



## **Special Press Release**

**November 22, 2013**

**In response to numerous inquiries, Ravalli County Sheriff Chris Hoffman said today that his office has noticed a significant spike in reports of credit card fraud. Hoffman said that in the past week or so, his office has fielded several reports of Ravalli County citizens either finding erroneous charges on their credit card statements, or reporting that they were being notified by their banks of fraudulent charges.**

**Sheriff Hoffman said that his family, and at least one member of his own staff have been affected.**

**Sheriff Hoffman said that because the activity is wide spread across western Montana, and is not centered locally, the crimes fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service. Hoffman said that he has been in touch with Secret Service officials, and that he is satisfied that they are conducting the appropriate, aggressive investigation into the matter.**

**Hoffman encourages victims to contact his office with questions or concerns, and says that he will be staying in touch with Secret Service officials for updates on the investigation. Further, he is advising people to carefully check their credit card statements often, and to immediately notify their banking institution, or credit card company if they notice any unusual activity on their statements.**