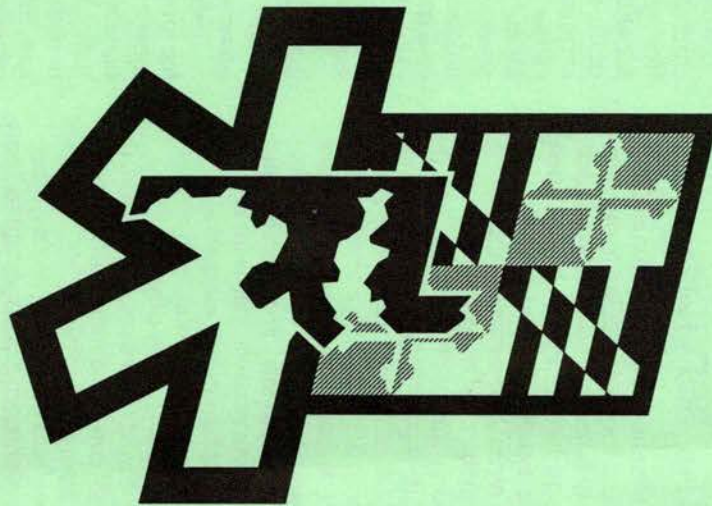


*Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems*



Press Report

September, 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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A 'reasonable approach' to providing life-saving services

The Charles County commissioners are aware of the issues and concerns raised by the recent implementation of the new fee for advanced life support emergency medical services transport. We understand the comments received from some volunteer service providers and from citizens who have received an unexpected bill for services that have been historically "free of charge." We are taking steps to address the issues.

The complaints received about the new fee for ALS transport service obviously relayed that the public was not as aware of the issues as we thought. We regret this, and will regroup from here to provide better and more complete information.

As a result, billing has been discontinued until Dec. 1, 2004. A "waiver of charges" policy will be established for those who require ALS transport but do not have insurance and cannot afford to pay, and provisions will be made for those who have already been billed for services.

Further, our staff will work with the billing company to review the rate structure and develop protocols for identifying hardship cases, offering moderate or no payment when special or hardship situations exist.

First and foremost, ability to pay or whether or not a person has insurance will not affect emergency medical response. The ambulance will be there

when you call 911.

For more than 50 years, independent volunteer units, located throughout the county, have provided the county's emergency medical services. ALS services are required when a life-threatening condition is believed to exist, and can include administration of oxygen and intravenous fluids for a heart attack victim, utilization of specialized equipment in the case of pulmonary arrest and supplies to immobilize a patient with severe injuries as a result of an accident. For a true ALS event, appropriate and critical life-saving treatment must be provided in under 10 minutes to allow for optimum recovery or survival.

Charles County, like other growing counties across the nation, has experienced dwindling numbers of trained and available volunteers, unacceptable response times and ever-increasing calls for emergency medical service. In response to this reality, the county commissioners, in consultation with the volunteers, established a career EMS Division in July 2001 to supplement the services of the volunteer units. At that time the decision was made to bill for services, but it took more than two years to secure a billing company and acquire Medicare/Medicaid insurance provider numbers. Since then, the county has spent nearly \$3 million for the career EMS services. Notwithstanding the issues regarding

insufficient notification of the billing process, the facts that led to our decision to implement the EMS transport fee, and 1-cent increase in the county's property tax rate, remain valid.

A recent assessment of the EMS system in the county, completed in cooperation with county EMS staff and the volunteer providers, and facilitated by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System and the state medical director, resulted in the county's adoption of an "Emergency Medical Services Plan." This plan establishes performance standards for response time, improvements in medical dispatch protocols, turnaround time at hospitals and many other performance-based objectives. In addition, the county commissioners have funded the deployment of three 24/7 ALS units throughout the county, among other improvements. It is important to know that national guidelines recommend that there be one 24/7 ALS unit per 20,000 population.

Prior to the commissioners initiating the career EMS program, there was one such unit for 130,000 population. The commissioners have committed to having another three units on the street by the end of 2006, bringing the total to six 24/7 ALS units in order to provide 24/7 ALS coverage for the entire county. Complete and ongoing implementation of this goal will cost more than \$5 million per year.

From the outset, funding for the county's career EMS Division has come from general fund revenues, not the fire and rescue tax, which is used solely by the volunteer fire departments/EMS companies for their equipment and facilities. Those funds are not available for the now-critical county paid ALS personnel. Thus our choices for funding the 24/7 ALS coverage were to take it all from the general fund property tax, or implement a blend of property tax and billing. The county commissioners chose the latter.

Implementing a fee for ALS ambulance transport will not cover all of the county's costs of providing this service; however, it will help.

It is a reasonable approach and is a fee for service that is covered under most medical insurance policies. Nationally, 70 percent of jurisdictions have EMS billing programs that apply to both ALS and basic life support services. Billing for ALS services was also supported by the Board of Fire and Rescue Commissioners.

Once again, the county commissioners' objective is to assure that appropriate life-saving services are available to everyone regardless of one's ability to pay. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we proceed to implement this crucial service.

Murray D. Levy, Wayne Cooper, Robert J. Fuller, Wm. Daniel Mayer and Allan R. Smith, La Plata

The writers are the members of the Board of Charles County Commissioners.

CALVERT RECORDER

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD
WEDNESDAY 10,000
SEP 1 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Prince Frederick rescuers honored

BY ROB PERRY
STAFF WRITER

It was a relaxed and jovial evening for the members of the Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad Saturday evening, as they took the opportunity to reflect on the year past and honor members who answered calls of assistance to many members of the Calvert community.

Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs George Owings and former Calvert County Commissioner Barbara Smetten emceed the evening, and greeted the crowd, consisting of squad members, their families and other county dignitaries.

"You all have racked up impressive numbers, [even though they're] not really the numbers you want to rack up," Owings said regarding the thousands of calls the squad responded to during 2003. "Today is your day."

Among the many awards garnished upon members during the banquet, the squad's Chief's Award was given to Assistant Chief James Flynt, Deputy Chief Diane Billings, Paula Bailey, Jenny Estoque, Ronnie Estoque, Cora Stockhausen, Josh Clelland, and Liz Anderson (with the St. Leonard

See Awards, Page A-7

Awards

Continued from Page A-1

Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad) for their actions in handling a motorcycle and car accident last year.

Chief Joseph Windsor read a description of the accident. At about 2:30 p.m. Aug. 23, 2003, a drunk driver hit the driver of the motorcycle at the intersection of Dares Beach Road and Wilson Road in Prince Frederick. The victim of the accident, Page Parran who attended the banquet as a special guest, lost part of his leg as a result of

the accident. The squad members responded to the scene, stabilized Parran and were credited with his survival.

"I want to thank Company 4 [the rescue squad], I want to thank my buddy Ronnie Estoque, who invited me here tonight, and I want to thank God that I am here today," Parran said.

Squad members Valerie Brown, Stockhausen, Jason Bronzonie, Russell Schuitema, Kandie Huntzberry and Tracy Thomas received the Life Saving Award for their actions while responding to a call on May 16, 2004.

Windsor said the squad members had been called to help an elderly woman at her home on Daybreak

Drive. When they arrived, the squad members found the woman unconscious and not breathing. The team administered CPR and started a defibrillator. The squad members were credited with not only reviving the woman's pulse, but also bringing her back into consciousness.

Schuitema, who is also the squad's engineering line officer, received the Rookie of the Year award from Windsor.

The squad's prestigious Somerville Award was given to Keith Ferrier, "for giving 100 percent everyday for the past several years," Windsor said.

County Commissioner Susan Shaw (R), the only commissioner in atten-

dance at the banquet, presented the squad with a plaque of appreciation from the board of county commissioners.

"[I've thought to myself one day I'll be lying] on the side of the road and you guys will be looking down on me asking yourselves 'Now, which one of [the commissioners] was it that supported us?'" Shaw joked as she presented the squad with the plaque.

In addition to the presentation of awards, Jim Richardson, Calvert County Fire and Rescue Coordinator, swore in the squad's new officers: Clarke Rawlings, president; Ronald Estoque, vice president; Jenny Estoque, treasurer; and Bethany Lankford, secretary.



Prince Frederick Volunteer Rescue Squad Chief Joseph Windsor presents the Rookie of the Year award to Russell Schuitema at the annual awards banquet Saturday.

STAFF PHOTO BY ROB PERRY

Other top awards were given to:
Training Award: Nikki Gilmore;
Water Rescue Training Award: Mike Jones;

Officer of the Year: Diane Billings;
Chief's Award: Chief Engineer Bobby Francis, Chief Brian Ficke, Prince Frederick Volunteer Fire Department, Chief Monty Parks, St. Leonard Volunteer Fire Department;

Top Ten Runners for the Year: Cora Stockhausen (1,225 calls); Chris Tyneson (597); Kandie Huntzberry (492); Joey Windsor (459); Tara Billings (421); James Flynt (420); Russell Schuitema, (312); Brent Jones (309); Diane Billings (305); and Josh Clelland (280).

CRISFIELD TIMES

CRISFIELD, MD
WEEKLY 2,500
SEP 1 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Crisfield Scouts presents 'The Great Airport Adventure'

Crisfield Times

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CRISFIELD - Four years ago, they held "the Great Airport Adventure" at the Crisfield-Somerset Airport which was attended by over 800 Scouts representing 4 Districts. With numerous requests and 4 years of new scouts, they are going to do it again on Sept. 18, this time promising to be bigger and better. The following is the preliminary line-up. Grand Opening with special county and city officials, and the following demonstration participants: Somerset County Emergency Management personnel, Fire Departments from Crisfield, Marion, Pocomoke, Princess Anne, Deal Island, and Fairmount. Air Crash-Rescue from NASA, Wallops, The Dive-Rescue Team from Ocean City, and The Search and Rescue Unit of the United States Coast Guard. There will be a unit of the Emergency Disaster and Triage Group from McCready Memorial Hospital, as well as EMS Units from Crisfield, Pocomoke, and Princess Anne. Police Emergency Services will be represented by Crisfield, Pocomoke, and Princess Anne Police Departments, Somerset and Worcester County Sheriff's Departments, Maryland

State Police, and the Department of Natural Resources. The other guest demonstrators include: The Civil Air Patrol, The original "Crash Dummies", and Smokey the Bear. Chosen Generation and other entertainment will also be provided.

