

**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITIZENS AID POLICE IN NABBING PURSE SNATCHING SUSPECT**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 24, 2011) Police, with the assistance of some helpful citizens, were able to apprehend a subject that snatched the purse from the arm of a senior citizen. Last night at approximately 9:30, a man snatched the purse of an eighty-two year old woman in the parking lot of McDonald's located in the 600 block of North Main Street. The suspect fled running north on North Main Street. The suspect was chased by a citizen who witnessed the robbery. The victim was not injured.

When police arrived on the scene, witnesses advised police that they observed a female walking to a nearby convenience store who had been with the suspect prior to the robbery. Police were able to locate and interview the woman. They learned that she was staying a motel adjacent to the McDonald's with her boyfriend.

Police responded to the hotel room and interviewed the woman's boyfriend, Joseph Wayne Thompson, age 20. Through investigation police were ultimately able to charge Thompson with the crime and recover the victim's property before the suspect had a chance to dispose of it.

Thompson was charged with strong armed robbery and petit larceny. There were outstanding warrants on file for him for domestic assault and indecent exposure. Thompson is currently incarcerated at Western Tidewater Regional Jail with no bond.

Detective David Burke was the lead investigator on this case.

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