



## PPD Spotlight on Crime Prevention Column

This month's column comes from the Prattville Police Department's Investigations Division.

### **Don't Be A Victim of Purse Snatching!**

It seems that we have had more and more purses snatched of late. We had two just last week. Our officers often walk up to women in the supermarket to ask them not to walk away from their purses. Leaving a purse in an unattended shopping cart makes purse snatching a crime of opportunity.

If you can get by with something smaller in which you can place your identification and money, you greatly reduce your chances of becoming a victim of robbery or attack. If a wallet is not large enough, consider wearing a belly bag or fanny pack. If you absolutely need to carry your purse, carry only essential items. Do not carry more money or credit cards than absolutely necessary. Normally one major credit card will suffice. If you do carry credit cards, keep a record at home of the cards carried, along with their respective numbers and a phone number to report their loss. Leave all other unnecessary items or valuables at home.

Whether carrying a purse or just sitting in a public place with one, hold the purse tightly and close to your body. Be sure that you secure the latch or zipper. Do not get injured trying to recover a purse that has been snatched. Let the purse go.

If you believe someone is suspicious or does not belong in the area, then he/she probably does not. Notify the store manager, store security or report these suspicious persons by calling your local police department. The prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals are possible with your help.