLUMBIA, Tenn., Sept. 21, 2006 – The old credit card bills, investment reports and other financial documents a lot of us have in piles on our desk or stuffed into drawers can be the key someone needs to steal our identity. Simply throwing these documents away is not the answer, as identity thieves are known to search garbage cans for documents containing account numbers, social security numbers and other confidential information. Shredding is the answer.

But, maybe you don't have a shredder or you have such a backlog that needs shredding that you'll never finish. First Farmers & Merchants Bank is coming to the rescue with Shred It Day on Saturday, Sept. 23.

An industrial mobile shredder will be in the parking lot of F&M's operations center, 201 W. Eighth St., Columbia, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 23. Using the shredder is free and it is open to anyone, even those who are not F&M customers. Anyone is free to shred up to 10 boxes of papers. Free popcorn and drinks will be provided and the event will be held rain or shine.

Made possible by partnering with Shred-It, the world's leading document destruction company, Shred It Day will provide free personal document shredding and identity theft education to the entire public. People are encouraged to bring bills, credit cards, receipts or any other personal materials they wish to shred.

“ID theft is a serious crime in the United States, but preventing it can be simple if you have the right tools and knowledge,” said John P. Tomlinson, F&M's president. “F&M is happy to host an event that will help our neighbors better protect themselves. Shred It Day will be both fun and practical for all who attend.”

Shred It Day participants will not only learn more about identity theft, which is the fastest growing form of consumer fraud in North America, but will also have an opportunity to register to win a personal document shredder for home use. (You don't have to be present to win.)

Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the largest independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets over \$800 million and an additional \$2.5 billion in assets held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, the bank operates 19 offices in a seven-county area that includes Maury, Lawrence, Marshall, Hickman, Dickson, Giles and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service.

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