



The West Springfield Shield

District Focus:

West Springfield Celebrates Another Successful National Night Out

The West Springfield District Station partnered with 23 communities this year to celebrate National Night Out on August 4.

Crime Prevention Officers traveled with McGruff the Crime Dog and were joined by station commanders, patrol officers, auxiliary police officers and

deputy sheriffs as they visited each of the neighborhood celebrations. The Crime Prevention Unit would like to thank all of the communities that participated in this year's festivities and invite others to join us next year!

Neighborhood Watch programs are extremely important to maintaining

safe and enjoyable communities for all.



Chief Rohrer with McGruff and Chairman Bulova.

National Night Out events are designed to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and won't tolerate criminal activity.



McGruff is embraced by a junior officer.

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Detective Owens Receives VFW Award

Outstanding Service Cited in April 2009 Recognition

In June 2008, the West Springfield District experienced a spike in residential burglaries. The burglaries did not seem to be connected in any way; however, Detective Matt Owens discovered that the victims in some cases used a common dog walking service.

He contacted the owner of the service and obtained a client list of Fairfax County residents. He found that other clients' homes had been burglarized.

Soon, Detective Owens developed a suspect and after further investigation, he was able to obtain approximately 17 arrest warrants for her.

Eventually, the suspect was located and arrested in Richmond, Virginia.

Thanks to Detective Owens' determination, he was able to coordinate a thorough and extensive multi-jurisdictional investigation for the suspect that led to her identity, and ultimately, her arrest.



Detective Owens with his VFW award.

If you would like to receive West Springfield District Station's weekly information bulletin, you can subscribe by visiting:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/

To sign up for any district station newsletter, access the Fairfax County Police Newsletter Service Center at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter and follow the easy, on-screen instructions.

All those who live or work in Fairfax County are encouraged to stay informed!

Crime Report

Update: Assault/Filing a False Report to Police/Arrest

Ox Road

A 32-year-old woman was charged with filing a false police report. She claimed that around 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, she was walking alone on a trail in Burke Lake Park, located at 7315 Ox Road, when a man walked toward her, punched her in the face and rendered her unconscious for a short time. She reported that the suspect was gone when she awoke. Detectives determined that the events the woman reported to police never occurred. Jennifer Lynn Sprague, 32, of 910 Plum Street, S.W. in Vienna, has been charged with filing a false police report. She was released on a summons on Wednesday, June 24.

Shot Person

Crossrail Drive

Police responded to the home at 5422 Crossrail Drive in Burke on Tuesday, June 30 shortly after 5:30 p.m. for the report of an accidental shooting. Officers arrived, talked two people out of the home, and then entered and searched the home. Inside, they found the body of 23-year-old Powell Beck, with an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. Crime Scene and Criminal Investigation Bureau detectives responded to the scene. Preliminary information indicates that this incident was domestic in nature and there was no threat to public safety. No charges have been placed at this time.

Indecent Exposure

Island Place

A 32-year-old woman was the victim of an indecent exposure on Thursday, July 2. She was walking into a building in the 4400 block of Island Place when a man standing inside got her attention, touched himself inappropriately and fled out of the building. The suspect was described as black, about 30 years old. He was approximately 6 feet tall and 170 pounds, with short, brown, braided hair. He was wearing a beige or light-colored shirt and jeans. The victim was not injured.

Throwing Missiles at an Occupied Train/Destruction of Property/Arrest

Premier Court

Three 15-year-old Fairfax boys were arrested after throwing rocks at a Virginia Railway Express train on Monday, July 6. The boys were on the railroad tracks in the 10300 block of Premier Court at about 7 p.m. when they allegedly threw rocks at a passing train, breaking one window. Officers located the suspects and arrested them. They were released to their parents. Petitions will be obtained for throwing missiles at an occupied train and destruction of property. No one was injured during this incident.

Attempted Sexual Assault/Arrest

Battalion Landing Court/Burnside Landing Drive

Residents of a home in the area of Battalion Landing Court and Burn-

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side Landing Drive subdued a burglar on Thursday, July 9 until police arrived and took him into custody. The man was arrested for attempting to sexually assault a 49-year-old woman who was asleep on a couch inside her home. Around 11:30 p.m., the suspect allegedly entered the home through an unlocked door and got on top of the victim. She awoke and a struggle began as she tried to get away from the suspect. Family members, in other areas of the home, heard the commotion and saw them struggling. They grabbed the suspect, restrained him and called 9-1-1. Officers arrested George H. Mills, Jr., 39, of 10619 Battalion Landing Court, and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He was charged with burglary, attempted rape and abduction with the intent to defile.

