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RICHMONDREVIEW.COM

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2013

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## Baby boy born at Aberdeen Centre

*Mother goes into labour Saturday afternoon, baby delivered with help of security guard*

by Martin van den Hemel

Staff Reporter

A mall cop turned mall doc at Aberdeen Centre last Saturday afternoon.

And although he isn't a father yet, security supervisor Jason Meszaros probably felt a similar type of joy when he came to the rescue of a woman who suddenly went into labour next to a second-floor escalator, making for a simply unforgettable story.

Aberdeen Centre's Joey Kwan said the incident began to unfold between 3 and 4 p.m. on June 8, when a pregnant woman's water suddenly broke.

Mall security immediately rushed to the scene, and Meszaros jumped in to assist, putting on gloves to prepare for the miracle of child birth.

As they awaited the arrival of emergency crews, a 911 operator walked Meszaros through the process, and on cue, he reminded the woman to breathe and push at the right moments.

Through it all, Meszaros, a supervisor for the past five years, and a security guard for 13 years, managed to remain calm, cool and collected.

Born before the arrival of firefighters and paramedics was a healthy bouncing baby boy. His mother was fine too.

They were taken to hospital on Saturday, and have since been discharged.

The chaos of diverting the customers away from the scene, and the drama of the childbirth, meant there was no time to even take down names, Kwan said.

So as of Thursday afternoon, they have no idea who the woman is.

"It was an amazing and phenomenal situation for us," Kwan said. "This is not happening every day."



Martin van den Hemel photo

It was a happy birthday for a newborn and his mother at Aberdeen Centre on Saturday afternoon, where the miracle of child birth still has the mall buzzing. The auspicious event has left mall retailers in a giving mood, including Saint Germain Bakery, which will give the boy a free birthday cake every year until he's 18, says Joey Kwan. Security supervisor Jason Meszaros, at rear, was glad he could help.

Kwan said she'd like to reach out to the new mother, in hopes of making another delivery, this time in the form of an abundance of presents from the merchants at Aberdeen.

But out of respect for the woman, who might still feel overwhelmed, Kwan said she'll completely respect her privacy if she chooses not to speak to the media, and will keep her name confidential too. Kwan said

she's even willing to deliver the goods to the family's home personally.

The *Richmond Review* has learned that the woman and her family, of Vietnamese origin, wish to remain anonymous.

Having a baby boy delivered in a mall is considered an auspicious event, Kwan said. The fact it was the eighth day of the month probably didn't escape notice.

The mall's bakery, Saint Germain Bakery,

has pledged to provide a birthday cake for every birthday the boy celebrates until he's 18.

And a new restaurant tenant in the mall, Gangnam Northern Chinese Cuisine, is donating a table to celebrate the child's 100th day birthday, considered among those of Chinese ancestry as an important event. Daiso will also be presenting the newborn a 100-item gift, Kwan said.