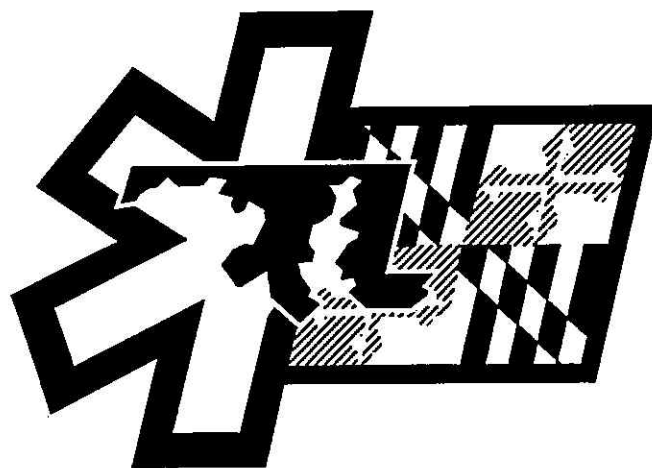


MIEMSS
Press Report



March, 2002

QUEEN ANNE'S
RECORD-OBSERVER

EARTON, MD
WEEKLY
MAR 1 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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Anti-terrorist funds on way

By KONRAD SUROWIEC
Staff Writer

ANNAPOLIS — A \$2.74 million federal anti-terrorist grant will be allocated to state agencies and local jurisdictions in Maryland to buy protective equipment for Maryland's first responders.

Queen Anne's County is to receive \$71,561 and \$62,069 goes to Kent County.

According to a Feb. 25 news release from the governor's press office, Gov. Parris Glendening approved a recommendation from the Executive Committee of the Maryland Terrorism Fund to allocate the federal funds. Of the \$2.74 million, 87 percent (\$2,383,280) will be allocated to 24 local jurisdictions, and 13 percent (\$356,720) will be

allocated to state departments and agencies with first response missions.

The grants include \$322,972 for five Mid-Shore and Upper Shore counties.

The news release said the grant, which was requested from the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Domestic Preparedness before the Sept. 11 attacks, will begin to meet many of the needs identified by local jurisdictions since the tragedy.

The funds will be used to buy protective clothing, communications equipment, detection equipment for chemical and/or biological agents and decontamination equipment.

The grants to the 24 local jurisdictions range from a high of \$200,724 to Baltimore City to a

Please see FUNDS, 1A

Funds

from page 1A

low of \$2,089 to Kent County. Other grants in the region include: \$66,322 to Dorchester County; \$63,667 to Talbot County; \$59,333 to Caroline County; and \$71,561 to Queen Anne's County.

Phil Taylor, director of the Queen's County Department of Emergency Services, plans to meet with the sheriff's department, public works department and the volunteer fire chiefs in the county to determine the priority items to be

purchased with the grant. Taylor said representatives from the state and county emergency officials met the grant on March 5 at the Easton Firehouse.

"They're looking at weapons of mass destruction type events," said Taylor. He said the grants were awarded to each county based on several factors, including population and potential terrorism targets, and they said potential uses of grant funds include the pur-

chase of a portable decontamination unit for firefighters and enhanced security measures — such as locks and cameras — to better protect communications towers and water treatment plants.

Some things are out of reach for this grant, Taylor said. The initial cost of purchasing a truck and equipment for a hazardous materials response unit are about \$500,000. Ongoing maintenance of equipment and training for hazmat certified

firefighters — including physical exams every six months — is also expensive, said Taylor. He said the four Upper Shore counties — Queen Anne's, Caroline, Kent and Talbot — might consider establishing a regional hazmat unit, but no decisions have been made at this point. Taylor said the two closest hazmat units to Queen Anne's County are the ones operated by the Anne Arundel County Fire Department and the one operated by the Maryland Depart-

ment of the Environment in Baltimore City.

The state's news release said a law suit was filed in December how the federal funds were awarded in each county look into account hazardous sites in the counties, the possible threat to those sites and their vulnerability. Population density around the sites and the total population of the counties were also considered.

Maryland Terrorism Forum in 1998. It is managed by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Co-chairmen are Lt. Gen. James F. Freiler, Adjutant General of Maryland, and Col. David Mitchell, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police. More information on the forum can be found on its web site at www.mtl-domestic-preparedness.net.

Grantmaking established the

FREDERICK POST

FREDERICK, MD
FRIDAY 33,000
MAR 1 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Man says hospital wouldn't let him see dying pal

By SHANNON CANTON
Capital News Service

BALTIMORE — The chief physician at the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center defended the hospital Thursday against charges that it denied a gay man visitation with his domestic partner as the second man lay dying.

Dr. Thomas Scalea said doctors were too busy treating Robert Daniel for AIDS-related ailments that eventually killed him to let Bill Flanigan see his partner in October 2000.

"At the time, it was not appropriate for anybody to see Mr. Daniel because we were busy taking care of him," Dr. Scalea said.

Mr. Flanigan sued the hospital Wednesday for negligence. He said that hospital officials turned him away, even though he had legal documents identifying the two as registered domestic partners in their

home state of California and granting Mr. Flanigan power of attorney for Mr. Daniel's health care decisions.

An official with the gay-rights legal group that is handling the case for Mr. Flanigan noted that Thursday's statements are a change from the day before, when the hospital said it turned Mr. Flanigan away because officials did not know he held Mr. Daniel's medical power of attorney. "Today there's a new reason, that they were too busy," said Michael Adams, deputy legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and

Education Fund.

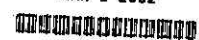
Dr. Scalea said the hospital does not now have a copy of the health care proxy that would have given Mr. Flanigan the power to make Mr. Daniel's health-care decisions.

He said the hospital was surprised when it received the lawsuit Thursday morning, because it had not had contact with Mr. Flanigan or Mr. Daniel's family since Mr. Daniel died at the hospital 16 months ago.

"It was a very busy night and visitation was at the discretion of the nurses," Dr. Scalea said.

**WESTERN MONTGOMERY
BULLETIN**

POOLESVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
MAR 2 2002



Capital Clipping Service

**UMCVFD IN JOINT
CHEM-BIO TRAINING
EXERCISE**

Officer John Wilkes of the Montgomery County Police Dept. and Sgt. Carl Mauney, Career Firefighter/Paramedic with the Upper Montgomery County Dept. of Fire & Rescue Services provided first ever combined Police & Fire/Rescue training exercises for the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD).

"Preparedness and communications are critical to success when dealing with potentially unknown threats," said Sgt. Mauney.

UMCVFD Vol. Asst. Chief Mike White agrees. "We (Police & Fire) have to work together as a team, we have to share information on the scene, and understand each others command structures so they can be integrated for maximum effectiveness."

The combined Police and Fire Chem-Bio training exercises were sparked by the 9/11 attacks, plus the fact that Montgomery County is home to many bio-tech firms where much of the commercial research is conducted, plus the obvious proximity to Washington, D.C.

The training included a review of a number of potential chemical

Continued on page 3



Montgomery County Police Dept. Officer Mike Reilly models mask for respiratory protection during combined Police and Fire Chem-Bio training exercise. (Story page 1).

**UMCVFD IN JOINT CHEM-
BIO TRAINING EXERCISE**

Continued from page 1

and biological agents that could be used as weapons, how to recognize the presence, signs and symptoms of various hazardous agents, and how to provide the most appropriate response. Such details as approaching the scene from upwind and staging equipment and manpower uphill have to be second nature for both Fire/Rescue and also law enforcement when responding to such an event. "Don't become part of the problem," stressed Officer Wilkes.

Decontamination of the effected people becomes an immediate priority to reduce the effects of the hazard.

Initial 'gross decon' is usually done with water and removing contaminated clothing. This alone can reduce the contamination by 80% according to Sgt. Mauney. Keep in mind things like temperature—we can't just hose people off if it is 20 degrees outside. Warming must be provided, like staging buses at the scene for warmth and other purposes. We also must consider people's family, privacy, modesty and cultural

Continued on page 4

**UMCVFD IN JOINT CHEM-
BIO TRAINING EXERCISE**

Continued from page 3

issues.

"Remember, this could be a crime scene," states Officer Wilkes, "and it must be preserved for the investigation."

Officer Wilkes was sizing and fitting the MCPD Officers—each with an encapsulating Tyvek class 'B' suit and the latest Millennium 1000 model mask for respiratory protection—to be donned by the police officers if responding to a chemical or biological incident. Class 'B' suits are not for use in any Hot zone, they provide Warm zone protection only.

Additionally, each police officer will receive the latest technology 'Escape Mask' which was developed and is used in Israel. "This is the same Escape Mask that the Secret Service will put on President Bush, should the need arise. Similar Escape Masks have been in use in the Montgomery County Fire Dept. for some time already."

Firefighter and Paramedic Sgt. Mauney reviewed the procedure with the career and volunteer firefighters/rescuers regarding the procedure to reduce potential infiltration of contaminants within the firefighter's structural firefighting protective clothing. This involves taping around such areas as coat sleeves and gloves, or pant legs and boots to minimize air exchange which could be contaminated. Of course firefighters/rescuers would also don their Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), which provides excellent respiratory protection (See photo on p.3).

"Prepare for the worst but hope for the best" sums up the feelings of volunteer firefighter/rescuer Jeff Eck. "Be prepared. And there is no reason to not be prepared with the education, training and equipment that are available in Montgomery County." (Courtesy: Jeff Eck).

FREDERICK, MD
TUESDAY 13,000
MAR 5 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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New line officers for the Lewistown District Volunteer Fire Co., from left, are Jim Layton, deputy chief; Kenny Miller, assistant chief; Mike Stull, fire lieutenant; Scott Stoncifer, fire lieutenant; and Jeanette McGuire, EMS lieutenant. Donnie Stull was named chief.



New auxiliary officers for the Lewistown District Volunteer Fire Co. were recently installed during the company's annual banquet. From left, are Betty Martin, president; Kathy Knipple, vice president; Lisa Smith, secretary; Jean Wetzel, treasurer; Ethelene Eaton, assistant chaplain; Bev Nunemaker, chaplain; Emogene Michael, color bearer; and Karen Stull, assistant secretary. Fran Beahn was named assistant treasurer.



NEWS

FREDERICK, MD
TUESDAY 13,000
MAR 5 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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Fire/rescue recognized

From The Montgomery Bureau

ROCKVILLE — U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Dennis V. McGinn recognized the Montgomery County Fire/Rescue Services and Police Department on Monday for providing emergency assistance to the Pentagon after the Sept. 11 attacks. Adm. McGinn, deputy chief of naval operations, warfare requirements and programs, presented plaques engraved "With Enduring Gratitude From The Navy Family, The Pentagon, September 11, 2001" to Police Chief Charles Moose and Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi.

Adm. McGinn also presented letters of commendation signed by Adm. Vern Clark, chief of naval operations, and Gordon England, secretary of the Navy, conveying

the sincere appreciation of the entire United States Navy for the extraordinarily courageous and untiring service in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

County Executive Douglas M. Duncan told the Navy officials, "We are pleased that we were able to assist the Pentagon during those difficult days following the attack on America. It is a great honor for us to receive recognition from the Navy for our efforts."

Montgomery County sent an urban search and rescue team to the Pentagon for nine days to help with recovery efforts, and sent a logistics team to New York.

County firefighters also provided backup services for the Pentagon and Arlington under a mutual aid agreement.

MONTGOMERY JOURNAL

ROCKVILLE, MD
TUESDAY 30,000
MAR 5 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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County fire, police services recognized

Montgomery County's Fire and Rescue Services and Police Department received recognition and commendation Monday for providing emergency assistance following the Sept. 11 attacks on the Pentagon.

U.S. Navy Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare Requirements and Programs, presented plaques and letters to Police Chief Charles A. Moose and Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi.

The county's assistance efforts continued during the anthrax attacks and reached the community through a disaster planning brochure with information about bioterrorism and ways to identify suspicious mail.

— WHITNEY L. JACKSON

Volunteers doing their Level best

Fire and ambulance crews at Company 1 take a licking, keep on ticking

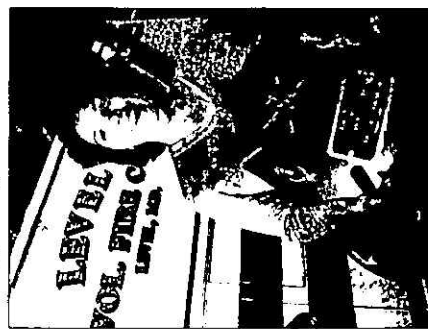
By Matthew Plem

Members of the Level Volunteer Fire Company gathered for their banquet hall Saturday night to honor their own, with some taking the time to defend the volunteer fire and emergency medical system in Harford County in response to recent criticism.

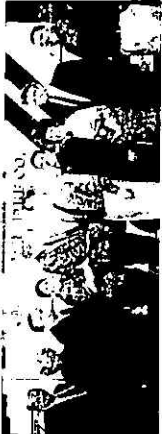
"I hope everyone in this room is as proud as I am of being a volunteer firefighter," said Level Assistant Chief Clarence Ross, referring to recent criticisms of the Harford County volunteer fire and EMS systems in comparison to paid firefighters. Regardless of the founding Harford County's volunteer firefighters take from critics, Ross said "Level's volunteers, as well as those across the county, are like 'Tuna's we keep on ticking.'"

Harford's Level ambulance captain Louise Shale agreed: "We are needed," adding volunteers make a difference every day in Harford County.

But perhaps the most vocal was master of ceremonies James Terrell, former director of the Emergency Operations Center. Speaking to the critics of Harford County's volunteer fire and EMS system, Terrell said allegations of people using "because slow response of volunteers was false and Terrell challenged the critics to come forward with proof of such claims.



Robert Janssen, from left, James Martin Sr., Russell Gallant Sr., Dan Hawkins, Carroll Craig, Len Packard, Larry Mabe, Ronnie Hamon, Don Hawkins, Jimmy Hawkins and Matt Olf were honored by members of the Level Volunteer Fire Company at the "2001 Tuna" for answering 2001 in more calls. Not pictured is Kenneth Starr.



Members of the Level Volunteer Fire Company presented Martin Chidsey, National Fire Protection Association, with the 2001 annual banquet award.

Terrell, an assistant chief for the Harford County Volunteer Fire Company, said critics are guilty of several things, not the least of which is "of just living plain stupid."

Gathered politicians also stepped forward at Level's banquet. "I guess they don't know or think that they get the same training you do," said Del. Joanne Parrott, a Republican representing Harford County, adding he deals with such people in Annapolis from time to time and they usually fade into obscurity.

"I guess they don't know or think that they get the same training you do," said Del. Joanne Parrott, a Republican representing Harford County, adding he deals with such people in Annapolis from time to time and they usually fade into obscurity.

After he took it upon himself to fix a problem with the public address system, Level firefighter Martin Chidsey was honored as the company's firefighter of the year.

Ken Young, Bevie Burdette, Alan Caudill, Louise Mabe, Alex McComas Jr. and Chip Hawkins, Martin Chidsey, Dawn Young, James Martin Sr. and Don Hawkins, from left, were recognized as the top 10 EMS responders in 2001 by Level Volunteer Fire Company during its annual banquet Saturday.

the company to recognize the efforts of the volunteer who went out of the way to help train and guide EMS the next and all members of Company 1. Nominated for a former Level volunteer who was known for such conduct, the award would not be an annual one, but rather one only bestowed on the Level volunteer who lives up to the memory of "Tuna."

Boorman, an active and beloved Level firefighter, died about 15 years ago of a heart attack at age 40. Ladies auxiliary member Anna Taylor was awarded with the Charlotte Gallant Award for years of service to the Level Volunteer Fire Company, and as Taylor made her way to the podium, members of Company 1 and their guests made it known how important they're efforts have been to the company as they gave her a standing ovation.

Honored as members of the "200 Club," having responded to more than 200 calls in the 2001, were Robert Dulac in the 2001, Jimmy Martin Sr. with 250; Russell Gallant Sr. with 263; Dan Hawkins with 103; Dawn Young with 84; James Martin Sr. with 84; and Chip Steinger with 70.

Robert Janssen, left, accepts the Service Award from Level Volunteer Fire Company as he jokes with Walter Kerr during the annual banquet in Darlington, Saturday.

AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD
WEDNESDAY 35,000
MAR 6 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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Better ways

Giffen B. Nickol and Gary Metzbower, two career firefighters who live in Harford County and work in Baltimore, have long been critical of the local fire service.

While they raise valid points when it comes to the administration and accountability of the Harford County volunteer fire and ambulance service, they have historically been way off base when it comes to their criticism of the dedication, training and response times of the volunteer fire companies.

Their usual diatribe was reiterated in letters published on this page Wednesday and letting it pass without comment would be inappropriate.

While we have long been critical of administrative aspects of the fire companies, we have no qualms about the general high quality of the local fire and ambulance service. Certainly, it is possible to pick out individual cases where there were problems. But such is the case with any organization — paid or volunteer — that involves imperfect human beings.

Nickol and Metzbower frequently point out what they see as the shortcomings of the local firefighters, all the while leaving out details like the number of people who routinely die in house fires in Baltimore.

Many of the firefighters who volunteer in Harford County are also on the staffs of metropolitan paid fire and rescue companies, and Harford County is better off for it. If Nickol and Metzbower are really interested in improving the local system, there are better ways to do it.

CALVERT RECORDER

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD
WEDNESDAY 10,000
MAR 6 2002

Capital Clipping Service

81 11...

Legislators ponder \$20 charge on speed, red light tickets

BY THOMAS DENNISON

STAFF WRITER

ANNAPOLIS — Fines for speeding and running red lights would be increased by \$20 under legislation being considered in the House of Delegates.

House Bill 1214 sponsored by Del. Norman Conway (D-Eastern Shore) and co-sponsored by every member of the Southern Maryland Delegation, establishes the Maryland Fire and Emergency Services Support Fund, a low-interest, revolving loan fund. This fund would provide grants to volunteer fire companies to purchase new fire trucks and to build or

renovate firehouses. The \$20 surcharge on violations like running red lights, reckless driving and speeding would contribute millions to the fund each year.

If passed, the bill would raise the \$75 fine imposed on drivers caught by controversial red light cameras in Charles, Prince George's and Montgomery Counties to \$95.

Volunteer fire companies are pushing for the legislation because they were expecting \$10 million from last year's tax amnesty program that never came through. Instead, the money generated from the amnesty program was redirected

ed to the state's general fund to pay for mental health and developmental disabilities programs, Conway said.

"The goal of the tax amnesty program was to generate enough money for volunteer fire companies to make improvements and to build fire houses, but that didn't happen," Conway said.

The surcharge is being placed on the violations that cause the accidents that we are responding to," Conway said.

But the surcharge is going to be a tough sell because the legislature approved a bill last year to increase the biannual vehicle registration fee by \$6 increase to rescue the Emergency Medical

Services Operations Fund from bankruptcy. The EMSOF also provides grants to local fire and emergency medical service companies, the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore and the Maryland State Police Aviation Division, among many other programs.

"I don't think there will be a lot of support for increasing another fee this year," said Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton (D-Charles), the lead sponsor of the vehicle registration fee last year.

"We're in a recession and I don't believe that law is the time to raising fees," Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D), as part of his budget bal-

ancing strategy, is proposing to defer \$5 million out of the EMSOF but that isn't the reason for the \$20 surcharge bill, Conway said.

Conway said the EMSOF generated by the \$20 surcharge and the revolving loan fund would be spent for different purposes. If the bill is approved, Conway said, the first year of revenue generated by the \$20 surcharge would be devoted for grants to the volunteer fire companies. The next year the money generated would be used to establish a traumatic brain injury fund, to help fund shock trauma centers around the state and to help pay for

new Maryland State Police helicopters.

Charles "Jenks" Mattingly, the president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and St. Mary's County firefighter, said there were more than \$80 million worth of renovation and apparatus replacement requests from volunteer stations last year.

"This bill goes after the violators that are causing us to go out," Mattingly said.

The House Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the bill March 8.

CALVERT INDEPENDENT

PRICE FREDERICK, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
MAR 6 2002

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Capital Clipping Service

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March is national Red Cross month

By JENNIFER PRICE

Calvert Independent Staff Writer

The Calvert County Chapter of the American Red Cross has been extremely busy the past few months. Not only have they been aiding the National Red Cross, but they have been helping in the county as well, as several families have been displaced by house fires. For all of the hard work and community support the organization has to offer, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared March as Red Cross Month in 1943.

While many Americans generously donated to the Liberty Fund, local chapters income declined after Sept. 11. During Red Cross Month, the National Red Cross as well as the local chapters are providing fundraising opportunities to help restore funding to local chapters.

Two of the fundraising efforts have been organized on a national level. The first of which was put together by Ty Corporation, the creators of Heinnie Babies. Ty has fashioned a new "America" bear which will be sold exclusively on-line. When purchasing one of these unique bears, the money spent will be donated to the nearest local Red Cross chapter, based on the buyer's zip code.

"Since our first 'America' bear was hugely successful with customers, I knew they would want a second one," said Ty Warner, president of Ty, in an American Red Cross press release.

"The new 'America' bear is our way of saying thank you to the Red Cross chapters that help people in communities everyday. I hope both collectors and the public will join us in saying thank you for the great work of the Red Cross."

See RED CROSS, A-6

RED CROSS

Continued from Page A-1

The second presentation involves a trip to the nearest 7-11 store. Each vendor will have a place for donations from the public which in turn will be donated to the local Red Cross chapter.

"The teddy bears, the only way you can buy them is on the Internet and all of the money from the zip code of your address will go to the chapter where you live. So if you live in Calvert County, the money is going to go to the chapter where you live and if you live in Milwaukee, WI, the money will go to the Milwaukee chapter. It's dependent on where you live and it is the same thing with the 7-11 promotion," said Kale Hansen, Emergency Service Spec-

alist with the Calvert County Chapter of the Red Cross. "The reason why they are doing this is because of Sept. 11. Everyone generously donated all of this money to the Liberty Fund which was used for Disaster Human Services and Resources (DHRSR). That money didn't come to the local chapters. So the Red Cross may have gotten a lot of money to help on a national level, but on a local level, we kind of lost money."

Hansen also explained that the time period surrounding Sept. 11 is normally the time when the local chapters are sending out mailers to the general public asking for donations. In light of the tragic events, and in raise money for their chapter, Hansen

said they have a local fundraising project organized as well.

For the sixth year, the Twin Beach Players, Inc. will be performing in a dinner theater to benefit the Calvert County Red Cross Chapter. After a feast catered by Thompson's Seafood, the group will put on a production of "Tartuffe," a French comedy.

This event will be held on a production at the Calvert County Fairgrounds on Rte. 231 with doors opening at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at the Red Cross Office for \$35.

In addition to the fundraising efforts, the Calvert chapter has been keeping very busy this year. They are not only trying to rebuild community

trust, but they are trying to increase the number of volunteers with the Disaster Assistance Team (DAT). The DAT team is notified by the fire department if a family has been displaced by a fire and they work to help the families cope with finding a place to live and providing them with emergency needs such as clothing.

"We'll go if we are called by the fire department to the house and help them find a place to live, usually it's a hotel for a week, food for a week, clothing at Wal-Mart or any other emergency items they may need," said Hansen. "We want to have more people on our DAT team so we can be more capable of responding quickly

and to create awareness to make the community feel they are part of something. You may be on-call for an entire month and not do anything because we may not have a fire for an entire month, but at least they can feel they are giving to the Red Cross. That's why we are having disaster classes that are starting on March 9. The class will teach community members how to be prepared in case there is a disaster."

Food, shelter and clothing would not be able to be provided for the families if it weren't for the generous support of local businesses, according to Hansen.

"What happens right now is we have these great things called merchant agreements. For instance, when we had the fire in the trailer park on Rte. 231, Super 8 has an agreement with us where we can have people stay there for a reduced price and we'll put the victims up in the hotel for a week. We help them to call family and friends to find somewhere else to live. We also act as a liaison by recommending the housing authority to find apartments or houses to rent," Hansen explained. "This county has been excellent. Bob Evans lets people go and eat there at a discount through the Red Cross. McDonald's and Applebee's have helped. Wal-Mart has been fantastic. Every time there has been a house fire and someone needs clothes, they go to Wal-Mart and we pay for the clothes, but they accept it right away and send us the bill so the victims don't have to worry about it."

Each of the families displaced by the house fires since January have been able to make other arrangements for places to live with the help of Red Cross volunteers.

Hansen also wanted to remind the community that one of the best ways to be prepared for a disaster is to have CPR and First Aid training. The Red Cross offers these classes twice a month with a minimal charge that covers the cost of books. Each of the instructors is a volunteer.

In continuing community education and awareness, Hansen said the Red Cross has a new program that is given to groups.

"After Sept. 11, national put together this great presentation on Power Point that is meant to give in businesses, schools or anyone who is concerned about terrorism how to protect themselves," Hansen explained. "If you call the Red Cross and set up an appointment, I'll come and give you either a half-hour or hour-long presentation called, 'Preparing for the Unexpected.' It talks about the disaster that you can have in your home or in your car. It talks about things that can empower you, so if there is an attack or something happens, you feel that even though you are losing control, you still have some control because you are prepared for it."

For more information on how you can support the Calvert County Chapter of the American Red Cross or for more information on the variety of classes offered, contact the Red Cross at 410-535-5230.

GAZETTE (LAUREL)

GAITHERSBURG, MD

WEEKLY

MAR 7 2002

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Capital Clipping Service

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Laurel firefighters upset by volunteering decision

by Maishah English
Staff Writer

Local volunteer fire department representatives met with Bush administration officials Tuesday to express concern over a two-year-old policy that is forcing firefighters to choose between working either as a volunteer or career firefighter.

The meeting was the result of a recent attempt by the Prince George's County Chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1619 to enforce the resolution adopted in August 2000 that prohibits professional firefighters in one jurisdiction from serving as volunteers in a nearby fire department.

Joseph Robison, life member of the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) and chairman of the Prince George's County Fire Commission attended the meeting with representatives of the Office of Homeland Security to express his opposition to the decision.

"President Bush is leaving this week to go around the nation to plead for more volunteers and now we have an organization doing just the opposite," Robison said. "I would hope they would reconsider their actions."

Robison said the issue is a local one that is expected to eventually affect firefighters across the country. The resolution has already been enforced in Anne Arundel and Howard counties, the District, and parts of Virginia.

Thomas McEachin, president of I.A.F.F. Local 1619, said his chapter sponsored the resolution that asks firefighters to decide between volunteering or being represented by the union.

"The intent of this is to take care of people who are I.A.F.F. members," McEachin said. "This is not to get rid of volunteers."

The union does not represent

volunteers nor does it represent professionals while they are serving in the volunteer capacity.

Professional public safety personnel are not required to join the union.

Local 1619 represents all professional members of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department as well as fire professional and paramedics in Anne Arundel, Howard and Baltimore counties.

McEachin sent letters to neighboring chapters Jan. 14 asking professional firefighters who volunteer to comply with union regulations or leave the union.

Charles "Jenks" Mattingly, president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association said he thinks the union is misguided.

He said about 1,200 county volunteer firefighters are also paid professional firefighters who are IAFF members. He is concerned that career firefighters will trade volunteer work to hold onto their union cards, thus depleting the number of volunteers who serve the public.

Richard Blankenship, LVFD chief, has volunteered with the department for 34 years. Blankenship also works as a battalion chief for the Howard County Fire Department, where he has worked for 29 years. He said the policy is a cause for concern. Blankenship said although he is not a union member he understands the concerns.

"But there is not a way if everyone stops volunteering that the county can afford to hire career firefighters to fill all those vacancies. The money is just not there," Blankenship said. "If it is your day off and you want to give something back to the community you should have the right to do that."

E-mail Maishah English at
menglish@gazette.net



Capitol Clipping Service

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Laurel candidates differ on collective bargaining

by Maishah English

Staff Writer

Immediately following a debate between candidates Eight Culbourn and Craig Moore, City Council candidates were given the floor to respond to questions concerning city finances and the functioning of the municipality.

Ward 2 candidates Glen Audet, Fred Smalls and Mike Sarich presented their views in the competition for the two council seats.

Ward 1 candidates Jan Robison and Rick Wilson, and Mayor Mike Leszcz who is seeking the at-large seat, also participated in the debate although the three are running unopposed.

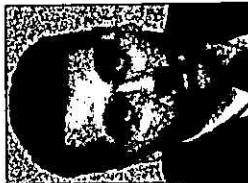
The American Association of University Women (AAUW) sponsored the debate. Association Vice President Eileen Menton moderated.

Candidates were asked about financing priorities for the city. Audet, Smalls, Robison and Wilson, who are campaigning as a slate, said they would seek outside funding sources to increase the city's revenue. Sarich said he would like to consider user fees and impact assessments as alternative funding.

Through Menton, a member of the audience asked candidates for their positions on collective bargaining for city employees. All the candidates except Mike Sarich said they were against the concept of formal negotiation between employers and employees.



Audet



Sarich



Smalls

"Collective bargaining doesn't mean you have to break the bank," Sarich said. "It means you give your employees a voice. I think it is a voice we should use."

But Smalls countered that opening the door of communication is the better solution.

"Whatever issues are there can be resolved without collective bargaining and arbitration," Smalls said.

In response to previous requests from retirees for cost-of-living increases, candidates said they would like to review retired city employee benefits. Sarich said he strongly supports collective bargaining and sees it as an option to reconsider retirement packages.

"I think it is time to take a look at the packages again. I would not be in favor of any changes without input from city employees," said Wilson.

Candidates were asked what they would do to resolve lingering differences between the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department (LVFD) and Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad (LVRS).

The late Mayor Frank Casula set up an ad-hoc committee in 2001 to settle differences between the two agencies over who is in charge at the scene of a fire or rescue call. Smalls, who was appointed to the committee, said he would like to see the new council and the mayor bring the committee's recommendations to the table, along with the county fire chief and representatives from both organizations.

Since Casula's passing Leszcz said he has met with Prince George's County Fire/EMS Chief Ronald Blackwell and will follow up with him again.

"We have a world class fire department and a world class EMS department," Leszcz said. "I am willing to support the efforts of both. I am not willing to support two fire departments in Laurel."

Audet, a member of the rescue squad, said the issue is an operational one that needs to be put to rest with communication and review of the ad-hoc committee's recommendations.

Sarich said both organizations, which receive funding from the city, deserve respect for their volunteer work.

"We cannot dictate to them what that should do because we give them a stipend," Sarich said.

Robison said she would also like to review the recommendations.

The debate ended with closing comments and a plea for residents to exercise the opportunity to play a role in deciding Laurel's future.

"[Regardless] of who you vote for just make sure you get out there and vote," Wilson said.

Email: Maishah English at maishah@gazette.net

Cuts to state EMS fire, rescue budget may not affect county

by Nicole Belanger
Staff Writer

A proposed \$5 million cut to the state's Emergency Medical Services fund may not affect Frederick County's fire and rescue services.

According to budget figures, there is \$51.2 million in the fund, which pays for training, shock trauma and MedEvac services among other things.

Of that amount, \$46.3 million is already earmarked for programs. One such program provides grants to local fire and rescue companies. Frederick County receives a share of that \$10

million, but the governor's budget office could not provide exact figures for each county.

The \$5 million surplus has been targeted by Gov. Parris N. Glendening (D), who is trying to cover an anticipated \$200 million shortfall in the state's budget.

Emergency medical services built up the extra funds through last year's increase of automobile registration fees, which went from \$70 every two years to \$76.

Although some fire and rescue officials across the state are crying out in anger over the governor's change of heart, a representative from his press office said the money is not being

used anyway.

And even if the extra \$5 million is taken to balance the state budget this year, there will be an additional \$2.9 million surplus in the fund next year, said Michelle Byrnie, a spokeswoman with the governor's press office.

State Sen. Alex K. Mooney (R-Dist. 3) of Frederick sent out a letter on Jan. 28 to supporters of volunteer fire and rescue services in both Frederick and Washington counties discussing the proposed cut to the fund. The letter was part of a move by the state Republican Caucus to contest Glendening's budget plan.

Last year, Mooney opposed the increase to the auto registration surcharge, but now he is fighting for EMS to keep those funds.

He said his vote last year was because he feared the money would not be used for fire and rescue services. "If this was a priority for the governor, he would fund it out of the general budget," said the senator, who added that his fear turned out to be true.

The General Assembly must approve the cut before it can become law, Byrnie said.

"The governor and his budget office combed through the budget and looked at where there was a surplus," Byrnie said.

The registration fee hike was supposed to provide more money than is needed right now in the Emergency Medical Services budget, so another increase would not be needed for several years, Byrnie said.

The \$5 million will not be taken out of any existing or proposed fire and rescue services programs, she said.

Either way, Frederick County should not see any loss of services, local fire officials say.

"We don't seem to get our fair share anyway," said Stan Poole, director of fire and rescue services in the county.

"I think we get relatively few dollars compared to law enforcement, so I do support any money coming to us," he said.

Because Frederick County has its own training facility on Reich's Ford Road, the state does not fund training; the county pays for the facility.

Frederick County also does not have a shock trauma unit here, Poole pointed out.

And most volunteer fire and rescue companies raise their own funds to buy new equipment, he said.

Maryland State Police Lt. Bud Frank said funding cuts would have no effect on the operating budget for the MedEvac state police helicopter unit that is dispatched to transport patients to hospitals.

But Don Lachman, president of the county's volunteer fire and rescue association, wants to keep the money in the fund for which it was originally intended. "We have the best system in the country in Maryland and we try to keep it that way," he said.

Lachman said the fund helps fire and rescue services statewide, which in turn can help Frederick County residents. "If you're in a serious automobile accident, you may need the services of the shock trauma units," he

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**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**
30.08.06 Burn Center Standards

Authority: Education Article, §13-309,
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action
102-092-P1

The State Emergency Medical Services Board proposes to amend Regulations .04 and .06 under COMAR 30.08.06 Burn Center Standards. The proposed action was considered and approved by the State Emergency Medical Services Board at its regular meeting on December 11, 2001, notice of which was given by publication in 28:24 Md. R. 2164 (November 30, 2001), under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

Statement of Purpose
The purpose of this action is to clarify that the provisions of the regulations amended apply only to burn staff.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed regulation.

Estimate of Economic Impact

Economic Impact
The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

Economic Impact on Small Businesses
The proposed action has minimal or no impact on small businesses.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Mary Beachley, MS, RN, CEN, Director of Hospital Programs, at MIEMSS, 653 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1536, or call (410) 706-3932, or fax to (410) 706-4788, or e-mail to mbeachley@mdems.umaryland.edu. Comments must be received by April 8, 2002. A public hearing will not be held.

.04 Appointment and Qualifications of Attending Burn Staff Surgeons.

A. A burn center director may appoint qualified attending burn staff surgeons to participate in the care of patients in the burn service.

B. An attending burn staff surgeon shall meet the requirements in Regulation .05 of this chapter.

.06 Burn Service Physician Coverage.

A burn service shall:

A. Have at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) attending burn staff surgeon involved in the management of burn patients for each of 200 acute inpatient admissions annually:

B. Have an attending *burn* staff surgeon available on-call within 30 minutes, 24 hours a day;

C. (text unchanged)

D. Maintain an on-call schedule for residents and attending burn staff surgeons who are assigned to the burn service:

E. — G, (text unchanged)

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.

Executive Director
Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems

BALTIMORE TIMES

BALTIMORE, MD
WEEKLY 32,000
MAR 8 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Maryland's HealthChoice is big success

By Talmadge Branch *Staff Writer*

Maryland's five-year-old experiment with mandatory managed care for children, poor people and the disabled, called HealthChoice, has been a big success. It is giving uninsured Marylanders the best medical care they've ever received.

So why is this program, which serves 435,000 people statewide tottering on the edge of a cliff?

Inadequate state funding.

Physicians' payments, which haven't changed since the program began, only cover about 40 percent of the actual cost of delivering medical care. No wonder many doctors have abandoned the program, and a scarcity of doctors willing to participate could spell doom.

Additionally, seven of the original 13 managed-care organizations have dropped out of HealthChoice, and others have limited their enrollment. That hurts the people who most need medical-care programs.

This is of prime importance to Baltimore, since the largest number of HealthChoice members live in the city. Indeed, 57 percent of all enrollees reside in the city or the Washington metropolitan area. They have come to depend on this personalized form of managed health care.

For the first time in their lives, most of these patients have ongoing relationships with a primary care physician. They have a medical home, where they receive regular check-ups, preventive care and expanded benefits, such as dental exams, substance abuse treatment, well-child care and pre-natal and newborn care.

Children, who make up the overwhelming number of HealthChoice enrollees, are getting immunizations and check-ups on a timely basis and are screened for lead poisoning.

Their parents, meanwhile, are screened for lung, colon, prostate, breast and cervical cancer. They receive early treatment to control diabetes, hypertension and asthma, and are learning how to manage their conditions and reduce the need for hospitalizations.

Over the long haul, this should pay dividends for both the patients and the state's taxpayers.

Last month, the state health department issued its evaluation of the program, as requested by the General Assembly. The agency praised the program and recommended that it be continued, concluding that HealthChoice has saved the state money compared to the previous delivery system and has added value for participants.

HealthChoice members are making fewer trips to hospital emergency rooms, which is a good sign. More people than ever, particularly children, are gaining access to a broader array of health-care services.

This upbeat report is one reason that Gov. Parris N. Glendening last month included an additional \$25 million (matched by \$25 million of federal funds) in his budget to boost

payment rates to HealthChoice physicians. It's important that this money remain, uncut, in the budget because it will keep the program from collapsing.

Still lacking, though, is a longer-range commitment to put HealthChoice on firm financial ground.

The program's current reimbursement rate is just one-third of what the federal government pays doctors under Medicare. That's unacceptably low and is driving doctors out of the program. The situation is especially acute on the Eastern Shore.

We need to bring HealthChoice's payments into line with what Washington pays physicians for treating Medicare patients. That will take time, but it can be done if the governor and the legislature commit to a multi-year effort to boost support for this worthwhile program.

Giving Maryland's needy women and children quality health care ought to be a high priority for all of us. It certainly should be near the top of the next governor's agenda.

The state has in place a medical-care program that, while far from perfect, is achieving its objective. We can't allow HealthChoice to fold for lack of financial support. The poor deserve access to the same kind of decent health care that the rest of us receive. It's an obligation state government must take more seriously.

(Talmadge Branch represents District 45 (East Baltimore) in the Maryland House of Delegates. He is chairman of the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus and serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee that deals with the Medicaid Budget.)

FREDERICK POST

FREDERICK, MD
SATURDAY 33,000
MAR 9 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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Bill to increase fines for vehicle violations

By SUSAN C. NICOL
News-Post Staff

nicol@fredericknews-post.com

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ANNAPOLIS — Fines for motor vehicle violations will increase by \$20 if legislation is passed by the General Assembly.

The additional fees would be placed into the revolving low interest loan fund for fire and rescue apparatus, new stations or renovations to existing buildings.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association administers the fund established several years ago.

It was hoped that money collected during the state's tax amnesty program last fall would go into the fund. However, the back taxes paid went to supplement mental health initiatives and other health related

(See BILL, Page A-12)

Bill

(Continued from Page A-1)

matters.

Delegate Norman Conway, D-Wicomico, said the events of Sept. 11 have catapulted support for fire and rescue service. He urged the House Judiciary Committee on Friday to show support for the first responders.

The bill was introduced last year as backup legislation in case the vehicle registration fee hike did not pass, Mr. Conway said.

The registration fee was increased to keep the Emergency Medical Services Operations Fund alive. But there is a move now to take \$5 million to help balance the state budget.

The increase in fines would apply to violations of "the rules of the road," Mr. Conway said.

As proposed, the money would have to be used for the revolving loan program for the first year or until \$20 million is used.

The money then will be divided in the following ways: One-sixth used for Maryland Emergency Medical Services Systems fund; one-sixth for the traumatic brain

injury rehabilitation fund; one-third for the Sen. William H. Amoss fund; and one-third for regional trauma centers.

Dr. Robert Bass, director of Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, said it's important for legislators to pass the bill. He envisions money from the fund helping to replace the current Maryland State Police helicopter fleet.

Charles Mattingly, president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, said there was \$54 million in low interest requests last year. There was not enough money in the fund to come close to helping with the projects.

John Spearman, president of Maryland Trauma Center Network, voiced his support for the measure. "We believe that the funding that this bill would provide is vital to providing continued stability to our world-renowned system of fire, trauma and emergency care," he said.

Dr. Spearman said the trauma centers from around the state need financial assistance to continue their mission to care for critically injured patients.

WESTERN MONTGOMERY
BULLETIN

POOLESVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
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\$1 MILLION FOR MC HOMELAND SECURITY

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan welcomed U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski to the County's Traffic Management Center (TMC) last week and thanked her for her role in securing \$1 million in federal funds to improve the County's emergency preparedness and ability to respond to local and regional incidents. Duncan also thanked Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congresswoman Connie Morella for their roles in acquiring the funding.

The money will be used to co-locate the County's emergency communications, emergency operations and traffic management centers, improving coordination and response time during emergencies.

The funds were earmarked for Montgomery County in an FY02 Transportation Appropriations bill that allocated federal money for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology and was signed into law by the President on December 18, 2001.

"Integrating our emergency response operations will enhance the security of our citizens by improving information and response time for the

County's first responders," said Duncan. "Consolidation of our Emergency Communications, Emergency Operations, and Traffic Management Centers will integrate our emergency response efforts with the most current and complete intelligence from an incident scene. I am very grateful to Senator Mikulski for playing an instrumental role in ensuring that Montgomery County received the resources we need to aggressively meet the new challenges of protecting our citizens' safety in light of the events of September 11."

All the emergency operations will be consolidated in a new building in Gaithersburg. The cost for the TMC portion of the project will be \$6.3 million. The federal funds will be used to integrate existing ITS technology — used for transportation management — with police, fire and rescue services. Sharing information and co-locating staff will enhance the ability of transportation planners to support emergency scene activities and provide for better coordination during emergency incidents.

FREDERICK POST

FREDERICK, MD
TUESDAY 33,000
MAR 12 2002



Capital Clipping Service

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Duncan wants over \$19M for emergency preparedness

By SONIA BOIN
Montgomery Bureau Chief
sboin@frederickpost.com

ROCKVILLE — Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan marked the six-month anniversary of Sept. 11 on Monday by unveiling a request for more than \$19 million in federal money and \$3 million in county funds to beef up emergency preparedness.

At a ceremony held outside the Bethesda District Police Station, Mr. Duncan also announced the formation of a panel to find some lasting good among the ashes and debris of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The panel will pay special attention to the 11 Montgomery County victims of the September 11 attack.

The panel will be headed by former county council member William E. Hanna Jr. and includes family members of those who died at the Pentagon.

The executive cited the need for "heightened preparedness" as he unveiled homeland security proposals in the fiscal 2003 operating budget he'll present Thursday.

He said the county budget requests, "coupled with the assistance we've received and hope to receive from the federal government, will make our community safer by enhancing security and improving our public health system to meet the challenges of today while doing all we can to prevent future terrorist attacks."

The more than \$16 million Mr. Duncan is asking in federal funds includes about \$4 million in grant funding to hire 32 new police officers to serve as educational facilities officers.

One officer would be assigned to each police beat to coordinate emergency management plans and maintain strong communication links with every public and private school in their area, as well as colleges.

Quince Orchard High School Principal Daniel Shea, who heads the county's administrators and supervisors association, hailed the plan as "a wonderful opportunity for our schools and our children for a learning environment that's not only a great place but a safe place."

Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi added the firefighters' commitment to "making sure our citizens are safe." He said, "We have the resolve, the dedication, the courage and compassion. We need people, equipment and dedication."

Another \$1.8 million in federal money is requested for a set of equipment for the County's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team to enhance the team's ability to respond to multiple incidents. The executive is also seeking \$300,000 in federal money for a surveillance system that will track hospital and emergency services data and school absences on a real-time basis, allowing rapid detection of unusual occurrences that could be related to biological or chemical terrorism.

Another federal request is \$750,000 for a lone and voice alert system for firefighters, emergency medical workers, disaster volunteers and public health personnel and a "blast fax" communications system to alert physicians and nurses, hospitals, civic associations and other organizations.

Mr. Duncan's budget request for county money includes continued funding for the new emergency preparedness and security enhancements that he implemented immediately after of Sept. 11.

He's seeking \$410,000 for a bioterrorism team he plans to make an integral part of the county's annual budget to help public health officials better respond to incidents of terrorism or other significant emergencies.

Close to \$1 million in Mr. Duncan's county budget would pay for six new security officers and a new security planning manager at \$365,000, security cameras in selected parking garages at \$200,000, a new canine unit for bomb security at \$65,700, and expanded security after hours in schools and other public facilities, estimated at \$300,000.

Mr. Duncan is also requesting \$2 million for the first phase of a new integrated Justice Information System that would facilitate the exchange of important data about criminals and criminal activity among appropriate county, state and federal agencies.

He's also seeking \$1.17 million in federal funds for enhanced bomb squad and Hazmat equipment, including vehicles, protective suits, communications systems and cameras, and \$767,000 for a bioterrorism Response Center.

The center would take advantage of the county's proximity to the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration

million for the first phase of a new integrated Justice Information System that would facilitate the exchange of important data about criminals and criminal activity among appropriate county, state and federal agencies.

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The center would take advantage of the county's proximity to the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration

to provide local police, emergency rescue and public health workers with state-of-the-art bioterrorism response capabilities.

The budget request includes \$5.7 million for an emergency radio system for Kide On to enhance the fleet's security and communications system. The existing radio system will be improved and the computer aided dispatch/automatic vehicle location system will be upgraded.

Mass decontamination and casualty equipment will include large capacity water trucks, decontamination tents, radiological detection devices, and other items at a cost of \$1.46 million.

Former volunteer EMT files suit against county

Woman claims fire/EMS department violated disabilities act after discovering asthma condition

BY ERIC HARTLEY
Journal staff writer

A former volunteer EMT who has asthma is suing the county, claiming the fire/EMS department violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by rescinding a job offer after discovering her medical condition.

Rachel Fleischer claims in a Circuit Court lawsuit filed in February that she has no symptoms and had no problems serving as an emergency medical technician for three years at another department.

Fleischer's suit says the department violated its own policy by firing her as soon as her condition was discovered, without further research.

Her lawyer, Jay P. Holland, said Fleischer, who is in her 20s, hopes to resolve the complaint without going to trial and wants to be an EMT again.

"This is something we're trying to resolve with the county," he said. Fleischer works at the College Park Volunteer Fire Department so she could live there while she took classes at the University of Maryland, her suit states.

She was diagnosed with asthma in 1985 but took medication and had no symptoms by fall 2000, when she started volunteering in College Park, her suit states.

In April 2001, when the fire department reviewed Fleischer's medical records and discovered the asthma diagnosis, then-Fire Chief Ronald J. Scharnick told her she was not qualified to be an EMT, her suit states.

Fleischer's suit says she had to move out of the College Park firehouse in May and rent an off-campus apartment, causing her unneeded expense.

A medical exam in September, done at the request of Fleischer and the county, found that Fleischer does not have any significant asthma at the time and is physically fit to be an EMT, the suit states.

Holland said all the trouble could have been avoided had the county requested a medical exam when it first discovered Fleischer's asthma.

"They made no particularized evaluation of her condition — which, as it turns out, would have shown that she did not even suffer from asthma," Holland said.

According to Fleischer's suit, the county agreed in a 1999 settlement with the U.S.

Department of Justice that it would not automatically reject fire department candidates who are disabled.

In that case, which involved prospective EMTs who were deaf, the county agreed to evaluate each applicant's physical fitness to do the job, Fleischer's suit states.

The suit claims violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and state and county law. It seeks \$300,000 in damages.

A fire department spokesman declined questions to the county attorney's office, which defended the department's action.

No one from that office returned a call seeking comment.

Duncan plans \$17M security budget

Funds aimed at protecting public safety, health systems

BY KELLY SMITH
Journal staff writer

Six months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan on Monday rolled out a proposed \$17 million homeland security budget for next year, aimed at beefing up security at public facilities and improving the public health system.

Duncan, D, said he also is requesting an additional \$16 million in federal funds to augment

the county's homeland security projects.

"The world we knew prior to Sept. 11 no longer exists," Duncan said. "My fiscal year 2003 operating budget, coupled with the assistance we've received and hope to receive from the federal government, will make our community safer by enhancing the security and improving our public health system to the doing all we can to prevent future terrorist attacks."

Duncan's plan, which is provided to assist public health officials in responding to incidents of terrorism and other significant emergencies, includes funding for six new security officers, a new K-9 unit for security, a new security planning manager and security cameras in some public parking

garages.

Funding also is provided for expanded after-hours security in schools and other public facilities and for security enhancements at Montgomery College, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Washington Suburban State University.

Council President Steve Silverman, D-at-large, said it would

be difficult to evaluate the merits of the public safety portion of the budget until the entire document is released.

"I think we all want to make sure the public is protected and we will have a thorough review of his budget," Silverman said. "The reality is, we're in tough financial times, and we may have to prioritize — even in terms of public safety."

Please see SECURITY, A6

Duncan seeks federal funds to bolster security

SECURITY from A1

The county received about \$9.5 million in federal funding for homeland security in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks and is looking for another \$16 million.

It is one of the federal responsibility is primarily a federal responsibility, particularly in this region and in this community, with over 23 federal facilities located here,

Duncan said.

The \$16 million is expected to be used for enhanced detection of biological or chemical terrorism threats, 32 additional officers to coordinate emergency management plans with every educational facility in the county, an enhanced bomb squad, with hazardous materials capabilities and additional equipment for the county's Urban

Search and Rescue team, which responded to the Pentagon in the hours after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I'm pleased that he's looking to federal funding for a significant part of the initiative because we do need assistance from the federal government to respond to all potential threats that we face," said Council member Phil Andrews, D-Gaithersburg.

Federal funds also would assist in the organization of a Bioterrorism Response Center to provide a state-of-the-art bioterrorism response, provide an emergency radio system for the county's fire, police and public works departments, purchase mass casualty triage equipment that would include water trucks, decontamination tents and radiological-detection devices.

MONTGOMERY JOURNAL

ROCKVILLE, MD
WEDNESDAY 30,000
MAR 13 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Firefighters memorial to be built

^{547 E13}
Maryland's first statewide memorial honoring career and volunteer firefighters will soon be built in Annapolis, and the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Foundation, Inc. is accepting donations for the memorial.

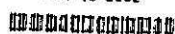
The land for the memorial was granted by the Board of Public Works in front of the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building. The memorial will commemorate the fallen heroes and their sacrifice in making the state a safer place to live. The design incorporates bronze plaques etched with the names of the men and women who have died in the line of duty. The memorial is slated for completion in 2003.

People who wish to give donations are asked to send them to the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation Inc., 3313 Ryerson Circle, Landstowne, MD 21227-4719. For more information, call (410) 242-7713.

— SARA MICHAEL

ENTERPRISE

LEXINGTON PARK, MD
WEDNESDAY 10,000
MAR 13 2002



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Second District VFD&RS Line Officers

PHOTO BY TRISHA DUNN

The 2002 line officers of the Second District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad are (front row, from left), Joseph V. Slade, engineer; Joseph M. Scrivener Sr., chief engineer; Michael R. Roberts, chief; Robert P. Springer, water supply officer; Mark J. Culbert and Joseph R. Bean, lieutenants. (Middle row, from left), Kim Burroughs, fire prevention officer; Amanda Trossback, EMS lieutenant; John P. Charles, engineer; Robert A. Lynch, assistant engineer; Cindy M. Bowes, EMS assistant chief; Diana L. Holmes, EMS captain; Paul E. Tolson, fire prevention officer; Theresa A. Cullison, EMS captain. (Back row, from left), Thomas L. Crowder Jr., captain; James M. Gardiner, assistant chief; Joseph M. Scrivener Jr., captain; Jan Scrivener, EMS lieutenant; J. Christopher Mayo, safety officer; Kenny Shepherd, lieutenant; Jason W. Bean, deputy chief. Not pictured are Robert L. Stauffer, safety officer; John G. Guy, assistant engineer; engineers Robert E. Russell and Francis A. Bean; and engineer trainee Thomas Spalding.



Executive Officers for Second District VFD&RS

The executive officers of the Second District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad are (from left), Michael Roberts, chief; Stephanie Boyd, secretary; Bill Koegel, treasurer; Jenny Stauffer, vice president; and Robert Springer, president.

PHOTO BY TRISHA DUNN



PHOTO BY TRISHA DUNN

Second District VFD&RS Auxiliary

The 2002 officers of the auxiliary to the Second District Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad are (from left), Jetty Townsend, president; Ray Carter, vice president; Jean Sheriff, secretary; Mike Long, treasurer; Lucy Mae Hanson, secretary; Ruby Slade, historian.

GAZETTE (ROCKVILLE)

ROCKVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 22,900
MAR 13 2002

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Capital Clipping Service

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Newly installed officers of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department include (front row) District Chief Lenny Chomock; Lisa Hinde, treasurer; Judy Butts, secretary; Aaryn Slafky, director; and Capt. Robert Ryan; (second row) Firefighter Jeff Levine, trial board; Deputy Chief Scott Emmons; Lt. Chow Lin; Deputy Chief Mike Bloom; Capt. Craig Lazzar; Lt. Peggy Miller; Lt. Glen Butts; Lt. William Dunn; Patrick Young, director; and (third row) Lt. Morgan Kee; Master Firefighter Steve Wolf, trial board; Deputy Chief Paul Guigley; Chief Wm. Alan Hinde; Eric N. Bernard, president; Deputy Chief Russell Dawson, vice president; Tom Kavanaugh, director; Capt. James Vagonis; and Firefighter Eddie Slafky, trial board.

RVFD embarks on challenging year

*New equipment,
station renovation,
volunteer recruitment
on agenda*

by Judy Hruz
Staff Writer

The Rockville Volunteer Fire Department is undertaking a very ambitious plan to reach out to the community for support, either in the form of volunteers or financial contributions.

"We have a very large agenda to take care of these next two years," said Eric N. Bernard, who was installed in January to his second two-year term as president of the department.

On that agenda is what Bernard called a community-based recruitment and retention drive, forced in part by a county proposal to remove two career firefighters from the Rockville fire department.

Now entering its 82nd year of operation, the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department is staffed by both career and volunteer fire and rescue personnel.

It boasts one of the largest volunteer forces in the county, Bernard said, and is second only to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, which covers a mostly rural area, in the size of its response area. Rockville has the largest response area — 75 square miles — of any high-density area in the county, Bernard said.

As the county tightens its fiscal belt, the fire department must be even more prepared with volunteers, he added.

The county has proposed cutting

See RVFD, page A-14

RVFD

Continued from A-1

Rockville from six to four career firefighters on nights and weekends. While those positions may not be axed from the county budget completely, the two firefighters could be shifted to the Germantown Volunteer Fire Department, Bernard said.

Either way, the Rockville department loses that career personnel, he said. Rockville also will lose one of its two paid administrative staff positions.

"We're proud of the number of volunteers we have," Bernard said, "but it takes years to properly train volunteers."

Career firefighters are trained in four months, because they go to class every day, he said.

"Volunteers have other jobs and cannot do that," he said.

Although the Rockville fire department wants to continue to encourage students and young people to join as volunteers or as career members of the fire service, it also is working to entice those who "have their careers and their families, but are looking to give back to the community," Bernard said.

He said those volunteers often stay with the department longer because they are settled in the community.

The department is also stepping up its community outreach by joining the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and other organizations and by visiting with other civic associations.

Both the recruitment and community outreach efforts are important, said Bernard, a 14-year volunteer with the department.

"We can't sit back and wait for people to come to us," he said.

Although the tragedy of Sept. 11 brought a slight spike in interest in the fire and rescue services, it did not bring in a lot of new members, he added.

In addition to retaining fire and rescue personnel, the department must concern itself with the challenges of replacing aging or damaged equipment.

The Rockville fire department will take delivery in eight months of a new engine that will have the capability of running as a rescue unit, Bernard said, meaning that it carries equipment, such as the Jaws of Life, to extract people from automobiles

Fire-rescue volunteers responded in large numbers after attacks

Volunteer fire and rescue personnel responded in large numbers after the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on Sept. 11, reports the Community Fire/Rescue Chief Officers Association.

"There was a tremendous outpouring of volunteer responders, who reported to their assigned stations immediately following initial reports of the attack," according to a report by the association.

The personnel took fire-rescue stations in Montgomery County to maximum staffing levels.

In most cases staffing on primary

units was increased to peak levels and in other cases staffing was used to place secondary reserve units in full ready status, the report says.

A total of 395 volunteers contributed over 6,000 hours of support, the report says.

The statistics have been forwarded to County Executive Douglas M. Duncan for use in disaster management planning.

Alan Hinde, chief of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department, is chair of the Community Fire/Rescue Chief Officers Association.

after serious accidents.

Only one of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department's four stations has a rescue squad, known as Rescue 3 because it is based at Station 3 on Hungerford Drive in downtown Rockville.

Rescue 3 is currently out of service for routine maintenance and repairs for damage it sustained after responding to a major fire at an apartment complex under construction on the King Farm a few months ago.

Kensington Volunteer Fire Department has loaned Rockville its rescue unit until Rockville's is repaired.

The new piece of equipment will cost approximately \$600,000, complete with the equipment.

The department will have to look forward to the coming three to five years when more pieces of equipment will have to be replaced, Bernard said.

A major renovation of Station 3 also is planned, as the station has not been renovated in 36 years, Bernard said.

As part of the renovation project, the southern part of the building facing Beall Avenue will be extended and a second floor will be added to match up with the rest of the two-story station house. There is a "severe shortage" of beds, the kitchen and bathing areas are in "desperate need" of renovation, and the office space must be upgraded as well, Bernard said.

The project is expected to cost more than \$4 million, Bernard said, and the county has offered to give

\$500,000 toward it. The project will go out to bid in six months, he said.

"The renovation is so important," Bernard said, adding that volunteer participation is up 20 percent each year, hours are up 25 percent, call volume is up 12 percent countywide and training requirements are mounting.

To help raise money for the renovation, the fire department will ask the community to help through door-to-door and mail-in fundraising campaigns.

Bernard acknowledges the challenges the fire department faces, while at the same time boasts of its achievement.

The fire department will hold its yearly awards banquet March 23, at which it will honor the work of the men and women who serve as firefighters, rescue personnel and in various administrative capacities.

In addition to Bernard, newly installed officers of the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department include Wm. Alan Hinde, Tom Kavanaugh and Aaryn Slafky, board of directors; Russell Dawson, vice president and deputy chief; Judy Butts, secretary; Lisa Hinde, treasurer; Joe Moore, counsel; the Rev. Charles Ryan, chaplain; Paul Quigley, first deputy chief; Scott Emmons and Mike Bloom, deputy chiefs; and Efron Gerstman, Jeff Levine, Len Marco, Eddie Slafky and Steve Wolf, trial board.

Alan Hinde, a longtime volunteer who has served as chief for several years, is in the second year of his current two-year term.

LAUREL, MD
WEEKLY 30,000
MAR 14 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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BY HAROLD GOODRIDGE 54753

She met her husband, Edward, at the
14 The Laurel Leader, March 14, 2002

Forty-five Years of Service awards were given to Marion Alexander, WJ-

Career run awards were given to Alex Ben with 12,500 runs; Joan Robison, 10,500 runs; Mel Globberman and Arsenault, 4,000 runs; Pamela doCarmo and Jeffrey DuBrul, 3,500; Jack Fleeman, 2,500; Terry Cleveland, 2,000; Jim Hart, 1,500; and Jason Cleveland and Chad Smith, 1,000 runs.

LAUREL LEADER

LAUREL, MD
WEEKLY 30,000
MAR 14 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Citizens need to pick good city leaders

Endorsements

The mayoral election on Monday is an important one. Aside from the caretaker role Mayor Michael Leszcz has filled since Frank Casula's death in October, Laurel hasn't had a new mayor in eight years. During that time, the city has changed in significant ways.

Some things have gotten better. The city's finances are healthier. Significant new businesses have planted themselves in the city. A community college center has opened. An important housing development, Villages at Wellington, has sprouted.

But significant challenges confront the new mayor. The city's retail economy has taken hits, and empty storefronts on Main Street and in shopping centers need to be filled. Public works projects such as the repaving of streets have lagged. And the city's demographics have changed, with fewer whites and more African Americans and other ethnic groups. The new mayor needs to recruit these newer residents and business owners into active civic roles in the community.

Voters are fortunate to have two well-qualified candidates. Both have long experience on the City Council. Both have poured countless hours of their time and energy into handling the city's business, and know its workings intimately.

That being said, one candidate would be a more forceful leader, and that is Craig Moe.

Moe has proven his leadership qualities — his ability to analyze issues, envision a path of action and then move things along — as former president of the City Council, and as head of the local fire department and county volunteer fire and rescue association. He also has played a

leadership role with the Maryland Municipal League.

Faith Calhoun also has served as president of the City Council, and been an officer in a number of organizations. She is a volunteer par excellence. But she has often gravitated toward a "helping" role in these groups rather than as principal leader. Moe, on the other hand, tends to rise to the top.

As assistant to the Maryland secretary of state, Moe has developed relationships with the state's top leaders and will be able, like Casula, to call on these relationships to the benefit of the city.

Many of the people who have worked most closely with both on city business — their City Council colleagues — have signed on as supporters of Moe. Some have consequently declared themselves neutral, but when they agreed to add their names to Moe's campaign literature in November, they knew exactly who his opponent would be. Calhoun has made her mayoral intentions clear ever since losing to Casula four years ago.

Calhoun says that since she is retired, she will be able to devote full time to being mayor. This is a significant issue. But Moe has shown his willingness and ability to devote long hours to city business. As a 12-year council member, he obviously loves filling that civic role. He will demonstrate an even greater dedication and time commitment as mayor.

City Council

Only two of the five City Council seats are contested: those from Ward 2. Voters should cast their ballots for Glen Audet and Fred Small.

Audet has demonstrated the kind of energy he would bring to the council in his volunteer work at the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad. He rose to the office

of vice president there. More important, he has been energetic and inventive in organizing novel fund-raising drives for the squad, such as a chili cookoff at last summer's Riverfest.

Audet also shows an entrepreneurial spirit in the business he co-owns with his brother, which develops computer software and produces promotional items. This creative business background would be an important addition to the council. Audet also speaks with impressive knowledge about city issues.

Small has demonstrated his leadership and civic passion by embracing an array of volunteer roles: president of his homeowners association, president of the Scotchtown Hills Elementary PTA, member of the city Board of Appeals. He also will bring a technical expertise to the council as an environmental engineer. And, as an African American, he can play an important role in recruiting other minority members of the community into active civic life.

Three council candidates are unopposed: at-large candidate Michael Leszcz and Ward 1's Rick Wilson and Jan Robison.

Leszcz has a keen mind and vast experience with city issues; citizens are fortunate to have him running again for council. Wilson also has brought clear thought and civic commitment to the council as an appointed member since November, and is a great person to have coming back. Robison will bring her background of civic involvement as a member of Stand for Children and of the city's Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

The chance to have a say on who leads the city is Monday between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Phelps Senior Citizens Center, 701 Montgomery St.

DAILY TIMES

SALISBURY, MD
THURSDAY 27, 667
MAR 14 2002



Capital Clipping Service

Firefighters need help
opposing funding cuts

During the 2001 legislative session, the Maryland State Firemen's Association brought forth to the legislature a proposal to add additional funding to the Emergency Medical Systems operation fund. This was necessary to continue funding for emergency and rescue services throughout the state and without the increase major cuts would be realized.

These revenues from this fund are derived from a motor vehicle registration surcharge. The increase that was approved by the legislature went from \$8 to \$11. This increase is expected to add approximately \$13 million to the fund every year.

I am sure you have read or heard in the news media that the state of Maryland is facing a budget shortfall. The governor has proposed in his budget a series of fund transfers in order to balance the budget.

The governor has proposed that \$5 million be taken out of the Emergency Medical Systems operations fund and moved into the state's general fund. This means \$5 million that had been earmarked for public safety needs for the citizens of the states of Maryland be re-directed in order to balance the budget.

If this transfer occurs, it will have a major impact on the training and equipment needs for the hundreds of volunteer fire and rescue departments across this state, and also have a negative impact on the Maryland State Police aviation division and the R. Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

The events of Sept. 11 taught us numerous lessons. One of these lessons is that we must be prepared at the local level to respond to the needs of our citizens during a period of disaster; to take away funding now in our time of need is inappropriate.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association is opposed to this action

and encourages you to contact your state delegate or senator to express your opposition to this effort.

Charles J. Mattingly, Jr.
Hollywood, Md.

Mattingly is president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. — Editor

BOWIE STAR

LANDOVER, MD
WEEKLY
MAR 14 2002

Capital Clipping Service

Potential budget crunch looms for county fire service

by Greg Johnson
Staff Writer

Volunteer firefighters in Prince George's County have been asked to plan for more than \$400,000 in cutbacks over the next three months amid reports of fiscal shortfalls that could impact the entire fire department.

Joseph Robison, chairman of the county's Fire Commission, said Tuesday his organization was asked to submit a plan in February to slash more than \$411,000 originally allocated for use by the volunteer firefighters.

"We were told to go through the

budget and make recommendations as to how we were going to save for the last three months (of the fiscal year), Robison said. That (report) is a budget-balancing recommendation to (Fire Chief Ronald) Blackwell."

The recommendations submitted to the department Feb. 28 include cutting back on all station supplies not needed for emergency responses and prohibiting fire equipment from being used to perform inspections.

Capt. Chauncey Bowers, spokesman for the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, said the official position of the agency is that

it does not face a budget shortfall this year.

"That is a 'think-tank' type of document," Bowers said. "It has not been implemented and there are no plans to implement it."

Blackwell did not return a request for comment by press time.

Other sources close to the department, however, said cost overruns are expected before the end of the fiscal year June 30. The situation could be exacerbated by reports that County Executive Wayne Curry (D) will not allow other county budget funds to be transferred to supplement the fire department at the end of the year.

County Councilman M.H. "Jim" Estep (D-Dist. 9) of Croom, said budget officials have determined that the fire department faces a deficit, but that no one had a "hard estimate" of the shortfall.

Estep, a former county fire chief and director of public safety, also said county officials have been told the agency would not be given additional funds to cover any deficit.

"They are being told that there won't be any fourth-quarter transfers," Estep said.

"See Budget, page A-10"

BUDGET

Continued from A-1

said. "That's being talked about within the executive branch, but I don't know if the county executive has made a definite decision on that."

Estep added that he would work to ensure the county's emergency personnel received the support they needed during what he termed a "critical time" for public safety.

Fred Thomas, head of public safety for Prince George's County, did not return several requests for comment.

According to a 2002 budget approved by the County Council last May, the fire department was allocated \$65.4 million this year. While that amount was about \$2 million more than they were allocated the year before, it is less than what the department spent.

The department overspent its fiscal 2001 budget by \$5.6 million and needed a transfer of funds last summer from the county budget.

The department's volunteer component also needed a transfer last year to cover \$961,000 in cost overruns in its budget. The volunteers received \$9.9 million in funds this year compared to \$9.4 million in

fiscal 2001.

The department includes about 1,000 active volunteer firefighters and 792 sworn full-time fire personnel, according to county records.

Robison said Chief Blackwell told him the entire department needed to reduce expenditures over the final three months of the year. During at least two meetings, Robison said, Blackwell told representatives from the volunteer service that staffing reductions to the full-time force are being considered.

"They were reviewing staffing changes and Lt. Col. (William) McGown was working on that," Robison said. "We expressed regret that we weren't part of that (decision-making) process."

McGown is the deputy fire chief for emergency operations.

One memo circulating within the department lists various scenarios for cutting costs, including furloughing portions of the full-time force for a month at a time.

Bowers said the department would not implement any layoffs and he is not aware of any official meetings during which staffing changes were discussed.

E-mail Greg Johnson at gjohnson@gazette.net.

AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD
FRIDAY 35,000
MAR 15 2002

Capital Clipping Service

Fire report cites flaws *Controversy continuing*

By Brian Goodman

Arguing

A controversial report, compiled to illustrate alleged inadequacies, inefficiencies and other general malpractice within the Harford County volunteer fire and rescue system, has ignited a heated battle between critics who say the system could be better run and volunteers who sacrifice their time and lives to protect the communities they live in and love.

A copy of the report was supplied to Harford County Executive Jim Harkins in April 1999 and to the county council, with supplemental recommendations and attachments, during a regularly scheduled legislative session the night of March 5, when hundreds of county fire and rescue volunteers showed up in a show of unity and support for the services they provide and the county they protect.

The authors of the report,

Giffen Nickol and Gary Metzbowser, state in it they had intended the document to be based upon hard facts and complete data, but were unable to obtain the information they sought from Harford County and its volunteers, while a number of other counties readily made available the statistics and details they sought.

Comparing Harford County's service to that provided in Carroll, Howard, Cecil and Baltimore counties, Nickol and Metzbowser allege there is no supervision in any aspect of the fire protection service and that "indeed, the very concept of a countywide fire service does not exist." They add the volunteer service acts as if divided into 12 separate towns with boundaries designated without basis to fire station proximity and with the ability to shift at the will of the volunteer chiefs.

Nickol and Metzbowser further state that the report was intended to be based upon hard facts and complete data, but were unable to obtain the information they sought from Harford County and its volunteers, while a number of other counties readily made available the statistics and details they sought.

Please see FIREFIGHTERS' A15

Report raises questions

Firemen question Harford emergency response

FIREFIGHTERS, from A1

ther state the volunteer chiefs appear to require no special training or certification and, in turn, are accountable to no one but the company members who elect them.

According to the report, Howard County, whose population is not much higher than that of Harford County, has a mixed paid and volunteer system, which it adopted 28 years ago and Baltimore County has built career stations for paid firefighters in areas formerly served by only volunteers.

The authors note, however, the true dedication and concern for public safety exhibited by the members of Harford County's volunteer fire companies, which they said, "are the system's strongest asset" as well as the financial support of the county. The report states the smallest amount of money any Harford County company gets is still more than 2.5 times the amount Baltimore County gives to the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company.

That finding may not always be allocated in a responsible and efficient manner, said Nickol and Metzbowser, who allege excessive spending has led to Harford County operating as many rescue trucks as Baltimore City and Baltimore, Howard and Carroll counties combined as well as implementing more medic units and more engines than Baltimore City, which has a larger population.

"It has been alleged to us that some companies may have more seating positions on their various vehicles than they have members to fill them," said the authors in their report.

Nickol and Metzbowser further allege it is still standard practice for companies to buy fire apparatus from company members who sell such vehicles professionally, without any regulation or financial oversight.

Based on their findings and personal knowledge of the fire service, Nickol and Metzbowser compiled a list of 19 recommended improvements to Harford County's fire protection and emergency rescue service, which they presented to the Harford County Council during its March 5 session.

The first recommendations call for the commission of a professional study of the county's fire and EMS system by an outside firm and for the Harford County government to assume control and responsibility for the delivery of fire protection and emergency service, with a specific government official, without local volunteer ties, appointed to oversee and supervise the system.

The report goes on to recommend abandoning the practice of dividing the county into territories by department and instead adopting a policy in which the closest station to the incident should respond. The report's authors also believe not every company needs its own ladder truck and specialized rescue equipment, that fundraising should take place countywide to end territorial disputes and that the raised money should be strategically spent for the most efficient use of the entire county service.

Furthermore, the report seeks to set membership standards for age, physical fitness and criminal background, training standards and qualifications for elected officers. All purchases should go out to competitive bid and members should be prohibited from

being paid to perform maintenance tasks like lawn-mowing and painting. The report also asks for a commitment to providing the free and open flow of information between Harford County government, the fire companies and the taxpayers.

While the recommendations seek to drastically alter the structure and workings of the volunteer system in Harford County, Nickol and Metzbowser are quick to point out they are in no way suggesting the implementation of a paid fire and ambulance service in Harford County, and object to such a notion.

"Please note that not one of the above suggestions presumes or specifically requires the hiring of professional personnel to provide fire protection and emergency medical service in Harford County. We believe that most, if not all, of the above recommendations could be implemented fairly, quickly and easily and would result in greater efficiency of the system and better utilization of resources, both human and fiscal," said Nickol and Metzbowser following their suggestions to the county council.

During Tuesday night's county council legislative session in Bel Air, both Nickol and Metzbowser attended and addressed the public and the council members, saying they had not intended to speak, but felt compelled to do so because of the reaction to the report.

"This has become personalized to an extreme," said Nickol, telling the council both he and Metzbowser had received threats of property damage and Metzbowser's 16-year old daughter was insulted by some people at her work place.

Nickol insisted neither he nor Metzbowser is in favor of having a paid fire and ambulance service. "Our only motivation is we care about public safety," he continued, saying he became concerned about response times and control over the local system only after recognizing it was not meeting national standards, of which he said he has some understanding, as a professional in the field.

"This is not about what's in it for me," he said, calling it "irresponsible" if the national standards aren't being met.

Nickol then went into a detailed discussion about the problem with fire department territories in the county as currently defined, citing specific examples from his report of how some departments, although they may sit just a mile away, would not respond to certain incidents if they occur within another department's jurisdiction, even if it means miles and minutes of difference.

Metzbowser spoke much more briefly, agreeing with Nickol in his disappointment at how some people had responded to what they had to say.

"Unless something is done," he said, "I see the system being run into the ground with no end in sight."

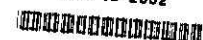
Council members listened patiently as the men spoke and when Metzbowser was finished, council president Gunther Hirsch addressed them.

"We love our volunteers -- our fire and EMS crews and drivers," Hirsch said, but he quickly added, "If criticism is needed, it should be done."

"We should not shoot the messenger or the messenger. We stand shoulder to shoulder with these people who do a remarkable job. The systems can be improved and, if so, we should work with everyone concerned," he added.

AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD
FRIDAY 35,000
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Capital Clipping Service

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County developing emergency measures

Police agencies adopt alert status levels

By Matthew Pizz

Argus staff

Homeland security has not only become a top priority for the country in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, but also for Harford County law enforcement because the events of the day demonstrated the first line of defense in a way on terrorism is local law enforcement and emergency response.

With the goal of developing a "unified response methodology" in the event of an emergency situation in or affecting the county, Harford County Sheriff Joseph P. Meadows orchestrated a meeting Nov. 20 to ensure that if tragedy were to strike here, all law enforcement in Harford County would be on the same page.

"We in law enforcement have literally become homeland warriors," Meadows wrote in a letter that accompanied a copy of the report developed from the Nov. 20 meeting, adding that though the meeting was held in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, it would serve as guide for law enforcement across Harford County in "any incident which requires a heightened response."

Comprised of representatives from Aberdeen, Bel Air and Havre de Grace police departments, Maryland State Police, State Fire Marshal's Office, Harford County State's Attorney's Office, the FBI, Harford County Detention Center, Department of Natural Resources, Harford County Emergency Operations Center and, of course, the Harford County Sheriff's Office, the November meeting spawned a

uniform report which helps outline the law enforcement response to an event such as Sept. 11.

Based on models developed by New York City law enforcement after the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the emergency mobilization plan is based on four alert status levels, which when initiated, require affected law enforcement agencies to respond in a certain way.

Much like the status levels used by the U.S. Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Nov. 20 meeting established the status alert levels of Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The latter would indicate a disaster has already occurred in the county.

Essentially, condition Alpha means peace, there is no threat to public safety. Bravo is indicative of a "threat to the safety of the public or property" existing. Charlie is a condition of heightened alert and indicates a threat to public safety has been received. Condition Delta is the highest level of alert.

Though it is unknown if the status levels outlined in the report have been enacted and adopted by all of the police agencies in Harford County, the terms of conditions Alpha and Bravo would seem to indicate that law enforcement is somewhere in-between the two.

Alpha is the condition at which a law enforcement agency operates at during peace time or under normal circumstance, but status Bravo stipulates that law enforcement increase patrol visibility, increase staffing, suspend spe-

cial details, direct patrols to specific sites, modify work schedules, activate non-uniformed personnel, investigate all leads, increase overall awareness, restrict certain infrastructure sites, in addition to other intelligence, outreach and training considerations.

Though law enforcement in Harford County has not implemented all of these requirements, with recent warnings from the federal government regarding possible future terrorist activity, it's likely Harford County law enforcement is operating under alert status Bravo.

In addition to outlining these alert levels, the meeting of Nov. 20 generated a survey of possible targets of a terrorist attack, and though the report does not specify these targets, it does indicate the survey sought all possible targets based on critical, high and moderate risk levels. Once these targets are identified, they would be plugged into a database that would be accessible to all law enforcement agencies.

A critical target is one that, if destroyed, would have a "catastrophic impact on the county," while a high risk target is one that would have a "significant impact on the county if... destroyed." A moderate risk target would have a "potential for some impact."

A timeline in the report indicates a survey of these locations in the county is to be finalized this month, while the database is expected to be completed by July.

DAILY TIMES

SALISBURY, MD
FRIDAY 27, 667
MAR 15 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Firefighters seek return of funding

■ Glendening proposed shifting \$5M in money for emergency services to balance state budget

By Joseph Cacchioli
Daily Times Staff Writer

SALISBURY -- Following an outcry from firefighters, state legislators are poised to overturn Gov. Parris N. Glendening's decision to move dedicated emergency services money to Maryland's general fund to help offset a projected \$1 billion budget shortfall.

"We don't feel you should take money from public safety until all other avenues are exhausted," said Emmons Horner, spokesman for the Maryland State Firemen's Association and a 20-year veteran with the

Mount Vernon Fire Department.

With the national economy in recession, Maryland is facing the first budget deficit in three years. Glendening proposed a roughly \$22 billion state budget for 2002-2003, creating a projected \$1 billion shortfall.

To help close the gap, Glendening has proposed a series of fund transfers to balance the budget. Including placing \$5 million from the Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund into the state's general fund. "It affects us in several ways," Horner said.

Firefighters argue the transfer would

"The bottom line is now is a very bad time to be cutting money from public safety. Fire departments throughout Maryland are underfunded as it is."

Steve Marshall
Somerset Emergency Services

have a major impact on the training and equipment needs for volunteer fire and rescue departments, Medevac and the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore.

But Racquel Guillory, a Glendening

See FUNDING, Page 4

FUNDING: Senate votes for return; House deliberates

FUNDING, From Page 1

alder, said the \$5 million is excess funds not earmarked for a specific program or project.

"It's a tough budget year for money to be sitting around," she said. "We combed through everything. It's not jeopardizing or compromising public safety."

Steve Marshall, director of Somerset Emergency Services, said the Sept. 11 attacks have made emergency services a priority.

"The bottom line is now is a very bad time to be cutting money from public safety," he said. "Fire departments throughout Maryland are underfunded as it is. Many depend on this money to make payments on equipment, which is what it is there for."

Revenue for the Emergency Medical Systems Operations Fund is generated from a motor vehicle registration surcharge, which was increased last year from \$8 to \$11 to avoid cuts to emergency services statewide. The increase is expected to add about \$13 million to the fund every year.

"It still hasn't been put back in the budget," said Roger Steger, vice president of the Mary-

land Fire Chiefs Association and a member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company. "It could have some impact this year, but you'll see the shortfall down the road."

The Maryland Senate has completed its budget deliberations and voted to return the \$5 million to the dedicated fund. Discussion in the state's House of Delegates continues.

"It should have never been removed," said Del. Bennett K. Bozman, D-38th-Worcester. "It looks like it will be restored, but we haven't voted on it."

Bozman said the matter could be resolved within the next 10 days.

Wicomico County Council President L. Russell Molnar said though the percentage of state funding for emergency services is much less than the portion generated from the counties and fundraising, the money is needed.

"Any loss of money would be bad," said Molnar, a longtime member of the Willards Fire Department. "They are about maxed out."

■ Reach Joseph Cacchioli at 410-749-7171, Ext. 241, or jcacchioli@smgpo.gannett.com.

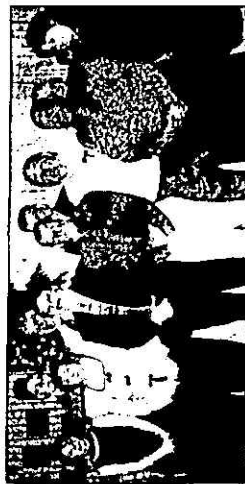
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FREDERICK, MD
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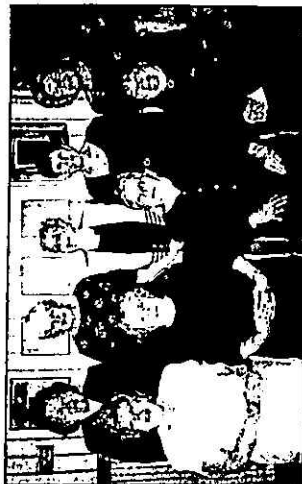
Capital Clipping Service

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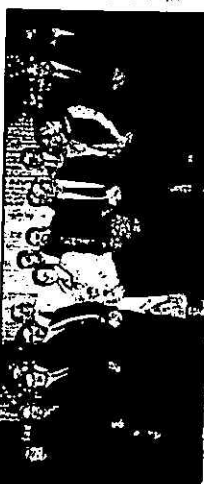
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Urbana top responders are, from left, Terri Stillwell, Scott Hopkins, Alice Hopkins, Tommy Hopkins, John Main, Jimmy Masser, Ron Murphy, Bud Webb, Henry Foreman, Ron Will and Carolyn Broadhurst.



