Keep your credit cards safe when shopping online

• Make sure your pc/device is working properly and is updated with the most current anti-virus, firewall and anti-malware software.

• Before entering your financial information on a site, double check the site's security. Make sure you are on a secure form, that there is an "s" at the end of "http" in the URL and check to see if the form is secured by a company like VeriSign, Symantec or Go Daddy.

• Don't put confidential information in an unsecured email, even if it's from a website you do business with.

• Do not use public wireless hot spots or Wi-Fi to shop online!

• Don't use your debit card for any online purchases. If you're the victim of fraud with a debit card, the money in your bank account can be drained immediately (you may have to wait until the fraud investigation is complete before your bank funds are returned to you).

• Before making an online purchase from a company you're not familiar with, do some research. What's being said about the company? Check with the Better Business Bureau in the area where the company is located. Is the company getting complaints?