Special events include a two car crash / extrication, and a run-way foaming, Medivac Helicopter, SWAT Command Bus, and Reality Bus.

On Saturday night entertainment at the campfire, a live rock band followed by a country band. On Sunday morning there will be a fly-in by the East Coast Flying Association with some stunt flying. After all planes have landed, youth will be allowed to visit various aircraft close up.

There is lots of camping space; toilets and water will be supplied. Vendors will be on site all weekend for drinks, snacks, pizza, hot dogs, burgers, and fries. Bring firewood for evening fire and plan to cook on stoves or grills. There will be space available for scouts families and siblings to camp as well with plenty of parking available.

This event is open to all members of Scouting, including Boy

Scouts, Cubs, Venture, etc., as well as Girl Scouts, Brownies, etc. and the general public. Cost \$3 at entrance.

For more information call Teresa (Terry) Shallcross, event chair-

man, at (410) 968-0965. Remember this is not sit and watch, for the most part these are all hands-on demos and training sessions, with more being added on as they go.

TheWBALChannel.com

Foundations Deliver Automatic Defibrillators To Fire Departments

Two Groups Combine Efforts, Accelerate Delivery Program

POSTED: 1:35 PM EDT September 2, 2004

PROVIDENCE, Md. -- Thanks to the Save-A-Heart and the Bearman foundations, more rescue crews will have automatic defibrillators.

The groups are teaming up Thursday night to deliver the AEDs to eight of Baltimore County's volunteer fire departments, as listed below.

- North Point-Edgemere Volunteer Fire Co.
- Reisterstown Volunteer Fire Co.
- Butler Volunteer Fire Co.
- Hereford Volunteer Ambulance Co.
- Middle River Volunteer Fire Co.
- Lutherville Volunteer Fire Co.
- Arcadia Volunteer Fire Co.
- Hereford Volunteer Fire Co.

It's all a part of their ongoing program to equip all 33 fire companies in the county.

In May, the Save-A-Heart Foundation announced a two-year, \$60,000 program to supply AEDs to all of the county's volunteer companies. Now, thanks to the combined efforts with Bearman, the program has been accelerated from two years to one year, according to a Save-A-Heart representative.

AEDs help emergency crews save the lives of patients in cardiac arrest by providing electrical current to stimulate the heart.

Stay with TheWBALChannel.com and WBAL-TV 11 News for the latest news updates.

Previous Stories:

- April 2, 2004: Group Equips Baltimore Co. Fire Departments With Defibrillators

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BREAKING NEWS ALERTS:



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D R I V E - T H R U D O N A T I O N S

FOOTING THE BILL



John A. Bone/Times-News

Cumberland Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician Margaret McDonald accepts a donation from a passer-by Wednesday morning on Mechanic Street outside the city's Public Safety Building as members of Cumberland Firefighters Local 1715 collect donations for the nationwide "Fill the Boot" campaign to raise money for Jerry's Kids to aid the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The collection will continue through Friday. Annually near Labor Day, firefighters from around the country raise money that will be donated to the Jerry Lewis telethon. A reader commentary about the campaign is on today's editorial page, 4A. *ℓ*

Lights & Sirens *ℓ*

We all know to look out for school buses with their flashing red lights, but drivers also need to be constantly vigilant about the other flashing lights they see on roads and highways: those for emergency-response vehicles.

The peril faced by policemen, firefighters and rescue crews was apparent two weeks ago

when members of the Shaft Volunteer Fire Department were involved in an automobile accident on Interstate 68.

■ Slow down for emergency vehicles

The five firefighters were responding around 7:30 a.m. Aug. 21 to a report of a vehicle over the embankment at the Clarysville Bridge. The driver had just parked the 24-ton pumper near the bridge when he noticed a car bearing down in his rearview mirror. The Buick sedan plowed into the rear of the pumper, pushing the fire truck 150 feet forward and causing minor injuries to the firefighters.

It could have been far worse. Had the pumper's parking brake been applied, the truck would not have moved with the impact, and the collision likely would have killed the driver and seriously injured the crew. Had the wreck occurred a few seconds later, the crew may have been getting off the truck or standing in front of it.

Police charged the driver, an Ohio man, with two offenses. "Motorists need to pay close attention to emergency vehicles, pull over to the curb or shoulder and yield..." said State Police 1st Sgt. Steve Winger. "Pay attention to the road and your driving, and not what police and emergency responders are doing."

According to the National Fire Protection Association, more firefighters died last year while responding to or returning from alarms, than died while fighting fires.

Emergency-response crews are accustomed to the risks of responding to highway calls, but the danger remains very real. "A car passing by you at 70 miles per hour two to three inches from you is the most frightening thing in the world," said Shaft Deputy Fire Chief Bryan Miller.

It's a simple but vital rule. When you see the flashing lights of an emergency vehicle, or hear its siren, take your foot off the gas and slow down. It will not only save you a big ticket, it could save the life of an emergency responder.



Capital Clipping Service

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Service station requests personnel

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM 57713

News-Post Staff
ecunningham@fredericknews.com

EMMITSBURG — Emmitsburg Mayor Jim Hoover said town commissioners last week placed economics above human life.

With Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co.'s failure rate at a four-year high of more than 30 percent, company members decided to ask Frederick County commissioners for help, he said. The company made a request for career personnel to occupy the station 12 hours a day, five days each week.

A failure rate is defined as not making it out of the building within eight minutes, said Chief Bob Rosensteel Jr. with Vigilant Hose Co.

If the county provides career service employees, Emmitsburg will be placed in a fire tax district for the first time. The town is the last in the county to have a fire tax.

Despite Mr. Hoover's opposition, town commissioners voted to set a fire tax rate of 6.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value, which would guarantee paid personnel in the station 12 hours each day, five days a week.

"I think that's the wrong direction," he said.

Mr. Hoover advocated a rate of 13.5 cents, and said the station needs 24-hour a day coverage, seven days a week.

"I'd rather start out in the best interest of public safety," he said.

Chief Rosensteel agrees and said the ambulance company's failure rate has been a community issue for about 10 years.

"It's a public safety emergency ... with extreme fail rates that have never been seen this high in the county before," he said.

The volunteer ambulance company has responded to emergency calls since 1946 without paid personnel, and Mr. Hoover said that should be commended.

"They've lasted longer than other organizations in Frederick," he said. "But I don't want to be the guy with a heart attack sitting at home and waiting for an ambulance."

Chief Rosensteel said the problem was recognized but the total problem has not been addressed.

Ambulance company officials said they require career personnel 12 hours a day, Monday through Friday, but failed calls are split evenly between daytime hours, evenings and weekends.

Joe Pelkey, Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co. president, said hiring personnel for 12 hours a day will be a start.

"We saw a problem and we went and asked for help," he said. "We thought with this the (volunteers) could concentrate more on nights and weekends."

Mr. Pelkey said everyone wants to serve the community and "have an ambulance get out the door."

A list of active ambulance company volunteers lists only three active EMTs, and a job

(See STATION A-6)

Station: Personnel request

(Continued from A-5)

change will soon make one of them inactive, Mr. Hoover said. Chief Jeanette McGuire, who said she was unable to talk about the company's failure rates because of her recent suspension, will soon be on the inactive list because of a full-time job.

Mr. Pelkey said her suspension is not related to the failure rates.

"She was brought in front of the board to explain some of her actions that she has been doing,"

he said. "She would not explain them and was unwilling to work with membership."

Mr. Pelkey could not comment on the specifics of her suspension.

Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is presenting its request to Frederick County Board of Commissioners today.

"They are going to have to do something soon," Mr. Hoover said.

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GAZETTE (COLLEGE PARK)

POTOMAC, MD
WEEKLY 27,500
SEP 2 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Injury at rescue squad sparks safety inquiry in Laurel

by Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

The Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department is initiating an investigation at the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad following an accident involving one of its volunteers.

Mark Brady, a spokesman for the fire/EMS department, said a teenaged volunteer who was behind a rescue pumper as it was backing up into the squad's bay had an arm get caught between the vehicle and a "fixed object."

Brady said the arm injury required surgery and the volunteer was hospitalized but later released.

"Anytime we have a member injured, it's serious," Brady said. "It seemed that everything [safety protocols] were in place. They were in the process of being told to stop when the injury occurred, but I don't know if the driver knew to

stop."

Richard Sien, chair of the rescue squad's board of directors, said he could not release the name of the volunteer involved in the accident because of confidentiality considerations.

Sien said the squad's new pumper has a remote controlled warning claxon that allows a volunteer to activate warning sounds as the vehicle is being backed up.

Sien said, however, that he did not know if the claxon being used during the accident.

A safe attitude when operating equipment, Sien said, was something all volunteers have to keep in mind while on duty.

"It's something we always try to reinforce," Sien said.

Backing up fire and rescue vehicles creates the potential for accidents, Brady said.

