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## **AMERICAN CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING JOINS NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SPONSOR SEVENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK**

American Consumer Credit Counseling has joined a group of federal, state and local agencies, and national advocacy organizations to launch the seventh annual National Consumer Protection Week, February 6-12, 2005, highlighting consumer protection and education efforts around the country. This year's theme, "Identity Theft: When Fact Becomes Fiction," focuses on minimizing the risk of identity theft and taking fast action to contain any harm, if an identity thief strikes.

"Everyone should know how to protect their personal information," said Katie Ross, Education and Development Manager at American Consumer Credit Counseling. "Keeping track of your credit, safeguarding your wallet, and putting strong passwords on your bank, credit card and phone accounts, can help consumers minimize their risk of identity theft".

Join American Consumer Credit Counseling on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> for Identity Theft Workshops at 6pm at their home office at 130 Rumford Avenue, Suite 202, Newton, MA. In these workshops, you will learn how identity theft happens, the signs to look for, how to reduce the chances of becoming a victim, and how to get help if their personal information is compromised and used to open new accounts.

Organizers of this year's National Consumer Protection Week are the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Information Center, the U.S. Postal Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Federal Communications Commission, U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators, the California Office of Privacy Protection, the Ohio Attorney General's Office, the National Consumers League, AARP, the Better Business Bureau, Call for Action, the Consumer Federation of America, the National Association of Attorneys General, the Identity Theft Resource Center, and the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse. For more information on National Consumer Protection Week visit [www.consumer.gov/ncpw](http://www.consumer.gov/ncpw)



“American Consumer Credit counseling is proud to be a partner in sharing the message of the seventh annual National Consumer Protection Week campaign,” said Steven Trumble, CEO and President of American Consumer Credit Counseling. “We hope to arm consumers with some tools to limit the harm, frustration and expense that can accompany identity theft and to let them know how to restore their good name.”

American Consumer Credit Counseling (ACCC) is a non-profit (501)(c)(3) organization, offering confidential credit counseling and financial management education to consumers nationwide. ACCC is dedicated to helping people regain control of their finances and plan for a debt-free future. For more information visit [www.consumercredit.com](http://www.consumercredit.com) or call 1-800-769-3571.

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