



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – March 16, 2011

SALEM POLICE INVESTIGATING PURSE THEFTS

On March 9, 2011, the Salem Police Department received two reports of purse thefts. The first occurred at a business located in the 1900 block of Electric Road. A female employee advised police that person(s) unknown removed her purse from an office sometime between 10am and noon.

The second incident occurred at a business located in the 1800 block of Braeburn Drive, less than a block from the first incident, during approximately the same time frame. The purse in this incident was also removed from an office in the business.

Subsequent investigation found that credit cards from both purses were used at various businesses in Salem, Roanoke City and later in Buchanan on the same date as the thefts. Video surveillance was obtained from two of the businesses in Salem and in Roanoke.

The suspect is a black female who was wearing a distinctive matching hat and top.

Attached are three (3) still photos from the surveillance tapes. Two photos show the suspect, the third shows a vehicle the suspect was seen entering, which is a late 2000s model Chrysler/Dodge – possibly a Dodge Stratus. Also attached is a short video clip of the suspect entering one of the businesses. The suspect is seen entering at approximately the 00:30 second mark in the video.

Anyone having information about these incidents and/or the identity of the suspect is asked to contact the Detective Division of the Salem Police Department at 540-375-3083, the department's anonymous tip line at 540-389-0583 or the Roanoke Valley Crime Line at 540-344-8500.

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Date: March 16, 2011

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