E-mail Guy Leonard at
gleonard@gazette.net.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
THURSDAY 41,707
SEP 2 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Slice of Life

Instructor on fire for service

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM *SNFB*

News-Post Staff

ecunningham@fredericknewspost.com

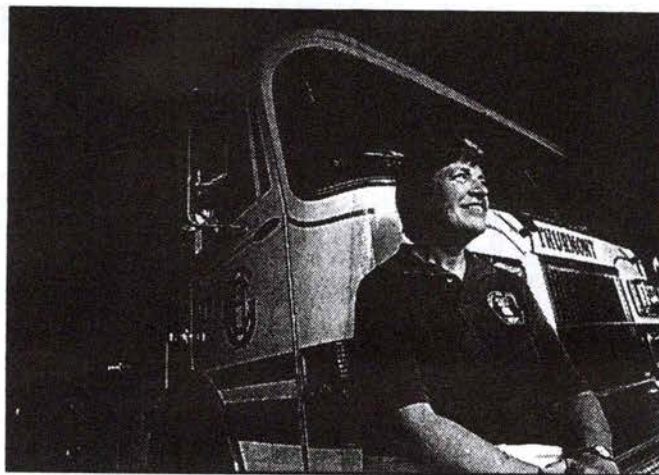
THURMONT — Judy White has remained involved in every aspect of volunteer fire service in Thurmont for more than 20 years, but she is the first to say she does not do it alone.

"One person cannot do it alone," she said. "Not a chance."

Ms. White, a firefighter and emergency medical technician, was the first female fire instructor in the state when she began teaching basic fire-fighting for the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute 21 years ago. Her husband, Smiley, also is an instructor.

Ms. White is trained in hazardous materials operations and is a nationally certified public fire and life safety educator. She has been involved in public fire safety education for 25 years, and teaches children of all ages.

"You certainly want to start with some of the basic skills like learning what an alarm sounds like," she said. "You can take the idea of the school fire drill and do a fire drill at home."



Staff photo by Doug Koontz

Judy White is a volunteer firefighter/EMT in Thurmont and for 21 years has been an Instructor at the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute.

Thurmont Elementary School has opened its doors and classrooms to Ms. White, who said she teaches children about fire safety during physical education classes.

"It gives us the opportunity to have the students for 40 minutes," she said.

She has been a volunteer firefighter/EMT for about 24 years, and a life member at Guardian Hose Co. since 1997. She also serves as the Length of Service Awards Program

(LOSAP) chairwoman for the company and is the fire prevention chairwoman.

Although she still responds to emergency calls as a member of the fire company and Thurmont Ambulance Co., she said with her other commitments, free time to cover a shift is scarce.

"I try to sign up at the ambulance company for a time, but my weekends are

(See INSTRUCTOR A-6)

Instructor: On fire for service in Thurmont

(Continued from A-5)

pretty busy," Ms. White said. "I'm trying to stand by or sign up for a Saturday morning."

She also is Thurmont Ambulance Co.'s treasurer and second vice president of the Frederick

County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

Ms. White taught piano before she took an interest in fire and rescue. She then began teaching CPR and first aid.

"It just kind of evolved," she said. "When I met my husband he was an active volun-

teer ... and I've always been involved in teaching."

The list of Ms. White's commitments goes as far as the state level, where she was a member of and a chairwoman of a fire prevention committee.



Capital Clipping Service

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County fire service drops paramedic requirement for recruits

BY PENNY COLSTON

Howard County Fire and Rescue Services Chief Joseph Herr has a two-pronged goal for the department's upcoming recruitment class — attract more recruits and, specifically, women and minorities.

To that end, Herr is scrapping a policy he instituted last year to boost the number of county firefighter recruits who are trained paramedics.

With 15 openings to fill, and hoping to attract better-trained recruits for more complicated on-the-scene tasks, Herr last year offered the department's annual recruitment test only to certified paramedics.

The plan backfired when fewer than 50 recruits took the test and only five passed the entire recruitment process.

"When we made the decision only to test people with the (paramedic) skill set, we assumed a couple hundred would come in," he said. "We didn't realize how drastically the numbers had dropped."

This year finds Herr returning to the traditional policy of offering the test to anyone with a valid identifica-

tion who will be 18 or older in January 2005.

In 2002, more than 500 applicants took the test and about 20 passed. Herr — who still must fill 10 openings and expects another 10 to become vacant in April 2005 — hopes to see a similar number show up for this year's recruitment test.

The tests, open to anyone, including non-county residents and non-citizens, are set for Sept. 14, 17 and 18 at Howard Community College.

One of the goals is to hire more women and minorities, Herr said.

"We would like our work force to more reflect the diversity in our county," he said. "When we opened the test last year to only paramedics, we had paramedics, but there was very little diversity."

Currently, 28 percent of county firefighters are women or minorities. Just under half of county residents are male, and 74.3 percent are white, according to 2000 data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Paramedics overworked

Although all county firefighters are Emergency Medical Technicians,



STAFF PHOTO BY FRANCIS GARDNER

Howard County Fire Chief Joseph Herr is trying to solve long- and short-term department goals by opening the firefighter recruitment test to a wider pool of candidates.

not all are paramedics certified by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics.

Richard L. Ruehl, president of Local 2000, the county firefighters union, said the county needs more paramedics. Howard employs 75 certified paramedics on a staff of 297 volunteer and career firefighters.

"The paramedics we do have are all good paramedics," Ruehl said.

The shortage, however, means they are overworked and underpaid, he added. The workload has "a tendency to wear them down or burn them out more quickly," Ruehl said.

The union does not object to Herr opening up the recruitment test to non-paramedics as long as training more recruits to become certified paramedics remains one of the chief's goals, he added.

Herr and others said a shortage of paramedics exists statewide. The dearth, they said, likely is rooted in the increasingly complex demands of firefighters, who must undergo lengthy training to carry out complicated, on-the-scene medical procedures.

Because firefighting work is now more medical in nature, Howard no longer trains recruits to become paramedics. Instead, recruits receive the bulk of their training from a two-year community college program consisting of science and medicine courses.

"When you evaluate the paramedic curriculum, it's very competitive, it's very challenging," Herr said. "It has a lot in common with the curriculum for a nursing degree."

While paramedics will automatically have a running start in this year's batch of applicants, they will not be immune to being overlooked in favor of candidates who outperform them in any of four other stages of testing, fire and rescue department spokesman Bill Mould said.

High cost of training

Recruiting non-paramedics comes at a price: It costs the county \$120,000 to train a recruit to become a certified paramedic. The amount includes community college tuition, salary and benefits.

The starting salary for county firefighters without paramedic certification is \$34,200. A recruit who is a certified paramedic receives a starting salary of \$37,740, Herr said.

Herr said the costs the department shoulders by hiring non-paramedics is offset by two programs he created.

The department operates an in-house program that boosts the life-saving skills of firefighters who are not paramedics. In addition, the county school system offers a curriculum aimed at training students

to become paramedics. Now in its second year, the "Paramedic Pathways" program recruits high school juniors who have an interest in firefighting as a career.

The county pays for the students in their senior year to take the 12 community college credits necessary to become certified paramedics. A combination of state grants and county money pays for the two-year program, which costs the county less than \$1,300 per student.

The students are not bound to become firefighters once they graduate, or to join the county fire department. But Howard County benefits nonetheless, Herr said.

"Some of the graduates may decide that they want to go on to do something else," he said. "But we'll still have that skill set here. And there's the chance the graduates might want to contribute through one of our volunteer services."

The high school program will graduate its first class in summer 2005. Nine of the 11 students who will graduate in next year's class are women, a member of an ethnic minority, or both.

The class set to graduate in 2006 has 22 students, 12 of whom fall into those categories.

E-mail Penny Colston at pcolston@patuxent.com

<http://www.columbiaflieger.com>

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
FRIDAY 6,750
SEP 3 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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County radios getting upgrade

Daily Banner

SNFB

CAMBRIDGE - Dorchester County is working in partnership with Motorola, Inc. and its subcontractors to install a new 800 MHz radio system to enhance the communications abilities of law enforcement, fire and Emergency Medical Services providers by providing for interoperability with other jurisdictions on the Eastern Shore.

Two-way Public Safety radios have now been installed, according to an update provided by the county council. Training and cross-training of the communications specialists at the 911 Center is now underway and will continue throughout September, October and November. Optimization of the Trappe and Vienna tower sites is now complete, the statement said.

The county is working with

the state to facilitate the installation of a 450-foot, self-supporting tower in Bucktown, which is expected to be completed by the first week of this month. The State of Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems is funding the entire tower cost of \$480,000 as a part of its commitment to enhancing public safety in Dorchester County.

Motorola, Inc. has scheduled the installation of the antennas for the new 800 MHz communications system during the second week in September and full optimization of the communications system, which includes testing of the Bucktown Tower site is scheduled for the third and fourth weeks of September.

During the first week of November, the console equipment for the 911 Center will

See Radios— Page 2

Radios

Continued From Page 1

begin. Near the end of November, public safety, fire, emergency medical services and local government users will receive training on how to use the communications system.

Pre-acceptance testing and change over to the new system is planned to occur in November and the final acceptance of the new Motorola system is planned for December.

"The Dorchester County Council is confident that this communications system will be an asset to Dorchester County, enhancing the response capabilities of all emergency service providers," the statement says. "The County Council is very appreciative of the efforts of county staff including Public Safety Director Steve Williams, as well as representatives from Motorola, Inc. who are working diligently to see that this system is implemented expeditiously."

Post your views on this at newsblog.info/0601.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
SATURDAY 41,707
SEP 4 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Ambulance change off to smooth start

EMMITSBURG — Twenty-two hours after career firefighters arrived as part of Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co., they had yet to receive a call for service.

But Chief Bob Rosensteel Jr. of Vigilant Hose Co. — where the career firefighters are working from, as opposed to the ambulance station — said the pace helped make the transition as smooth as possible.

"It helped give us time to get everyone settled in," he said.

Frederick County Commissioners voted Thursday to move career personnel into Vigilant 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to aid the struggling ambulance company that had failure rates as high as 30 percent.

A failed call is defined as not making it out of the

building within eight minutes.

Ambulance company volunteers are still responding to second due calls, calls that volunteers will respond to if career personnel are not available. And the station is open for bingo and other fundraisers, according to Jamie Eyler, company vice president.

