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ALERT!

The economic downturn may be causing desperate criminals to widen their range of victims. In the last month, men's wallets have become an increasing target as reported in several news stories. Below are some tips on ways to protect your wallet from this latest epidemic.

- Don't assume you are safe because it is daylight. Crime occurs just as often during the day as during the night.
- If carrying a wallet, don't carry it in your back pocket. Keep in the front pocket or inside jacket.
- Criminals look for victims who they think will be easy targets and will be surprised. Walk confidently and be aware of your surroundings. Constantly look to your left, to your right and behind you to see if anyone is following you.
- Always look around while pumping gas and keep your car locked.
- Don't keep your wallet in your vehicle.
- Carry your money, ID cards and credit cards in a money belt rather than your wallet. This keeps it hidden from plain view and close to your body at all times.
- Identity theft is a national problem. Never carry your Social Security Card in your wallet.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail list to receive alerts and other useful information from my office, please call (330) 643-2796.

Please feel free to call my office anytime if there is any way we can assist you.

Sherril B. Walsh