

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**“For Immediate Release”**

March 5, 2020

## **LOCAL MAN ARRESTED AFTER APPROACHING TRAFFIC STOP**

**WARRENTON** – On Wednesday night, March 4, 2020, a deputy conducted a traffic stop on East Lee Street in Warrenton at approximately 8:30 p.m. While speaking to the driver, the deputy heard noise behind him and observed another vehicle had parked behind the cruiser.

As the deputy approached this second vehicle, the driver exited the vehicle and began taking off his clothes. While speaking with the driver it was determined he was possibly under the influence of an unknown substance. The driver indicated that when he saw the deputy’s emergency lights he pulled over.

During the encounter the driver was increasingly uncooperative and started to run on East Lee Street. The deputy engaged in a foot pursuit and was able to take the driver to the ground where he continued to resist. The deputy deployed a taser and brought the driver under control.

A K-9 assisted and alerted to the vehicle. A subsequent search of the driver’s vehicle revealed packages of suspected marijuana.

The driver was identified as **John Waldridge Smith Jr, 45, of Warrenton**. Smith is charged with obstruction of justice, resisting arrest, public intoxication and possession of marijuana. Smith was held with no bond at the Fauquier County Adult Detention Center.



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