

Reston CONNECTION

Event Brings Out Reston's Best

NEWS, PAGE 3

Reston founder Bob Simon presents Chuck Veatch with the second annual Robert E. Simon Lifetime Achievement Award at the Best of Reston awards dinner last Thursday, April 15.

Volunteers Repair RA Garden

NEWS, PAGE 3

Setting Priorities For Coming Term

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

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From left, Imam Mohamed Magid of All Dulles Area Muslim Society and Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk of the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation accept Best of Reston awards from Curt Seiberlich of Northrop Grumman.

Event Brings Out Reston's Best

Nineteenth annual Best of Reston awardees honored.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

After a Reston woman's vehicle was broken into, Officer Eric Gluekert of the Reston District Police Station managed to lift some fingerprints from her car. These would eventually lead him not only to the culprit but also to a bolt-action rifle that had been stolen and left in the woods. After Gluekert got a match on the prints, the resulting suspect confessed not only to breaking into the vehicle but also to stealing a rifle from another car and tossing it in the woods after he was unable to fire it, Gluekert recounted in a video shown at this year's Best of Reston awards last Thursday, April 15.

The Best of Reston Selection Committee named him this year's Officer of the Year for his work in this case and others. "I never expected it. I just tried to do my job the best I could day to day," he said of the award.

Before each award was presented, a video was shown in which the recipients and their acquaintances talked about the efforts that led to their selection.

Firefighters of the Year Ronald McNew and Craig Furneisen Jr. said they knew someone was in the house where they responded to a report of a fire last May, because the caller had refused instructions to leave the house. On his hands and knees in the smoke-filled upper level of the house, McNew found the victim unconscious and carried her out.

"Everything happened very, very fast," Furneisen



From left, firefighters of the year Ronald McNew and Craig Furneisen accept their awards, presented by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).



Bunny Bonnes of CORE Foundation presents Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. President Mike Rolband with one of the awards for small business leaders.

said, adding that the operation went smoothly because everyone did just what they had been trained to do. McNew said they shared credit with other members of the station.

Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. was named one of this year's small business leader winners for its outreach to residents and the Reston Association in order to win over the community after the company's stream restoration project became controversial.

In the early winter of 2008, many residents became upset with the number of trees being removed during the restoration, Mike Rolband, the company's president, recalled. "We had to have lots of meetings with lots of people to explain what we were doing," he said. He said former opponents had become friends and that he was pleased with the results of the project to date. "It's fantastic to watch the wildlife improvements and the water clarity improve

SEE BEST OF RESTON, PAGE 11



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David Boger, left, and Ernest Hardy of Software AG move dirt on a pathway between gardens.

Volunteers Repair RA Garden

Software AG could be first of several companies to help maintain association's rental garden plots.

Instead of manning their desks on Friday, April 16, 11 volunteers from the Reston office of Software AG, along with a few other volunteers, marked Earth Day by spending the day leveling paths between gardens at the Golf Course Island Garden Plot.

Heidi Clark, a human resources worker at the company, said the paths had become uneven and pits had formed in them. "It was hard for gardeners to get through and do their work," she said.

Ha Brock, volunteer coordinator for the Reston Association, said gardeners often used wheelbarrows, which especially difficult to maneuver along uneven pathways. She said the volunteers were saving Reston Association members money by doing work that would otherwise need to be done by association employees.

The plot at Golf Course Island is one of four garden plots managed by the association, where residents can rent gardens. One hundred twenty people rent spots there. This was the first time volunteers had worked on any of the gardens' paths. "We're hoping to continue this project with other companies," Brock said.

The volunteers moved and flattened soil on the paths, cut and lay down walking boards



Justyna Castro and Noel Rodriguez of Software AG work on a path in the Golf Course Island Garden Plot.

reseeded the ground and spread straw to prevent erosion.

Clark said Software AG, a German company, had "very strong roots to community service," and the office organized the event as a way to encourage employees to use their annual eight hours of community service leave. She added, "It just seemed like a nice fit — a nice, spring day near Earth Day."

— MIKE DICICCO