



Contact: Bill Crabtree
Telephone: (919) 554-6196
Email: bcrabtree@wakeforestnc.gov
Website: www.wakeforestnc.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIORS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST FRAUD

WAKE FOREST, NC – September 28, 2009 – The Wake Forest Police Department is urging area seniors to guard against becoming the victim of fraud following a number of recently reported phone scams targeting older adults.

According to a study conducted by AARP, people over age 50 are particularly vulnerable to fraud and account for over half of all victims. People who commit these types of crimes often target older people and use everyday tools, including the mailbox, telephone, and the Internet, to steal money seniors have spent a lifetime saving.

Con artists employ a seemingly endless variety of frauds, scams and questionable business practices. They try to take advantage of seniors' trusting nature, sympathy, or financial status. In some instances they attempt to capitalize on a senior's faltering memory, or on a senior's diminished capacity to make good decisions.

The NC Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division offers the following basic rules to help protect any consumer, young or old:

- **Protect your numbers.** Never give out your Social Security number, credit card or bank account number to a person who contacts you by phone or email.
- **Don't pay money "up front" in order to get a loan, or to collect a prize.** It's illegal to require such a payment. (And if someone says you've won a lottery or sweepstakes that you don't recall entering, they are trying to "win the lottery" by pulling a scam on you!)
- **Be wary of door-to-door "contractors" and others offering home repair services.**
- **Avoid get-rich-quick schemes.** If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

For more information or to report possible fraud, contact the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150.

###

For more information about the [Town of Wake Forest](#), contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.