"We're making sure we have a smooth transition," said Chip Jewell, director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services. "Everyone's really going to extremes to cooperate and make sure everything goes well."

Career personnel were in place Thursday six hours after commissioners voted to provide funds for the positions.

— Erin Cunningham



Capital Clipping Service

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Rescue fleet to gain from ambulance fee

Duncan proposes \$350 charge with series of exemptions

by Douglas Tallman

Staff Writer

In an effort to find money to repair an aging fleet of emergency vehicles, County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D) has proposed a \$350 fee for ambulance transports.

Administration officials expect the fee to generate \$4 million this fiscal year and between \$8 million and \$10 million the next. Because Medicaid, Medicare and insurance carriers offer coverage of emergency transports, they said, the fee will not require residents to pay much out of pocket.

County officials have said nearly half of the county's fire and rescue vehicles have been serving for a decade and many are nearing the end of their useful life.

"I don't like ambulance fees. However, I don't know there's a better alternative to raise \$6 [million] to \$7 million a year we need to replace apparatus," said Councilman Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg.

Duncan's proposal is included in a bill before the council that would authorize the creation of the fee. The amount of the fee — which would take effect Jan. 1 — is included in an executive regulation.

Fire Administrator Gordon A. Aoyagi said the proposal earmarks the money for replacement vehicles and new equipment to create a ready reserve fleet. The money also would pay for the medical supplies used by emergency medical personnel.

No one would be denied emergency medical services, and insurance questions would not be asked on 9-1-1 calls, he said.

"We certainly don't want to create a system that asks people to think about whether they can pay for it before they call an ambulance," said Council President Steven A. Silverman (D-At large) of Silver Spring.

The fee could be waived if family income falls below 50 percent of the metropolitan area median income. That translates to \$50,700 a year for a family of four, for example. The threshold for a single per-

son would be 50 percent of the metropolitan area median income, or \$42,700 a year.

Eleven percent of the money would be returned to the fire company that transported the patient, and must be used for the same purposes as the county would use it, Aoyagi said.

The fee had been proposed more than a year ago as part of the fiscal 2004 budget, when it arrived "DOA," Silverman said. Now, the proposal will get a full public hearing before the council.

"The difference between now and a year ago is he's earmarking the money for a specific purpose," Silverman said of Duncan's proposal.

Councilman Michael J. Knapp (D-Dist. 2) of Germantown said he supports the concept of ambulance fees, although he said he is not prepared to "rubber stamp" Duncan's proposal.

"I think it's important for people to understand that it's not novel to Montgomery County," Knapp said.

A report to the County Council lists 16 jurisdictions in the region that charge for ambulance transports, including Washington, D.C., Baltimore city and Prince George's, Frederick and Fairfax (Va.) counties.

With so many area jurisdictions charging for ambulance transports, Montgomery has plenty of experience on which to base its plan, Knapp said.

"We have a tendency to create it from scratch because it's us," he said.

In charging a flat \$350 fee, Montgomery appears to be unusual among area jurisdictions. The county's report shows 15 jurisdictions that base the fee on the intensity of the response. Baltimore city, for example, charges \$150 for basic life support calls. San Francisco charges \$568 for advanced life support calls.

The proposed regulation also would allow fire companies to opt out of the ambulance billing. Aoyagi said the Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Wheaton fire companies have charters that do not allow them to charge patients.

Because insurers already cover the cost of ambulance transports, county officials said residents with insurance are paying for a benefit they are not collecting.

"This is already factored into people's insurance," Knapp said.



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Squad seeks city funds

by Guy Leonard
Staff Writer

The Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad has decided to purchase two new ambulances to replace the aging apparatus it uses to serve the city.

But after a meeting with the city's Emergency Services Commission Tuesday, the squad's chance of getting money from the city to defray the cost of equipping the new ambulances seems slim.

Of the \$40,000 available from the city's grant fund, the rescue squad would only be able to receive a maximum of \$10,000, or 25 percent per commission guidelines.

"There's not that much money," said commission member G. Rick Wilson after a rescue squad tour Tuesday.

The city has yet to approve the commission's guidelines, and the squad may have to wait for the funds for purchases for which it might not be eligible to be reimbursed.

Under the guidelines being considered, any furnishings, consumable items or permanently attachable pieces to the ambulances would not be eligible.

Richard Sien, chair of the squad's board of directors, said he would like the city help pay for the equipment to go on the new ambulances, but isn't expecting any miracles.

SQUAD

Continued from A-1

"That would be appreciated, but right now the procedures aren't in place," Sien said. "And it seems that if they get approved it doesn't look like any of our purchases would be reimbursed."

The squad has been hurting for funding because its usual \$140,000 from the city was slashed by more than half last year when it purchased a rescue pumper to fight fires like the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department.

At the time, the squad did not have first due, or primary responsibility, to fight fires in a certain geographical area of Laurel, so the city cut the funding. Mayor Craig A. Moe and the City Council felt the money would only pay for duplication of services.

However, before then-Fire Chief Ronald Blackwell resigned, he approved a first-due response area for the squad and its new rescue pumper.

Sien said he would like to

see the city reconsider cutting the squad's funds.

"I do feel there's an inequity of funding," Sien said. "For whatever reason, the city has decided to fund the way it funds."

The squad has already put in a purchase order for the new ambulances, to be paid for with donations from the community. The cost of each ambulance would be about \$100,000.

"We're relying on that now more than ever," Sien said.

Mark Arsenault, deputy chief at the rescue squad, said the new ambulances were needed badly.

"Because of the age [of the older ambulances], one's often out of service," Arsenault told commission members on the squad tour. "We're always juggling ambulances."

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department also is expected to get an ambulance from the county this month, but the exact date has yet to be determined.

E-mail Guy Leonard at
gleonard@gazette.net.

BRUNSWICK CITIZEN

BRUNSWICK, MD
WEEKLY 3,400
SEP 9 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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The Citizen — 6

Comment

Foresight, perseverance

It's not every day that reading the newspaper leaves you feeling grateful. But that was our reaction after reading about the plight of Emmitsburg's ambulance company last week.

Though the details aren't clear to us from what we read, it appears the company imploded over the all-volunteer *versus* paid EMT dilemma. It sounds like the ambulance chief came out in favor of all-paid personnel, 24 hours a day, causing most of the volunteer members to walk out. With only two active members left to run calls, the County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association had no choice but to ask the county commissioners to fund career personnel, and to ask for it 24 hours a day. That's how Emmitsburg will receive service for the next four months, until an ambulance tax district can be established.

The county's paid EMTs will operate the volunteer ambulance company's equipment, using the town's fire company hall as a base. The Emmitsburg volunteers are reduced to filling in on second calls, maybe, if it turns out they're needed.

Oh, boy. All over Frederick County our volunteer companies are feeling the pinch as the structure of our lives and communities change. Many towns have found it impossible to field enough volunteers during daytime work hours to provide needed services—and there's no shame in that.

But to let an internal disagreement get them to the place where the volunteers can't use the equipment they worked hard to buy and maintain: that's sad.

Brunswick, a town that prides itself on its volunteerism, has had to establish an ambulance tax district. We know it was a hard step for the Co. 19 members to make, but they did it in a timely fashion, and the result is a well-maintained safety net for residents of our community.

The Co. 19 volunteers still have more than enough to do, since they are on call 12 hours a day during the week, 24 hours a day on weekends, and all day on holidays, too.

We have the volunteer tradition going strong, and we have paid personnel on duty when they're needed on week days.

Makes you appreciate what you've got: volunteers with the courage to adapt to modern circumstances, and the intestinal fortitude to keep on volunteering.





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ABOVE: Making their selections from the ample buffet are, from left, Delores Johnson, Elizabeth Carter and Mary Johnson.



SCHOOL MENU

for Frederick County

Thurs., Sept. 9 - Chicken nuggets w/roll, whipped potatoes, choice of fruit.

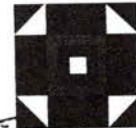
Fri., Sept. 10 - Shrimp poppers w/wheat roll, golden corn, choice of fruit.

Mon., Sept. 13 - Popcorn chicken w/wheat roll, choice of fruit.

Tues., Sept. 14 - Crispy or soft taco shell w/cheese, lettuce and tomato, seasoned rice, choice of fruit.

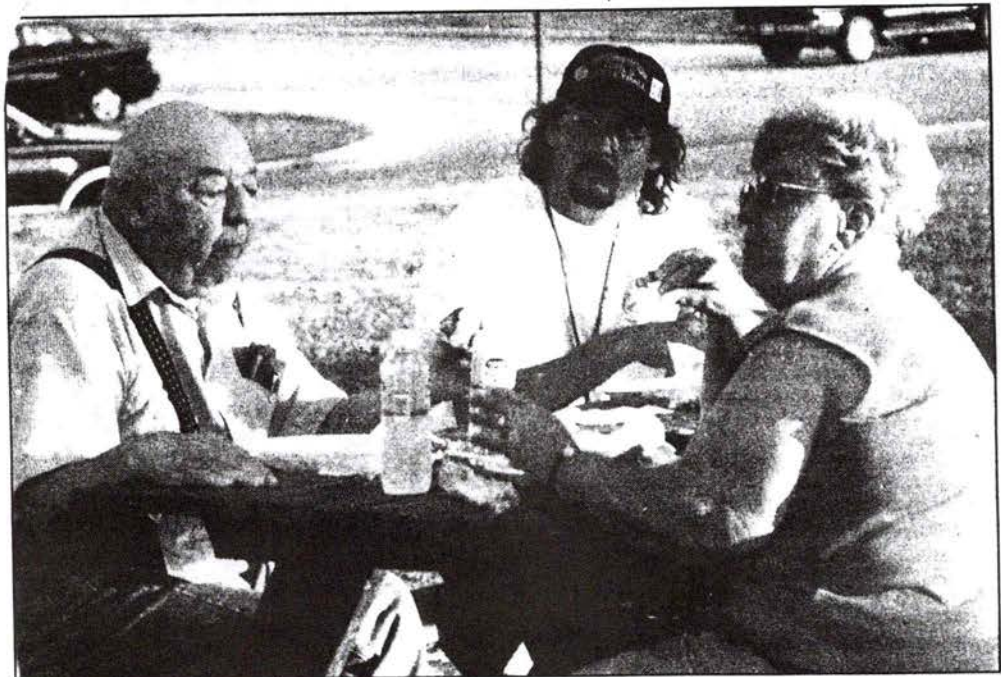
Wed., Sept. 15 - Plain or spicy chicken patty on bun, tator tots, choice of fruit.

Thursday, Sept. 16 - School closed.



Volunteers thanked

BELOW: Brunswick City employees, volunteers for various City programs, and members of both the Brunswick Volunteer Ambulance and Fire companies were thanked for their service to the community with a picnic and pool party on September 2. The small crowd enjoyed good food, relaxing in the shade and the use of the city pool for the evening. Pictured here are Harlan Hagan, Gregg Reynolds (center) and Hagan's sister Freda Leopold, who is active with the fire company. — Citizen / Donna Lear



BRUNSWICK CITIZEN

BRUNSWICK, MD
WEEKLY 3,400
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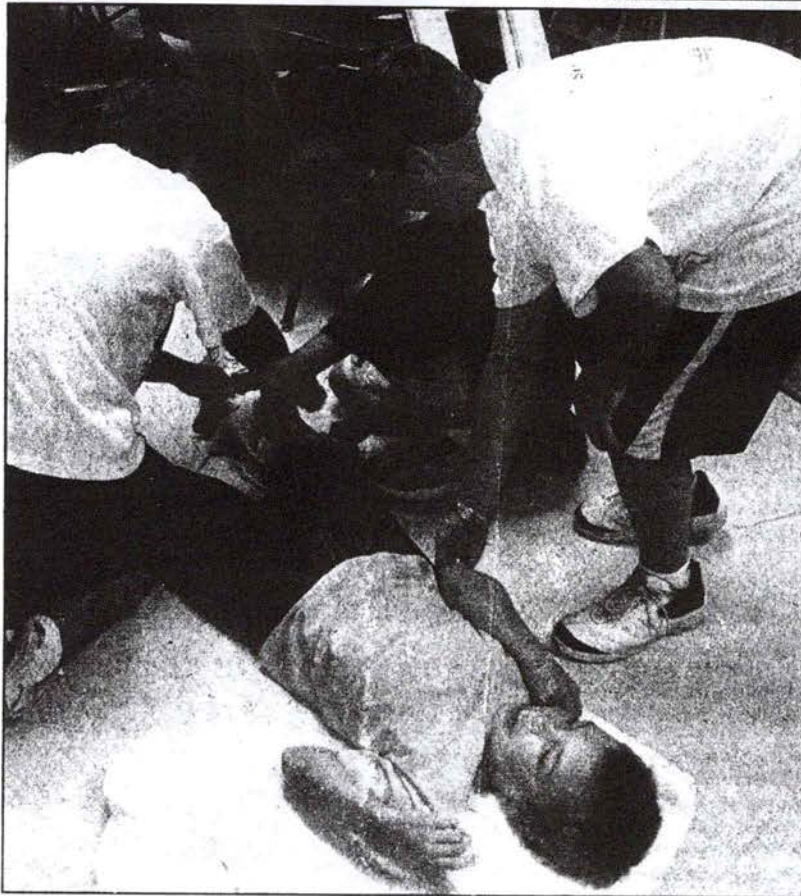
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Co. 12 helps Scouts

The Lovettsville Fire and Rescue Co. held a First Aid Merit badge session on August 19 for members of Boy Scout Troop 962. Volunteer firefighter Bill Mungovan and paramedic Karen Deli led scouts Chris Corrado, Thomas Moxley, Mike Ryan, and Zach Pruckowski through the requirements needed to complete their badges. Scouts learned the basics in CPR, first aid and how to immobilize a broken bone. Pictured: Scouts Ryan, Pruckowski and Moxley try out their skills on Corrado. — Citizen / Sandy Ryan



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LIFE AFTER THE SEPT. 11 ATTACKS

3 years later, a changed county

New challenges for emergency crews

By ERIC HARTLEY
and JEFF HORSEMAN
Staff Writers

When she became a nurse, Carol Ann Sperry thought she'd need to be prepared for broken limbs and heart attacks, not dirty bombs.

As a rookie firefighter, Bob Costa never thought he'd be trained in how to deal with mysterious powder and gases.

In her first run for county executive six years ago, Janet S. Owens pledged to focus on improving schools and preserving open space. She wasn't expecting daily meetings and phone calls about something called "homeland security."

But three years after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, in ways large and small, life has changed for them and millions of others across the county and the nation.

Peg Waters of Odenton was in downtown Washington the day hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a rural field in Pennsylvania. She couldn't get in touch with her daughter, who's now 10, to reassure her. The girl now has a cell phone.

"That will not happen again," Ms. Waters wrote in an e-mail.

Kathy Black's sister's birthday is on the 11th. A year after the attacks that killed 3,000 people, the Mayo women celebrated on the 12th.

"It's getting easier," Ms. Black said. "Of course it's very hard for her."

Despite the changes, most people try to live their lives normally.

"Although a bunch of fanatics can make me more vigilant, I'm not about to cringe in any corners and let fear be my guide," wrote Joe Wolff of Crownsville, one about 30 of *The Capital's* readers who responded by e-mail to questions about the last three years.

With the third anniversary of Sept. 11 tomorrow, city and county government officials said they've prepared for possible terrorist attacks. They've spent millions for new equipment such as biohazard suits and upgraded communications, plus training for police officers and firefighters. The need for that followed anthrax attacks in the mail after Sept. 11.

But they worry that for many, as the attacks recede into history, Sept. 11 becomes more of a date on a calendar than a visceral memory.

"I think people tend to become complacent because many people don't like to live their lives thinking about these things," Ms. Owens said. "They would prefer it not be an aspect of day-to-day reality."

As of this week, the county has received 20 state and federal grants worth \$6.25 million for emergency preparedness since April 2003, said Jim Weed, director of emergency management.

In addition, county police have bought a new mobile command post and say a new helicopter that went into service more than a year ago has helped with security efforts.



By J. Henschel
Annapolis Director of Domestic Preparedness Gary Simpson unfolds a biohazard suit for city police officers as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Tomorrow marks the anniversary of the attacks that killed 3,000 people and launched America's war on terrorism.

(Continued from Page A6)

The city managed to convince the state that it deserved special consideration for emergency preparedness funding. Annapolis has received \$2.15 million, plus another \$2.25 million to revamp police headquarters and the Eastport Fire Hall.

The city used its funding to buy everything from hazardous materials suits to police radios and infrared cameras.

Before the attacks, Annapolis had taken only "baby steps" toward forming its own team to handle hazardous materials, said acting city fire chief Michael Lamerigan.

The city was overwhelmed by calls from people reporting suspicious powders, and now 39 firefighters have the special training.

"We realized we needed a technical team to handle these calls independently," Chief Lamerigan said.

Public wakes up

In many people's minds, it seems, terrorism is sometimes a distant thought, sometimes at the forefront.

The public calls in a lot more tips about suspicious people and packages when federal officials raise alert levels or issue specific warnings, Chief Shanahan said.

Tips have come in about people taking pictures or videotaping on the Naval Academy Bridge and near the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company, which has a cellular phone tower nearby.

"We get a lot more of those as soon as the alerts go up, and then there's a waning of it, and I think people become complacent," Chief Shanahan said. "I do believe that after a few weeks of nothing happening, they tend to let down their guard a little bit. It's human nature."

The Capital's survey of

readers found many unwilling to let the attacks' legacy alter their way of life.

"Look, I can get hit by a drunk driver tomorrow when I'm on my jog," Ingar Grey of Annapolis wrote in an e-mail. "I can get a heart attack or a stroke. I can have faulty wiring in my house and die in a fire. It makes no sense to fret about terrorism, but by the same token I probably will not be flying to Iraq anytime soon."

Others talked about how Sept. 11 changed their habits. Maggie Gibbons of Annapolis admitted she flies less often.

"Not because of feeling unsafe, but because I do not like feeling like one of a herd of cattle."

Bob Bradshaw of Davidsonville joined the county's Community Emergency Response Team, a federal program that trains civilians in disaster response skills.

"Had it not been for 9/11, these things would have been

the farthest from my mind," he wrote.

Several readers worried that the war on terrorism would claim Americans' freedom.

"People should think twice before they trade in their rights for 'security,'" wrote Bob Dvorak of Arnold.

Beth Gray of Davidsonville disagrees. She wrote that her family lost a close friend in the World Trade Center.

"The people who are upset today and demanding their rights will wonder why they weren't protected and taken care of when it happens to them," she wrote.

Other readers commented on how Sept. 11 reshaped their world view.

"Personally, three years later, I continue to fight a sense of deep pessimism regarding our world," said John Scheleir of Arnold.

John Colgan of Lothian ad-

mitted, "My feelings toward the Muslims of the world are beginning to fray."

Referring to the deaths of hundreds in the recent Russian school hostage crisis, he wrote, "Very few Muslim leaders speak out against these atrocities, while many more praise them."

Many readers reported their feeling as the third anniversary of the attacks approaches.

"It feels just as horrible today as it does then," wrote Janice Gamiz of Annapolis, who works at a Washington law firm that had clients in the World Trade Center.

Dorothy Farley of Bay Ridge compared this anniversary to "accepting a family death more calmly."

"(It's) something terrible, but unchangeable," she wrote. "The earlier anniversaries caused the memories to be more vivid."

Ms. Waters, the Odenton mother who was in Washington

on Sept. 11, wrote that people need to remember how they felt right after the attacks.

