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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE WARN OF DEBIT CARD FRAUD

WAKE FOREST, NC – June 28, 2011 – Wake Forest police are warning local residents to closely monitor their bank statements after more than a dozen customers from several area banks reported missing funds due to unauthorized debit card use.

The fraudulent transactions involve charges from anywhere between \$100 to \$500 for a variety of services and purchases in several states, including Nevada, California, Montana, Virginia, Florida, and countries, such as Spain and Russia.

Investigators have not determined how the debit card information was stolen but the investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who discovers improper or unfamiliar charges on their debit card bills should contact their bank immediately, and then report it to the closest law enforcement agency.

Consumer Reports offers the following tips to help you avoid becoming the victim of debit card fraud:

- Don't type in your PIN at the gas pump: be especially vigilant at gas stations; one expert recommends using a credit card rather than a debit card when you fill your tank or using your debit card as a credit card.
- Stick with ATMs located at banks: to reduce your risk at ATMs, use machines at banks rather than in convenience stores, airports, or any isolated locations.
- Closely monitor your bank accounts: check them regularly - preferably online rather than waiting for monthly statements to arrive in the mail. Federal law limits your liability for fraudulent debit-card charges to \$50, but only if you report the theft or loss of your card or PIN within two business days of discovering the problem.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer Bill Crabtree at (919) 435-9421 or bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov.