

NEWS



Edward A. Diana
Orange County Executive

November 23, 2011

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact
Kristin Jensen at 291-2705,
kjensen@orangecountygov.com

Orange County Consumer Affairs Office Offers Tips To Prevent Credit Card Fraud this Holiday Season

GOSHEN – As residents prepare for the biggest shopping day of the year – Black Friday – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana and Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Chuck Mitchell offer shoppers tips to prevent credit card theft and fraud.

“With stores being so busy this time of year, it’s easy to lose track of your credit card in the hustle and bustle at the checkout counter, leaving thieves with an open opportunity to grab your information,” warns County Executive Diana. “It’s important to be aware of where your credit card is at all times – don’t leave it sitting out on the counter.”

Commissioner Mitchell offers these additional tips for consumers’ protection of their personal information and financial security:

- When you swipe your card, put it away immediately. This will help you avoid placing it down inadvertently.
- If you must give your card to the sales clerk, make sure the card they return to you is actually your card.
- **Never** give out your Social Security number - not to a sales clerk, not to a person on the phone. There is NO reason anyone needs it.
- When using your credit card for phone orders, make sure it is a call initiated by you, not the other way around. If you receive a call asking for your credit card number because the caller believes fraud has occurred or has an offer to lower your rates, hang up. NEVER give out personal information.
- Always save your receipts and check them against the bill when it comes in. If there are any discrepancies, notify your credit card company right away.

The Orange County Office of Consumer Affairs has a mission to ensure consumer safety for residents. Should you be in need of assistance call the office at 845 360-6700 or visit them online at www.orangecountygov.com.

####