"The emotion and solidarity was overwhelming after the at-

tacks and I think that Americans are not holding onto that."

charlie@capitalgazette.com
jhorwman@capitalgazette.com

(Continued from Page A1)

"We get almost daily alerts from the FBI and the Maryland State Police," said county Police Chief P. Thomas Shanahan.

The alerts can include information about bridges, tunnels

or ports, some of which aren't in Anne Arundel but might affect county residents.

Some officers have been trained on weapons of mass destruction and chemical exposure. Special operations officers have vapor detection kits, radiation meters and protective gear.

County firefighters, too, have taken special training on nu-

clear, biological and chemical weapons, and the department has bought special gear and equipment.

"You go into something now with a different, more cautious attitude because you don't know," said Firefighter Costa, who works at the Avalon Shores station in Deale and is also a Republican member of the House of Delegates. "The

things that spin through your head... is this a terrorist attack?"

Despite politicians' talk about the importance of "first responders," the money hasn't been forthcoming for the increased staffing that might truly help in a disaster, according to the heads of the city and county firefighter unions.

Firefighters are adequately trained and equipped, but "we just don't have enough of them," said Dallas Lister, president of Annapolis Professional Fire Fighters Local 1926.

At North Arundel Hospital in Glen Burnie, Sept. 11 has meant an education not found in medical textbooks.

"If you allow it to, (the possibility of a calamity) can keep you up at night," said Ms. Sperry, the hospital's emergency nursing director.

At Anne Arundel Medical Center, safety measures include ID badges, security guards and limiting entrances and exits open to visitors.

County school emergency plans have five codes depending on the severity of the threat. Nine high schools have surveillance cameras, and the others could get them in the next budget.

City rethinks threat

For Mayor Ellen O. Moyer and her staff, Sept. 11 spurred sweeping changes in how the city protects itself.

In 2002 the city created the Office of Emergency Management, with separate officials planning for terrorism and natural disasters.

Annapolis is a high-value terrorist target, Ms. Moyer said, pointing to its status as the state capital, home of the Naval Academy and a major tourist destination.

Citing reasons of security, Director of Domestic Preparedness Gary Simpson declined to say whether Annapolis had been the subject of a specific terrorist threat since Sept. 11. But he did say the city isn't under such a threat now.

(See 9-11, Page A7)

HOW GRANTS GET SPENT

The City of Annapolis last year received \$182.7 million in federal grant funding to prepare for an attack with weapons of mass destruction. The following is a breakdown of how that grant was spent:

Radios and equipment for police	\$118,730.00
Water barriers for Public Works	\$9,519.70
A device to replenish oxygen tanks	\$21,500.00
Stretchers	\$5,488.72
Antidote kits	\$4,747.80
Hazardous materials gear (suits, boots, gloves)	\$10,764.00
EMS trauma kits	\$955.00
Hazardous materials testing strips	\$3,450.00
Sensors	\$1,094.65
Dishes, vials and bottles	\$122.40
Air monitoring supplies	\$1,162.55
Air monitoring test kits	\$3,194.15

City Director of Homeland Security Cory Simpson said the remaining money — about \$2,000 — was shifted to another emergency preparedness grant. The city has received \$2.15 million in grants to date for emergency preparedness.

SOURCE: City of Annapolis

LOCAL EVENTS

Many cities in Maryland, Annapolis included, have planned special public events to commemorate the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11.

The main city event is a community sing along to begin at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at City Dock, led by the All Children's Chorus of Annapolis.

The guest soloist will be Christina Carlucci, a young singer from Annapolis. Selections include old favorites and patriotic songs. Song sheets will be provided and light sticks will be distributed for the final selection.

Other events include:

- A remembrance ceremony and holistic health open house at Anne Arundel Community College, 9 to 11 a.m., at the Cade Center for Fine Arts, Room 219, Arnold.
- "Have You Forgotten?" — a remembrance service at

Trinity Bible Church, 7 p.m. at 99 Truck House Road, Severna Park.

• The Wounded Freedom Harvest, a canned goods drive in honor of the victims and heroes of Sept. 11 sponsored by the Happy Helpers at the county Food Bank in Crownsville.

• The New York Fire Department Widow and Orphans Fund Raiser, an outdoor ceremony at the Prana Studio, which starts at 6 a.m. at 2901 Riva Trace Parkway, just outside Annapolis.

Demonstrations of meditation and yoga will be followed by a 1 p.m. performance by the Anne Arundel Community College Dance Company. Call 410 266 3401.

• Memorial toasts at Heroes Pub, 1 Riverview Ave., Annapolis. A \$10 donation taken at the door will go to the New York City Fire Department.

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
FRIDAY 6,750
SEP 10 2004



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Meet your neighbor: Deanna Davis, Madison

What I am excited about and why: About becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

What I do: I volunteers at the Madison Volunteer Fire Company and am a stay-at-home mom.

What I like most about what I do: Saving lives, helping my neighbors.

If I had been in a different occupation, I might have picked: I wouldn't have been anything else.

What I like most about living here: It's home.

Changes I would like to see in this area: I would like to see less change. I would like to see fewer people coming in from other places and less development.

Favorite community cause and why: My fire company, because they just do everything.

My family: I am married to Robert Davis and have a 16-month-old daughter named Katherine. My parents are Rick



Daily Banner/Pete Macinta
Deanna Davis of Madison volunteers at the Madison VFC and raises her family.

and Lori Parker.
When I moved here and why: I have lived here all my life. I have many generations before me.

Where I lived before and why I left: I have always lived in the area.

My interests and hobbies: I loves to read, go to the play-

ground with my daughter, and doing various activities at Madison VFC.

The best and worst time in my life: Best time would be becoming an EMT. The worst time has not happened.

The trait(s) I admire in others: Honesty, bluntness, and a willing-

ness to help other people.

People who inspired me, and how: My parents were really incredible role models and taught me how to have a strong faith. Paramedic Greg Grant's teaching for the EMT class was also inspirational. My husband has been incredibly supportive and has helped me to chill out. Scott Wheatley has been my instructor for the EMT class and has taught me a lot about life and the medical profession.

My guiding philosophy: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

My advice to today's youth: Get a good education and don't rush into things.

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you have something you think would make a good "Meet your neighbor" subject from Dorchester, contact Dave Ryan at (410) 228-3131, ext. 23.

OCEAN CITY DIGEST

OCEAN CITY, MD
WEEKLY
SEP 10 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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PRMC adds permanent Cat Scan to the Emergency Department

(Sept. 10, 2004) Peninsula Regional, the designated Regional Trauma Center for the Eastern Shore of Maryland, has added a third permanent CAT (CT) Scanner on the campus. The diagnostic imaging tool has been placed in the Medical Center's Robert T. Adkins, M.D. Emergency/Trauma Center for, among other uses, the rapid diagnosis of injuries and illnesses of emergency and trauma patients. To accommodate the space requirements of the CT Scanner and to allow for internal changes to improve patient flow, the Medical Center is also constructing a modular facility that will serve as the new waiting room for the Emergency/Trauma Center. It will be complete, weather permitting, by mid-September.

"The addition of this extremely fast CT Scanner will increase our capacity by over 30 percent and provide us even more flexibility to offer diagnostic imaging services to not only those patients in the Emergency/Trauma

Center but also our inpatient and outpatient population who will utilize the unit," said Alan Newberry, Peninsula Regional president/CEO. "The chain of events that began with the additional space needed for the CT Scanner led us to the modular construction of the new waiting room. By offering this temporary remedy until our new Emergency/Trauma Center is constructed within the next two years we will, as another benefit, be able to create a more timely and less stressful experience for our Emergency Department patients and their families."

Peninsula Regional's new Emergency/Trauma Center, included in the first construction phase of the Medical Center's \$110 million Master Facilities Plan, will more than triple the size of the current center when completed. On average, 175 patients seek treatment in Peninsula Regional's Emergency / Trauma Center each day.

WESTERN MONTGOMERY BULLETIN

POOLESVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
SEP 11 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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FEES VS. TAXES IN COUNTY AND STATE

Legislation that will authorize Montgomery County's Fire and Rescue Service to collect a fee for ambulance transports was submitted to the County Council this week. This will bring Montgomery into line with other counties and area jurisdictions that have already implemented ambulance transport fee programs to provide funding to enhance emergency response capabilities, including the purchase of much-needed replacement apparatus.

The fee will fund critical fire and rescue vehicle maintenance and replacement needs in the County, ambulance upgrades to medic units, acquisitions of new emergency medical supplies and equipment to enhance services, and a new full-time medical director for EMS quality assurance programs.

The \$350 fee for emergency medical services transports will be paid primarily by group and individual health insurance, Medicare and Medicaid. Although each transport will be billed to the patient or their insurance company under the new program, no one will be denied transport based on ability to pay.

Compassionate and reasonable waiver provisions are included for individuals who are unable to pay.

"Few residents will even notice this change, and yet the new fee will make a big differ-

Continued on Page 3

FEES VS. TAXES IN COUNTY AND STATE

Continued from page 1

ence in our ability to maintain top-notch emergency medical services here in Montgomery County," said Fire Administrator Gordon Aoyagi. "Most of our residents are already paying for the benefits through their existing health insurance, and those who are not may have the fee waived if they are unable to pay."

Washington Metropolitan area jurisdictions that already collect a fee for emergency medical services include: Alexandria and Arlington counties in Virginia; the District of Columbia; and Prince George's County. Other Maryland counties that collect an ambulance transport fee are: Allegheny, Baltimore, Carroll, Charles, Cumberland, Frederick and Washington. Fairfax County, Va. has recently approved a program to implement a transport fee.

Across the nation, jurisdictions such as Dallas, TX; Honolulu, HI; Houston, TX; Philadelphia, PA; and San Francisco, CA also charge for emergency transports.