Urbana Auxiliary officers are, from left, Betty White, president; Louise Lenhart, assistant treasurer; Hilda Rice, assistant chaplain; Barbara Wilcom, vice president; back row, Sylvia Hopkins, recording secretary; Alverna Baer, secretary; Bonnie Rice, color bearer; Marguerite Damuth, treasurer; and Jean Wood, chaplain.



Urbana Fire Department officers are, from left, Doug Smith, president; Theresa Wilcom, secretary; Jim Bedford, director; Andy Horman, assistant chief; John Main, treasurer and captain; Tommy Hopkins, chief; Alice Hopkins, rescue captain; Ron Murphy, fire lieutenant; John Baugher, director and fire lieutenant; Tom Carlin, director and rescue lieutenant; Jake Lenhart, director; Jimmy Bay,

Urbana Fire/Rescue holds annual banquet

Two years ago with three objectives in mind, the Urbana Fire and Rescue Co. and Ladies Auxiliary recently purchased a ladder truck, a new fire engine and a new fire truck. The third objective in progress includes renovating the existing fire department building and adding all the necessary equipment to it. The fire department building is located on five acres of land next door.

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who were instrumental in saving the life of a young girl last August who fell approximately 100 feet on the rocks on Sugarloaf Mountain.

John Kell was the recipient of the President's Award, surpassing all in car raffie sales even though he spent three months in the hospital. He also worked 150 hours of fund raisers to qualify for the award. The award was presented to him by the Chief of the Fire Department, Jim Bedford.

Charlie Seymour, owner of Turning Point Inn, presented two five-course meals plus overnight stays valued at \$400 each. These gifts were presented to the fire department by the President's Award and the Chief's Award. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Seymour.

James May was honored for his outstanding service to the company a chief from 1996 through 2001. Top 10 responders honored were

Bud Webb, Alice Hopkins, John Main, Tommy Hopkins, Scott Hopkins, Henry Foreman, Jimmy Masser, Carolyn Broadhurst, Terri Stillwell and John Will. Also acknowledged were John Ward, top junior responder and Jimmy Majors, the most training hours.

New chief Tommy Hopkins was presented with a plaque by the assistant chief, Alice Hopkins, captain John Main, fire lieutenant, Ron Murphy, Jim Bedford and John Baugher, rescue captain, Alice Hopkins, and rescue lieutenant, Tom Carlin.

Betty White, president of the Ladies Auxiliary, presented a plaque to the fire department for 15 years of membership and Jill Main was presented her 20 year pin and became a life member of the auxiliary. The auxiliary presented Alverna Baer, recording secretary, with a plaque of appreciation and were made honorary members of the auxiliary.

SUNDAY CAPITAL

ANNAPOLIS, MD
SUNDAY 50,000
MAR 17 2002

RECEIVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS NEWS SERVICE

Capital Clipping Service

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5476 NAMES IN HEALTH NEWS

Three surgeons from the University of Maryland Medical Center and North Arundel Hospital now are providing services at Shipley's Choice Medical Park in Millersville.

These surgeons specialize in the surgical treatment and comprehensive care of various types of cancer, including colorectal cancer, gastric cancers, pancreatic cancers, breast cancers, liver tumors and tumors of the soft tissue, including melanoma and sarcomas.

Dr. Carmine Volpe is an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Maryland

School of Medicine and head of the Surgical Oncology Division at UMMC. Dr. Volpe graduated from the Medical College of Pennsylvania, where he also completed an internship and residency in general surgery. He completed a fellowship in surgical oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

Dr. W. Bradford Carter is an associate professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and serves

as the director of endocrine surgery at the University of Maryland. Dr. Carter also serves as the director of breast surgery in the Breast Evaluation and Treatment Program at the Greenebaum Cancer Center. A graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Virginia, he completed a surgical residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and a fellowship at the Mayo Clinic.

Dr. David Shibata is an assistant professor of surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Shibata received his medical degree from McGill University and completed a surgical residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He completed a research fellowship in tumor biology at Harvard Medical School.

The physicians are members of University of Maryland Medicine's Surgical Oncology Division of the Department of Surgery and North Arundel Hospital's Department of Surgery,

and are affiliated with the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center.

North Arundel Hospital has appointed seven new specialists to its medical staff.

New members include Dr. Ping-Hsin Chen, a nephrologist with an office in Baltimore; Dr. William S. Davidson, a pulmonary medicine physician with an office in Glen Burnie; Dr. James Elmore, an internal medicine physician with North Hospital's Inpatient Team; Dr. Jeffrey Haugh, an anesthesiologist with North Arundel Hospital's Department of Anesthesiology; Dr. Anna Marie R. Brado, an emergency medicine physician in North Arundel Hospital's emergency room; Dr. Robert Radon, an ophthalmologist with an office in Glen Burnie; and Dr. Nanette Stalio, an endocrinologist with the Joslin Diabetes Center Affiliate at North Arundel Hospital.

HANCOCK NEWS

HANCOCK, MD
WEEKLY 2,000
MAR 20 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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County commissioners March 12 meeting news

Budget presentation
Jay Grimes and Rick Hemphill of the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (WCVFRA) brought this discussion before the board.

The WCVFRA budget proposal was developed with input from the Washington County Emergency Services Department (ESD), as the county is one of several funding agencies for the non-profit organization.

The association requested \$336,950 for operations, \$72,000 for protective equipment, \$30,000 for an allocation consultant study, \$152,039 for reimbursement of utility payments and \$1,040,950 in allocations for the 27 companies, for a total of \$1,631,939.

Grimes, WCVFRA 2nd vice president and chair of the association's budget committee told the board that cooperation between the county and SCVFRA has increased since reorganization of the ESD, and that accountability is increasing through use of financial software by all companies. Emergency calls to 9-1-1 increased 13% in 2001, Grimes told the board, increasing the strain on companies resources.

There are currently 120 paid fire/rescue personnel in the county, and another 60 paid personnel in the City of Hagerstown. Fund raising accounts for 40% of companies' activities, \$50 billion in real estate assets receive protection countywide, Grimes said. The association reduced its budget request by \$145,000 this year. County Administrator Rod Shoop reminded association members that the projection for FY '03 shows only 2.6% growth. Only those costs

associated with the LOSAP retirement program, utility cost increases and increases in insurance costs are included above last year's budget total. This is only one of many budget items to receive further discussion by the commissioners prior to approval of the entire budget for the coming fiscal year, in May.

Other business

County Administrator Rod Shoop reported a budget transfer in the amount of approximately \$321,000 into the Washington County Community Partnership budget from state sources was requested. Shoop told the board that the funds will be grants to local service programs for children, youth and family issues. The measure was approved by unanimous vote.

Commissioners' reports and comments

Commissioner Paul Swartz reported that the term of Recreation and Parks Board member Jerry Poffenburger had expired, and recommended his reappointment for another term. That measure was approved by unanimous vote. A meeting of the Commission on Aging discussed reports of 145 cases of abuse of elders in local nursing homes, Swartz said.

Reports from county staff
Planning and Community Development Director Bob Arch said that Frederick County has approved the Heritage Area Consultant contract, and Carroll County has yet to approve that contract. There will be some changes in the summer recreation programs due to a lack of funding. Elimination of the playcamp at Hancock is among reductions in programming, Arch said.

STAR-DEMOCRAT

EASTON, MD
THURSDAY 19,000
MAR 21 2002

Capital Clipping Service

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Firefighters favor bill that would reward long-serving volunteers

By GREG MARI
Staff Writer

EASTON — Local volunteer firefighters spoke Tuesday night in favor of a bill that would create a benefit for long-serving volunteer emergency workers.

Firefighters in full uniform filled the Talbot County Council chambers for the public hearing.

Bill 857, introduced by Council member Philip Carey Foster and Council member Hilary Spence in February, would establish a \$100 monthly benefit for members of a volunteer fire/ambulance company who are at least 62 years old and have at least 25 years of service as an active volunteer.

To be eligible for the benefit, a volunteer also must have accumulated a certain number of points for performing various duties. The program will be administered by the director of Emergency Medical Services, and benefits will be paid quarterly.

The program would cost the county about \$100,000 per year

— the equivalent economic burden of the county adding another fire company, Foster said.

Richard Smith of Oxford said he has researched and there are currently 74 volunteers in the county who would be eligible for the benefit. They have an average age of 73 and have served an average of 47 years, he said.

Smith said the only "rumbling" he has heard about the bill has been over the death benefit that would be paid to a spouse. He suggested changing the wording in the future to remove the word "spouse."

Council President Levin F. Harrison IV said a possible amendment would be to alter the death benefit to include an immediate family member in the household if there is not a spouse.

Another area of the bill that might be modified, Harrison said, is a provision that allows a volunteer to receive only one county benefit if he or she is eligible to receive benefits in more than one county.

John Swam, vice president of the St. Michaels Fire Department, said SMFD has had a benefit program since 1996, but

only 20 years of service are required to be eligible. Their benefit also is \$100 per month, he said.

Swam said the benefit has been a useful retention and recruitment device, encouraging some members who might have left the department after 16 or 17 years to stay on longer.

Fred Ireland of the Easton Volunteer Fire Department said EVFD has a \$150 monthly service benefit. As a long-standing member — he is 73 years old with 47 years of service — Ireland said he would "greatly appreciate it" if the county benefit is passed.

Easton resident Hope Harrington said, "Public service is in itself its own reward," but emergency services volunteers deserve more.

The bill includes several provisions:

- If an active volunteer becomes disabled while on duty, he or she will become eligible for the benefit regardless of age or length of service.

- If an active volunteer is fatally injured, his or her spouse will receive service benefits until remarriage.

- If a volunteer receiving benefits dies, a \$5,000 death benefit will be paid to his or her spouse.

- Volunteers will earn points for responding to calls, completing a one-year term as an elected officer, for full-time military service and for attending county-approved training courses, county or company drills or official meetings pertaining to county rescue or fire services.

Because records of these things may not have been kept in the past, it will be up to the individual departments to determine who is eligible, Foster said.

Spence said the council should "move ahead with this bill" and look to expand the program in the future.

"I'd hate to see it held up while we grind out the details," she said.

Because they are each active members of county fire departments, Harrison and Councilman Wayne Dwyer will not vote on the bill. Saying he is "one of the boys," Harrison sat with the public during the hearing.

The bill will be eligible for a vote by the council on March 26.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND, MD
SATURDAY 12,600
MAR 23 2002

Capital Clipping Service

33 11,000

Ambulance runs ending

Baltimore Pike, Mexico Farms residents must find other first responder service as of July

Cumberland taxpayers have been picking up tab

SAM SHAWVER
Times-News Staff Writer 547EP

CUMBERLAND — Citizens in the Mexico Farms and Baltimore Pike areas have three months to decide what to do about their ambulance service.

On Friday, Cumberland's mayor announced that as of July 1 city units will no longer provide first-due ambulance service to those unincorporated areas east of the Queen City.

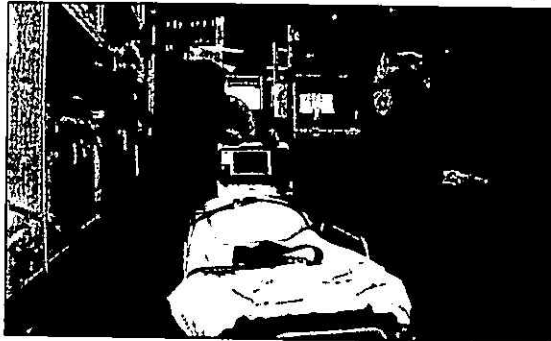
"Cumberland taxpayers have been underwriting this service since 1996 and it's unfair for the city to continue this service without just compensation. We're asking your assistance in bringing this to a close," Mayor Lee Fiedler told the Allegany County commissioners.

First responder ambulance service has been provided by Cumberland east of the city limits since September 1996 when former provider McDonald's Ambulance Service ceased business in that area. Fire service there is covered by the District 16 and Baltimore Pike volunteer fire departments.

In 1997, the city agreed to provide temporary ambulance service until another solution could be found. But it's been more than five years and the situation hasn't changed.

According to statistics from the Cumberland Fire Department,

See — Ambulance — 11A



John A. Bone/Times-News

Cumberland firefighter and paramedic Al Ward, left, and firefighter and emergency medical technician Sam Wilson review the Life Pack

on the city's new ambulance Thursday morning at the city Public Safety Building. The new ambulance came with a price of \$126,498.

CUMBERLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE CALLS



OUTSIDE THE CITY IN CALENDAR YEAR 2001

- Bowman's Addition — 53
- Cresaptown — 16
- Flintstone — 20
- Oldtown — 38
- Mount Savage — 1
- Fort Ashby — 10
- Keyser — 1
- Romney — 2
- Ridgeley — 47
- Short Gap — 31
- Springfield — 7
- Paw Paw — 3
- Grantville — 1
- Centerville — 17
- Westersport — 6
- LaVale — 2
- Frostburg — 200
- Georges Creek — 9
- Mexico Farms/Baltimore Pike — 253

Calls outside city limits put burden on fire department

JEFF ALDERTON
Times-News Staff Writer

CUMBERLAND — An ever-increasing number of ambulance requests to locations outside the city limits is taxing the Cumberland Fire Department, and the burden is not expected to lessen anytime soon.

In the face of a nationwide trend of fewer volunteers available for fire and rescue calls, city ambulance crews continue to step up to the plate to provide emergency medical services not only to citizens in the city, but also to residents of other areas of Allegany County and sometimes into nearby states.

"Our calls outside the city continue to

See — Calls — 11A



Herbaugh

Ambulance

(Continued from 1A)

city units responded to 233 ambulance calls in the Mexico Farms and Baltimore Pike areas during 2001.