Robbery

Huntsman Boulevard

A 17-year-old boy was robbed on Friday, July 10. Police were called to the 8800 block of Eagle Rock Lane for a robbery. Police located the boy and an investigation determined that the robbery occurred in the 7500 block of Huntsman Boulevard. Between 4 and 5 p.m. the victim was standing outside his car when a man approached him from behind. The suspect brandished a knife and demanded money. The victim complied and the suspect fled. The victim did not require medical treatment. The suspect was described as possibly Hispanic, in his 20s. He was about 5 feet 10 inches tall and was wearing white sneakers.

Burglary

Wild Orchid Way

On Sunday, July 12, police responded to a burglary in the 7900 block of Wild Orchid Way. The victim, a 48-year-old man, was home around 2:03 a.m. when he heard a noise in another part of the house. He went to investigate and saw a man standing in the kitchen. The suspect fled when he saw the victim. An investigation determined the suspect apparently entered through an open window. The suspect was described as white. He had short, blond hair in a military-style haircut and wore a light blue T-shirt and tan shorts.

Burglary of an Occupied Dwelling/ Abduction/Arrest

Banning Place

A man was arrested for unlawfully entering an acquaintance's home on Wednesday, July 15. The victim, a 55-year-old woman, was inside her home in the 5800 block of Banning Place around 1:30 a.m. She heard a knock at the door and as she opened it, the man pushed the door open and walked in. He allegedly walked through the house, found a bottle of liquor and started talking to the victim. She walked into another room and called a family member for help. When she walked back into the room, the suspect was partially undressed. He reportedly held onto the victim, grabbed her wrist and continued talking. The victim's husband arrived at the house a short time later and ordered the suspect to leave. When the suspect left, the victim and her husband immediately reported it to

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police. An investigation led to the arrest of Patrick Cholko, 53, of no fixed address. Officers took him into custody on Thursday, July 16 and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He was charged with burglary of an occupied dwelling and abduction. He was also charged with two additional counts of burglary of an occupied dwelling, petit larceny and burglary from previous unrelated cases. The victim did not require medical attention.

Robbery

Burke Lake Road

An employee of the CVS drug store, located at 8930 Burke Lake Road, was robbed on Tuesday, July 21. A man wearing a mask entered the drug store around 3 a.m., pointed a handgun at the victim, a 46-year-old man, and demanded money. The victim gave the suspect an undisclosed amount of cash and the suspect fled on foot. The victim was not injured. The suspect was described as white and about 5 feet 9 inches tall. He was wearing a black sweat shirt and black pants with a white stripe on the legs.

Would you like to receive the latest Fairfax County Police Department news releases and advisories? Sign up for the new FCPD e-mail subscription service at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases. All those who live or work in Fairfax County are encouraged to stay informed!

Meet Lt. Joyce



The West Springfield District Station is proud to announce its new Assistant Commander, Lieutenant Randy Joyce. Lieutenant Joyce has been with the police department since 1988 serving in various positions throughout the agency including four of the eight district stations, the Criminal Investigations Bureau, the Crime Scene Section and the Criminal Justice Academy. Lieutenant Joyce was assigned to the West Springfield District Station after serving as the Assistant Commander of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy for the previous 21 months. Lieutenant Joyce started his law enforcement career at the West Springfield District Station in 1988 and is proud to be assigned with us. He looks forward to working with our communities and businesses to keep West Springfield a safe and enjoyable place to live and work.

Monthly Trend: Larcenies from Vehicles

Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle, including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park the vehicle in a well-lit, busy area.



For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the West Springfield Crime Prevention Unit at 703-644-5026, TTY 711.

Wanted: Exposure at Lake Mercer Park

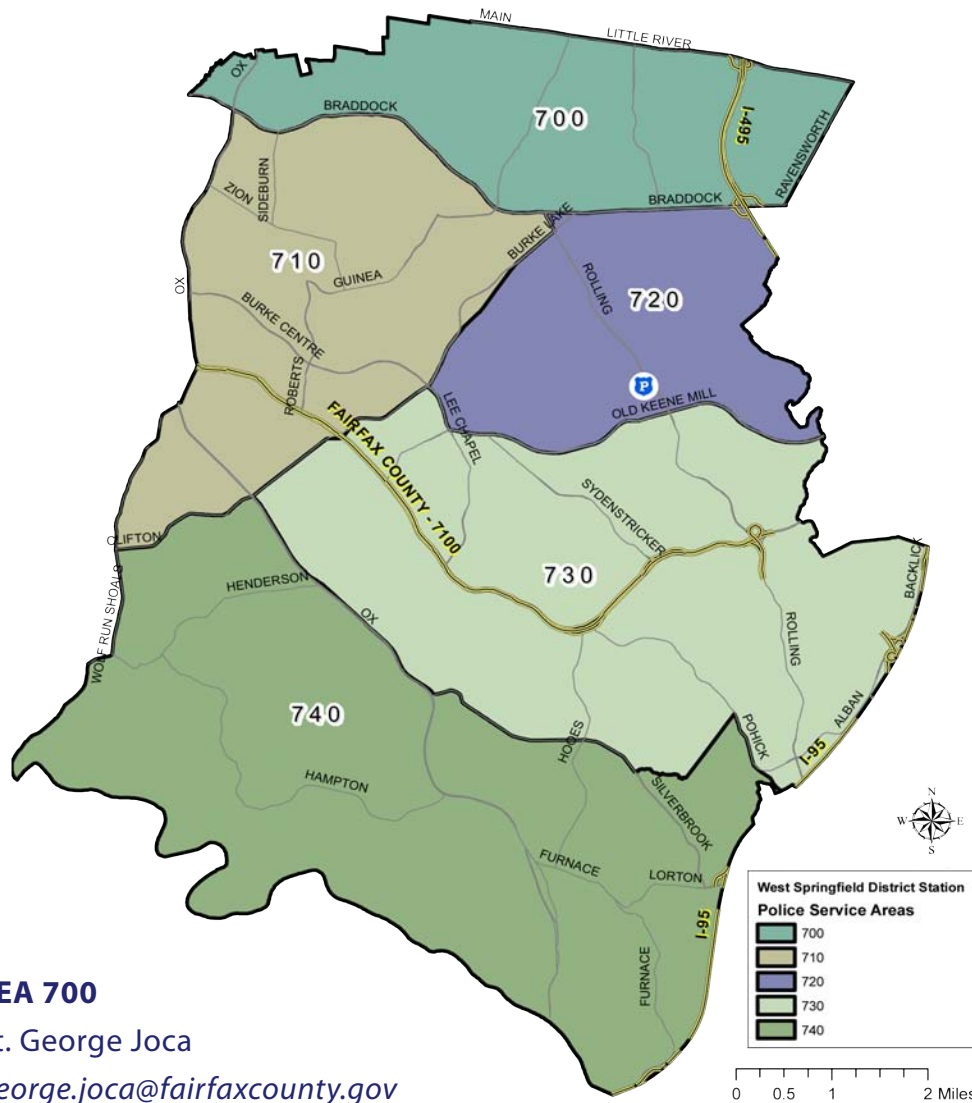
A man exposed himself to a woman walking her dog at Lake Mercer Park in Springfield. The 50-year-old victim was in the park on Tuesday, July 21 just after noon when a man approached from behind on a "dirt bike" style bicycle. He allegedly stopped and was masturbating in front of her. The woman immediately left the area and called police. She was not harmed and the suspect was not found.

The suspect was described as black, in his mid to late 30s. He was approximately 6 feet tall and 200 pounds. He was clean-shaven with short, black hair. He was wearing a light-colored ball cap, light shirt, dark shorts, and dark tennis shoes. Detectives have released a composite sketch of the suspect. The bike was described as dark in color. The bicycle shown below is similar in style. A Wanted Poster is available to print.



Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Police Service Areas and Supervisors



AREA 700

- Lt. George Joca
george.joca@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Sgt. Naveed Butt
naveed.butt@fairfaxcounty.gov

AREA 710

- Lt. Mike Reser
michael.reser@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Sgt. Todd Juris
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AREA 720

- Lt. Cliff Sharp
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- Sgt. Dave Plaska
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AREA 730

- Lt. Ken Bresson
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- Sgt. Robert Jackson
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AREA 740

- Lt. Robin Davis
robin.davis@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Sgt. Darrell Nichols
darrell.nichols@fairfaxcounty.gov

The West Springfield District Station Team

Station Commander

- Captain Bruce Ferguson

Assistant Commander

- Lieutenant Randy Joyce

Crime Prevention Unit

- MPO Pete Feigleson
peter.feigleson@fairfaxcounty.gov
- MPO J.T. Frey
jt.frey@fairfaxcounty.gov

S.T.R.I.K.E. Team

(Strategic Traffic and Roadway Initiatives, Knowledge and Education for residents)

- PFC Thomas Champ
- PFC Dave Parker

Crime Analyst

- Angelique Abbott



The West Springfield Shield

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Please contact the editor with any comments, questions or suggestions.



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To request this information in an alternate format, call Fairfax County Police Department, West Springfield Station Crime Prevention Office, 703-644-5026, TTY 711.