Under the new legislation, the reimbursement rate was set at a flat \$350 per transport — based on generalized fee schedules of Medicare, which is accepted by most insurance companies. The Executive Regulation that authorizes collection of the new fee will not take effect before January 1, 2005.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
MONDAY 41,707
SEP 13 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Slice of Life



Karlea Brown in one of the fire trucks at the Junior Fire Co.

Firefighting family boasts young queen

By SUSAN C. NICOL

News-Post Staff
snicol@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — As do many high school seniors, Karlea Brown has much on her plate. But in addition to her school work and hanging out with friends, the Gov. Thomas Johnson High School student can be found on a Junior Fire Co. ambulance, teaching people fire prevention or assisting with fund-raising events.

Ms. Brown, who plans to study to become a paramedic and registered nurse, says she enjoys her volunteer work.

As the daughter of a longtime chief at Junior, Ms. Brown said the firehouse has been a big part of her life.

"I grew up here," she said. "I love it, and I just can't get away from it."

Her father, Keith, is deputy chief; her mother, Angie, is chaplain of the auxiliary.

Ms. Brown now takes emergency medical technician (EMT) and firefighter training at the career and technology center.

"It was very competitive to get into the class this year," she said. "But, I made it."

Ms. Brown, a member of the Nation-

al Honor Society, is in the largest firefighter cadet program in county history.

But, Ms. Brown does something that sets her apart from her colleagues. As fire prevention queen of the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, she speaks to people about life safety issues.

"I really enjoy public education," she said. "It's very important, and a job many don't like doing."

To be proficient, Ms. Brown said she performed hours of research about fire safety, sprinklers, smoke alarms and hazards in the home.

"You have to be on your toes because you never know when someone may ask about something," she said.

Ms. Brown said the fire prevention queen has a special role, one that could make the difference in someone's life.

Ms. Brown said there's a bond shared by others in her arena, including Kathleen Grady Harne, who went on to be first-runner up of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, as well as Sarah Sines, her predecessor, and Kelly Sullivan, Junior Miss Fire Prevention.

She will relinquish her crown next month, but Ms. Brown said the experience will last a lifetime.



Capital Clipping Service

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Career shift came at the right time for brothers

BY MARY T. ROBBINS

Two brothers, one a newcomer to the life of an emergency medical technician and the other with 14 years on the job, are finding they can learn from each other on the job.

Growing up in Kingsville, Lt. Kyrle Preis, 37, knew early on that he wanted to pursue a career in the Baltimore County Fire Department.

"When you're a kid, you want to be a firefighter when you grow up," said Kyrle, who joined the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Department at age 16 before becoming a professional emergency medical technician for the county in 1990.

His brother, Dan "Digger" Preis, 35, of White Marsh, came to that conclusion much later in life, after he had already put in a decade as a manager with Giant Foods.

"You're helping people every day. I enjoy interacting with people," said Kyrle, whose older sister is a nurse. "I've liked coming to work every day and every night. Dan noticed that."

After only a few years, Kyrle was enjoying his career as an EMT so much that he urged Dan to apply for a spot in the fire academy.

But Dan wasn't ready yet.

"He's been encouraging me for many years," said Dan, the youngest in the family.

But having achieved a management position with Giant, the

See **Siblings**, page 14

STAFF PHOTO BY MATT BETH

Though Dan Preis, left, and his older brother Kyrle, right, work out of different area fire stations, the brothers find time to get together when their shifts overlap.

Local duo perfect fit for EMT fraternity

Siblings, from page 1

younger brother wasn't interested in taking his big brother's advice.

"I was enjoying retail," Dan said. "My sights were set on being a store manager. I had some blinders on, tunnel vision on one thing."

He said he noticed the company starting to change after it was bought by Dutch retailer Royal Ahold in 1998.

That's when he began giving his brother's suggestion more consideration. He was 34 years old.

"I really thought he'd be good at this job," said Kyrle, who was promoted to lieutenant in 1999 and now works primarily out of Station 8 in Fullerton.

At the time, Baltimore County Fire Chief John Hohman was looking to diversify the workforce.

"To me, that doesn't just mean black or female," said Kyrle, a district supervisor.

"It also means getting other people in here to do the job that have real-world experience. It's not like he's coming to the dinner table with an empty plate."

Kyrle knew that Dan's experience in customer service with Giant would serve his brother well as an EMT.

"Most everything we do is customer service," he said.

In March, Dan was accepted into the fire academy in Sparrows Point.

Staff in the application unit of the fire department allowed Kyrle to make the call and deliver the news.

"I was excited when I got in, but I was more excited when Dan was hired and that I was the one to get to tell him," Kyrle said.

Dan was elated.

"It felt like I was hitting the lottery," he said.

When it came time to ask what to expect in 17 weeks of classes and training, Dan knew his brother was only a phone call away.

"He can rattle off protocols like that," Dan said, snapping his fingers.

Before long, Dan was waking up at 4:30 a.m., rattling off the correct emergency procedures for various scenarios himself.

Though 14 years had gone by since his brother had been a student at the academy, everyone still knew the Preis name, Dan said.

It was similar to the situation he'd experienced in following Kyrle to John Carroll High School years ago.

He knew he had to live up to his brother's reputation.

But he also appreciated those who told him "we know you are not your brother. You're you, and if we have a problem with you, we will

tell you," Dan said.

"It was the best 17 weeks of my life," he said. "It was a rite of passage for me."

Fire department employees work 48 hours over four days — two 10-hour days and two 14-hour nights — then have four days off.

For Kyrle, married with three young children, the schedule allows him time to spend with his family in their Kingsville home.

Dan, who is single and lives in White Marsh, is assigned to Station 55 in Perry Hall.

He uses his "days off" to work part time at Giant stores around the Beltway.

Sometimes, the brothers' schedules allow them to enjoy two days off together. That was the occasion recently when they hit the links.

"We're getting together more now than we ever used to," Kyrle said.

And while Dan benefits from Kyrle's 14 years on the job, the older brother finds there are advantages for him as well.

"I get rejuvenated when I see his enthusiasm," he said.

E-mail Mary T. Robbins at mrobbins@patuxent.com.

<http://www.northeastbooster.com>

**'I was excited when I
got in, but I was
more excited when
Dan was hired and
that I was the one to
get to tell him.'**

*Kyrle Preis,
fire lieutenant*

**WORCESTER COUNTY
MESSENGER**

POCOMOKE CITY, MD
WEEKLY 3,200
SEP 15 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Pocomoke Fire Company wins awards in 23rd annual muster

SALISBURY - The Twenty-Third annual Great Salisbury Fireman's Muster was held on September 11-12, at city park in Salisbury. Members of the Pocomoke City Volunteer Fire Company who attended the two-day event include: Dickie Gladding, Matt Esham, Corey Dean, John Powers, Joe Donoway, Adam Howard, Eric Denston, Larry Sterling, Rodney Sharpley, Billy Young and Dale Abell. Others that attended and represented the fire company in the competition include: Gina Dean, Jenny Layton, Aggie Parks, Leigh Ann Baker, Kim Layton, Amy Davis and Laurie Kamps.

Sunday's events included competition that related to a fire ground operation. The Pocomoke representatives walked away with a number of awards:

Barrel Race (using hose line water pressure to move a barrel along a stretched rope: Men - 1st place; women - 1st place.

Mystery event (water relay using buckets) Ladies - 3rd place; Drafting: Ladies - 3rd place.

Midnight alarm (fire fighters put on their turnout gear, get in the fire truck, move to a designated area, pull the hose off the truck, pump water and knock a target over) Men - 2nd place; Women - 3rd place.

EMS event: Coed - 2nd place.



Capital Clipping Service

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Pastor is Garrett County's 'most beautiful'

The Rev. David Moon a longtime volunteer

JENNIFER RALEY

TIMES NEWS STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — The Rev. David Moon remains in a state of amazement about being named the "Most Beautiful Person" in Garrett County, an annual award given for volunteerism.

"I was totally surprised; it was the last thing that I expected," said Moon.

Other people in the community are not surprised at all because he has been a volunteer in the community for years.

"He has a lot of different suits I guess you would say," said his wife, Leora Moon.

**"He deserves it
... You could
call him in the
middle of the
night and he'd
be right there
for you."**

Connie Herman,

Emergency medical technician

Pastor of Fairview Church, president of the Southern Garrett Rescue Squad, carpenter, hospital volunteer, mentor and friend are just a few of Moon's many roles.

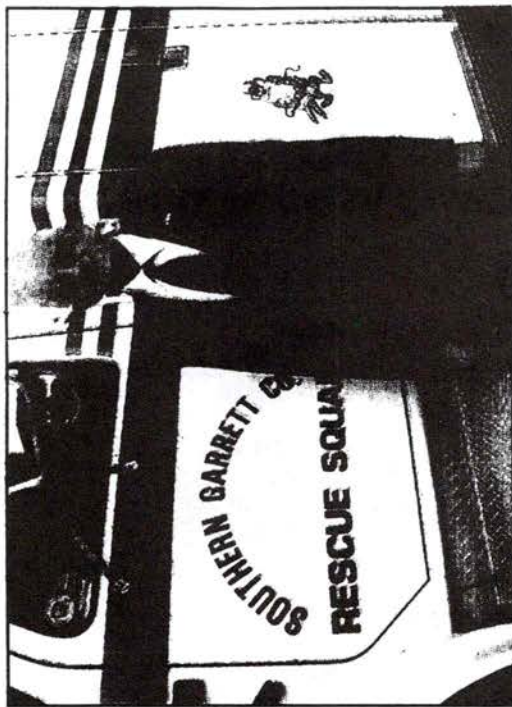
"I just love helping people," said Moon.

Emergency Medical Technician Connie Herman, who has volunteered on the rescue squad with Moon for five years, is excited about Moon's award.