"What now has to be decided by the county commissioners and the citizens in the affected area is whether the service that the city has been providing since 1996 should be continued and, if so, how the city should be paid for this service," said Fiedler.

City residents currently pay an "ambulance tax" of 10.3 cents per \$100 assessed property valuation for 24-hour ambulance service with an average in-city response time of four minutes, career emergency medical technicians and paramedics, advanced life support, and an elderly and low-income, payment assistance program.

"The annual cost of ambulance service for a property owner with property assessed at \$50,000 would be \$51.50," Fiedler explained.

"We've agreed to continue to provide service until July 1, but we cannot continue to ask city taxpayers to underwrite the service for people living outside the city limits," he said.

However, Fiedler noted that the city would continue to provide

vide back-up service for the area.

Allegheny County Emergency Services Director Dick DeVore said residents in the Mexico Farms and Baltimore Pike areas would continue to receive ambulance service until the situation is resolved.

"I just can't say what that service will be at this time," he added. "But at no point would there be no service for that area."

County Administrator Vance Ishler agreed with Fiedler's request.

"It's a legitimate request," he said. "But we need to clarify that the county doesn't provide fire and ambulance service, although we do provide

funding for those services."

Ishler said residents in the affected area could request designation as a special taxing district to provide funding for ambulance services, but noted that a decision to move in that direction would have to be made soon as the county is currently putting together the budget for Fiscal Year 2003.

"Eight districts already have a fire and rescue tax in the county," he added.

"I would suggest a public meeting with the residents and fire and rescue board to let them decide," said Ishler.

DeVore expects to release a date for the public meeting sometime next week.

Calls

(Continued from 1A)

increase. It has increased over the years and we expect that to continue," said Cumberland Fire Chief Bill Herbaugh, who oversees the department's ambulance service.

Last fiscal year, city firefighters manning ambulances as emergency medical technicians and paramedics answered 3,991 emergency ambulance calls. Of those calls, 824, or an average of nearly 70 calls a month, were to locations outside city limits.

With just one volunteer ambulance service in operation between Cumberland and Paw Paw, which is Oldtown ambulance, and only one between Cumberland and Hancock, which is Flintstone, the demand for emergency medical calls to those areas is sometimes laid at the feet of Cumberland's 64 firefighters.

"The volunteer ambulance companies do a tremendous job and the best they can to get their ambulances out. However, they are not always able to do so. That's where we are called to provide assistance by working with them to meet the demand," said the chief.

A number of calls are made

to Frostburg at times when Frostburg Area Ambulance Service is unable to respond because of the lack of personnel.

Through an agreement between the Cumberland mayor and council and the Frostburg Area Ambulance, the city ambulance service is paid \$50 any time it is alerted to respond to Frostburg but then canceled. The city ambulance service also bills each patient who is transported.

"It's been more work for us. The increase in calls increases expenses, such as fuel, costs, wear and tear and increased workload for our personnel," said Herbaugh.

That wear and tear due to the heavy volume of calls for fire and ambulance service requires Herbaugh to have a strategy to keep his ambulance fleet on the street.

"We are trying to replace our ambulances by purchasing one new one every three years," said Herbaugh.

The department's latest purchase, a 2001 Freightliner ambulance that cost \$126,493, was put on the road about two weeks ago.

The department also has a 1999 Freightliner model with

53,000 miles, a 1996 Ford with four-wheel drive that is used primarily for back-up and inclement weather, and a 1993 Ford with 90,000 miles.

The new ambulance, like all of the others, carries advanced life support equipment. A grant from the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems and the department's matching funds of \$9,100 provided two state-of-the-art cardiac monitor/defibrillators, said Herbaugh.

All of the city's 64 firefighters are cross-trained as EMTs, and 16, or 25 percent of the total, are certified paramedics nationally.

"That's a good percentage of paramedics and we expect that to increase as we continue to offer paramedic training," said Herbaugh.

Cumberland's ambulance service began operation 25 years ago with two ambulances and basic life support equipment.

"Now we are a fully cross-trained department with advanced life support service with four ambulances and a number of paramedics," said Herbaugh. "I'm pleased seeing our department come to this point."

DAILY MAIL

HAGERSTOWN, MD
WEDNESDAY 17,314
MAR 27 2002



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Clearing the way



By Richard T. Meagher/Staff Photographer

From left, Sgt. Matt Stevens, firefighter Chris Gorman and Lt. Allen James move files into the new addition to the operations

office at the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Co. The extra office space is needed until a new \$500,000 fire station can be built.

FRONT PAGE

Fire, ambulance merger on hold, but station plans move forward

By KIMBERLY YAKOWSKI
kimy@herald-mail.com

SHARPSBURG — Although talks about merging the Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Co. and the town's ambulance company have stalled, firefighters are moving ahead with plans to build a \$500,000 station that would include two ambulance bays.

The fire company hopes that a merger eventually will come about and the plan is to have

enough room in a new station to accommodate Sharpsburg Area Medical Emergency Services, Fire Chief Jeremy Gay said.

Sharpsburg Emergency Services Assistant Chief Tim Gargana said there are no hard feelings between the companies.

"It's a goodwill gesture on their part and leaves the door open to future talks," Gargana said.

Please turn to STATION, A10

Station

Continued from A1

Merger talks fell through in July 2001 because the fire company wanted the two companies to merge into one entity, while the ambulance company preferred sharing a building but maintaining its autonomy. The ambulance company also feared it would lose funding as the result of a merger, Gargana said.

No timeline has been set for the building project, Gay said.

The fire company has outgrown its aging station and needs more room for its fleet, a meeting room, offices, recreation room, kitchen, living quarters and exercise equipment, he said.

The fire company is enlarging a cramped office for officers to use until money can be raised for the building project.

Gay said the company is looking for grants with which to fund the project and for volunteer grant writers.

If the fire company gets the needed money, the existing station will be torn down and a new one built on the site.

If not enough money is raised, the project either will be put on hold or scaled back to involve adding on to the existing station, he said.

Gay said he doesn't want to ask residents to pay for the building.

"They contribute enough," he said.

County officials have been helpful in getting the project started and the town has offered to pay for a grant writer, Gay said.

The fire company's station at 110 W. Chapline St. was built in the 1940s and the ambulance company's building at 110 1/2 W. Chapline St., is about 10 years old.

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CRS to fill 7 jobs

■ **Community**
Rescue Service, which laid off five ambulance staffers in January, plans to fill those jobs and two other positions in July 2003.

dank@herald-mail.com

Community Rescue Service,
which laid off five ambulance
staffers in January, plans to fill
those jobs and two other vacant
positions in July 2003, according
to a financial plan CRS recently
submitted to Washington County
officials.

CRS financial projections also show that the ambulance company is counting on receiving an additional \$50,000 from the Hagerstown and Washington County governments in the fiscal year that begins in July, plus \$75,000 from both governments in the fiscal year beginning July 2003.

Without those grants, CRS probably wouldn't be able to save as much money to replace old equipment or add staff in 2003, CRS Executive Director J. Michael Nye said.

CRS is projecting it will run a cash surplus of \$150,431 this fiscal year, which ends June 30, and \$300,953 in the next fiscal year, assuming the city and county continue providing the grants. That roughly \$450,000 would be used to replace old equipment, such as ambulances, in future years, Nye said.

"If you're not putting money back for equipment replacement, you're digging another hole," Nye said.

CRS is a private, nonprofit ambulance company serving about 35,000 homes and businesses in and around Hagerstown.

1 Please turn to CRS, A5

CRS

Continued from A1

The Hagerstown City Council and Washington County Board of Commissioners each gave CRS \$50,000 in the current fiscal year. The \$50,000 county grant was in addition to money CRS received as part of the annual disbursement of funds to county fire and rescue companies, which included about \$38,000 from the County Gaming Commission and about \$78,000 from the commissioners, County Emergency Services Director Joe Kroboth said.

But city and county elected officials say CRS is not guaranteed additional money in future years. Hagerstown Mayor William M. Breichner said if CRS is projecting a sizable cash surplus next year, then it probably doesn't need another city grant.

"The subsidy was to get them through the financial crisis," Breichner said. "If they've got \$300,000 (next year) and \$50,000 of that is ours, it looks like they don't need it."

"The City Council was pretty emphatic this (\$50,000) was a one-time contribution. We're not devoting a line item in our budget to continue funding this," Breichner said. "There was some expectation we might do it this coming year, but that was not a guarantee."

Breichner and City Councilwoman Penny May Nigh were put on the CRS board of directors after the city gave CRS \$50,000. The appointments to the board were a condition of the grant. Breichner said he has not seen the CRS projections that were given to the county.

Breichner said he's OK with the city funds helping CRS build a reserve fund, which he said could be available for emergencies.

"I don't mind CRS having a little money in reserve and for our subsidies to go to that," he said.

County Commissioner John L. Schnebly said it is wise for CRS to put away money for future equipment purchases.

"That's sound business practice. You have to be planning. If not, you're not being a good steward," Schnebly said.

Nye said CRS already needs about \$45,000 to buy new or reha-

"I don't mind CRS having a little money in reserve and for our subsidies to go to that."

- Hagerstown Mayor William M. Breichner

ilitate old equipment.

Within the next 45 days, CRS will bring in about \$340,000 from the sale of two CRS-owned properties, Nye said. All of that money will go toward equipment replacement or upgrades.

In addition to the city and county grants, the CRS board moved to further improve the company's financial outlook earlier this year by cutting staff.

CRS faced financial problems because of an increased call load and because many of the people it treats are underinsured or have no insurance, are senior citizens with Medicare or are poor, Nye said.

In January, five members of the ambulance staff were laid off and one already vacant administrative position was eliminated. One

more ambulance staff position was cut after an employee resigned in February, Nye said.

Some worried that CRS cuts would affect ambulance service because CRS can't staff as many ambulances with paid personnel. That increases the odds that all CRS ambulances would be busy and an emergency would have to be handled by ambulance companies from farther away.

"Now we're squeaking by. We're not missing many calls," Nye said. He said CRS volunteers have stepped in to cover many shifts.

Looking ahead

Nye predicted that demand for CRS ambulance runs will continue to increase, prompting the need for additional staff in July 2003, if not sooner. CRS now has 44 full- and part-time employees, Nye said.

Even with additional city and county support, CRS financial projections for that fiscal year show the cost of additional staff will leave CRS with very little to set aside for future expenses.

CRS income would be only \$7,397 more than expenses in the

fiscal year beginning July 2003, according to CRS projections.

The County Commissioners required CRS to submit financial projections as a condition of the county's additional \$50,000 grant. The projections were not released to the public, but Nye allowed The Herald-Mail to review the information Wednesday.

County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association President L. Jason Baer and Kroboth were given the CRS information about a week ago.

Kroboth said he will meet with the County Commissioners in May to review the CRS projections.

The commissioners also required CRS officials to meet with Washington County Health System officials about an offer to take over CRS' billing and bill collection.

Nye said he met with Health System officials in early February.

"They were unenthusiastic on patient billing," Nye said.

Nye said they are looking into whether CRS could save money on purchases through the health system.

"We're in the process now of exchanging ideas," Nigh said. "Both sides are moving cautiously."

COUNTRY CRIER

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Letters to the Editor

Too Many Liq. Licenses Erode the Community

Editor:

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Your February 2002 edition described the Worthington Tavern as "a run-down haunt" [in the "Battle Brews Over Tavern Liq. License" article]. I have to comment that the restaurant wasn't a glitzy chain but it had a wonderful charm of its own that is lost in the modern world of public eating and drinking establishments. I'll feel safer passing there, however, knowing that no intoxicated drivers will pull out onto Falls Road.

It's good to see the liquor license leave this rural area. In my community, we already have several locations where alcohol is being sold: at Falls and Shawan roads, Cuba and Shawan roads and at the Mays Chapel Shopping Center. For any residential community, liquor establishments are unsuitable and tend to be detrimental to the character of the area and neighboring property values. This is a sensitive issue. So many families' lives are directly impacted by substance abuse.

This leads to my point. The issue is not just this liquor license. The issue is that the residents of Cockeysville are being used, abused and forced to accept it.

First, if the owners of the Coliseum cared so much about too many liquor licenses, they should have put a new supermarket on Cranbrook Road to serve the huge apartment community.

Second, somebody with local political power should have insisted that a new food market would be more suitable for that area. The impact of the safety of the residential community — including the Cockeysville Middle School only 2,000 feet away, Padonia Elementary, Dulaney High and Warren Elementary all within one mile — should have weighed more heavily.

Third, the intention of Smart Growth is to make communities nicer to live in. Pat Keller, the director of the Office of Planning, whom I respect for his fairness, and the Planning Board are not watching out for the moms and dads, the children and the elderly who out-number those who make up the small market segment of drinkers. Those families that have to live and raise children where the liquor license is being issued in high density areas do not have the time to show up at these hearings, understand the process or have the money to hire quality representation. The average citizen depends on the collective wisdom of the county to be the good parent with strong values. Still, many

neighborhoods have suffered with too many liquor licenses....

An impact fee should be paid by all liquor establishments in Cockeysville into a fund to support the additional EMS and police officers for Precinct 7 that will be required to handle the fights, injuries and deaths that will occur in our neighborhoods from alcohol-related events. I hope the liquor board would favor this to make things safer for the voters.

For Silver Spring Station, maybe a restaurant without alcohol would be smart business and of real value to Cockeysville residents. No booze dining could be a reason for families who don't want the influence in their lives. Many food establishments have survived without spirits. As an alternative, bring-your-own beer and wine is

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Letters to Editor

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legal in Baltimore County. There are several in our immediate community.

As for the future of the Worthington Tavern, a specialty shop, a florist, antique shop, gift shop, sporting goods shop, deli/soda fountain, art gallery and local hardware/convenience store are just a few ideas.

David M. Suarez-Murias
Board Member
Falls Road Community Association