"He deserves it. He's a papa to everybody. You could call him in the middle of the night and he'd be right there for you. He's always here to cheer up the EMTs," said Herman.

Moon, an EMT, has helped the rescue squad receive funding for its new building. He has served as a congrega-

■ SEE PASTOR - 10A



Wesley Haines/Times-News

The Rev. David Moon, who has been chosen as Garrett County's "Most Beautiful Person," stands outside the Southern Garrett Rescue Squad in Oakland. He also is an emergency medical technician.

Pastor: *Winner totally surprised by award*

CONTINUED FROM 1A

A

tional moderator, repaired homes in the community, visited patients in the hospital and served as a mentor to children.

Moon hopes that the next generation will be active in volunteerism.

"I would tell them to get with it. It's one of the most rewarding things you'll ever get," said Moon.

Despite Moon's numerous responsibilities, he always finds time to help out those in need. Moon said that he is "just alert 24-7."

"I still tell him no isn't in his vocabulary," his wife said.

With his busy schedule, Moon does not have much free time, but when he does have a rare spare moment he enjoys carpentry and "relaxing with the cows" on his farm.

"You wouldn't want to meet a better man than him," said Donna Sisler, who resides near Fairview Church.

Moon was one of six people nominated for the award and he will represent Garrett County in the Maryland You Are Beautiful statewide ceremony in Annapolis next month.

"It's going to be exciting and challenging," said Moon.

Jennifer Raley can be reached at jraley@times-news.com.

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
THURSDAY 6,750
SEP 16 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Service will honor firemen

Daily Banner

EMMITSBURG - Three Maryland firefighters will be among the 107 heroes honored at the official national tribute to America's fallen firefighters. The 23rd annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Oct. 3 at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, will remember firefighters from 34 states and Guam who died in the line of duty during 2003.

The three Maryland firefighters who will be honored are:

Dougie Thomas, 41, assistant chief, Kent Island Volunteer Fire Department, who died July 9, 2003, from complications of spinal and neck injuries suffered in a fire truck accident while responding to a

fire call in September, 2001. A lifetime member of the department, he had served 25 years, including many years as an officer and several as chief.

Thomas F. Brown, 55, career fire specialist, Baltimore County Fire Department, who died Dec. 18, 2003, when he suffered a heart attack at home after responding to several calls.

Nadar Ali Hammett, 29, career ERT, Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department, who died Dec. 1, 2003, when his car was struck by another vehicle as he returned home from a required paramedic class.

The public Memorial Service will begin at 10 a.m. (EDT). Further information is available at www.firehero.org.



Capital Clipping Service

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Capitol Heights provides 24-hour paramedic service

The Capitol Heights Volunteer Fire Department acquired a new ambulance on Sept. 5.

Prince George's County funded the ambulance for the fire station, which is located at 6061 Central Ave. Volunteer firefighter **Kenny**

Cole said the ambulance is equipped to allow paramedics to administer emergency help.

"There'll be a paramedic on the ambulance to give advanced life support," he said.

The station now has two paramedics per shift working four shifts a day, he added. Paramedics are now available 24 hours a day.

Prior to the new ambulance, the Capitol Heights station had a regular ambulance without any paramedic.



Community Notebook

by Courtney A. Burns

GAITHERSBURG, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
SEP 17 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Adventist to keep working for center approval

by Jacqueline Mah

Staff Writer

Deborah Yancer, president of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, said she was "disappointed" the state health care commission voted down her hospital's proposed Germantown emergency facility this week but vowed to keep working to get the project approved.

The Maryland Health Care Commission voted 10-1 Tuesday to deny Adventist Health Care's proposal to open an emergency care center in Germantown.

Commissioner Robert Moffit cast the lone vote in favor of the proposed facility, said commission Director Barbara McLean.

"I am very disappointed," Yancer said. "The responses from the commission have focused on Baltimore and Baltimore's needs. This is about Montgomery County," one of the fastest growing parts of the state, she said.

McLean said the commissioners felt that Adventist had not explored other options. The commissioners recommended that Adventist officials look

into other solutions, such as an urgent care facility, which would not include the five in-patient beds in Adventist's proposal.

The commissioners also took issue with the hospital rate-setting structure that Adventist proposed to finance the facility, McLean said.

Adventist officials said a five-bed emergency room is the only solution. An urgent care facility without the hospital rate structure would not be financially viable, they said.

"The community does not need an urgent care facility," Yancer said.



Yancer

Yancer said Adventist officials will continue to push for Germantown's own 24-hour emergency center, the shell of which is already standing on Route 118 near Middlebrook Road in Germantown Town Center. Adventist proposed the facility May 2003 to act as a satellite to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, officials said.

"People need to be able to get [to an emergency room] and get through the traffic," Yancer said. "So we need another emergency room upcountry."

Yancer said she plans to work with public officials, legislators and the community to garner support for the project. In recent months, she said she has received about 10,000 responses from community residents supporting the proposed facility.

"You'll hear more from us," Yancer said. Adventist may choose to resubmit its application to the commission.

See **Adventist**, page B-7

ADVENTIST

Continued from B-1

Adventist spokesman Robert Jepson said the commission declined two requests to come to the community, hold a public forum and visit the proposed site.

This would have given them the opportunity to see what Adventist officials believe is a great need for emergency care, Jepson said.

However, McLean said Adventist issued the invitations after the proposal had become a contested case, meaning other opposing parties — Suburban Hospital,

Montgomery General Hospital and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield of Maryland — became involved.

"In fairness to all, we felt that the evidence was in," McLean said. Jepson said the need for additional emergency care is not being addressed.

"The hospital has a responsibility to meet the community's needs. And this hasn't just become a need. It's reached a crisis point," he said.

There is no Montgomery County representation on the Baltimore-based commission, Jepson noted.

A report from a state regulatory

agency received by the commission on June 10 recommended that the commission deny Adventist's application to open the facility. That report was presented again at Tuesday's hearing.

Shady Grove is a 281-bed hospital with more than 87,000

more than three times the national average for hospitals its size, Jepson said. About 30,000 of those visitors come from Germantown each year.

The hospital is second in the state only to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in the number

MARYLAND REGISTER

ANNAPOLIS, MD
BI-WEEKLY 3,600
SEP 17 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Title 30

**MARYLAND INSTITUTE
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES SYSTEMS (MIEMSS)**

**Subtitle 04 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES**

30.04.01 Definitions

Authority: Education Article, §13-516(d).
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[04-143-F]

On August 10, 2004, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 under **COMAR 30.04.01 Definitions**. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 31:12 Md. R. 944 — 945 (June 11, 2004), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: September 27, 2004.

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.
Executive Director
State Emergency Medical Services Board

**Subtitle 04 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES**

**30.04.02 Advanced Life Support Education
Programs**

Authority: Education Article, §13-516(d).
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[04-144-F]

On August 10, 2004, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .12 under **COMAR 30.04.02 Advanced Life Support Education Programs**. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 31:12 Md. R. 945 — 946 (June 11, 2004), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: September 27, 2004.

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.
Executive Director
State Emergency Medical Services Board

**Subtitle 04 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES**

30.04.05 Continuing Education

Authority: Education Article, §13-516(d).
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[04-142-F]

On August 10, 2004, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.04.05 Continuing Education**. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 31:12 Md. R. 946 (June 11, 2004), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: September 27, 2004.

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.
Executive Director
State Emergency Medical Services Board

MARYLAND REGISTER

ANNAPOLIS, MD
BI-WEEKLY 3,600
SEP 17 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Title 30 MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS (MIEMSS)

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

Authority: Education Article, §§13-509 and 13-516,
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[04-258-P]

The State Emergency Medical Services Board proposes to amend:

- (1) Regulation .01 under **COMAR 30.03.01 Definitions**;
- (2) Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.03.02 Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs**; and
- (3) Regulation .06 under **COMAR 30.03.03 Medical Directors**. This proposed action was considered and approved by the State Emergency Medical Services Board at its regular meeting on November 12, 2003.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to set out, in conjunction with proposed regulations concerning a specialty care level of commercial ambulance service transports, the requirements for jurisdictional EMS operational programs conducting such transports. It additionally addresses appropriate medical direction for specialty care transports.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to John Young, Director, State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation, 653 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1536, or call (410) 706-8511, or fax to (410) 706-8552 or email to jyoung@miemss.org. A public hearing will not be held. Comments will be accepted through Monday, October 18, 2004.

30.03.01 Definitions.**.01 Definitions.**

A. In this subtitle, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) — (14) (text unchanged)

(15) "Specialty care transport" has the meaning defined in COMAR 30.09.01B(1).

[(15)] (16) (text unchanged)

30.03.02 Jurisdictional EMS Operational Programs**.02 Criteria for Approval as a Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program.**

A. To be eligible for approval an applicant:

(1) — (5) (text unchanged)

(6) Shall provide remedial education as necessary for affiliated EMS providers; [and]

(7) If also seeking approval as an emergency medical dispatch program shall utilize:

(a) (text unchanged)

(b) An emergency medical dispatch priority dispatch approved by MIEMSS[.]; and

(8) If also seeking approval as a specialty care transport program, meet the requirements of COMAR 30.09.14.

B. A jurisdictional EMS operational program may not provide specialty care transport unless:

(1) Approved as a specialty care transport ambulance service; or

(2) The following conditions are met:

(a) A licensed or specialty care transport ambulance service is not available within a clinically reasonable time, as determined by the referring physician;

(b) Health care providers authorized by law to provide the level of care required are available to staff the ambulance; and

(c) Required specialty equipment is available.

[B.] C. (text unchanged)

30.03.03 Medical Direction**.06 Credentialing of EMS Providers.**

A. — B. (text unchanged)

C. The medical director of a specialty care transport program may delegate aspects of credentialing to an associate medical director or Maryland licensed critical care transport nurse.

[C.] D. — [F.] G. (text unchanged)

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.
Executive Director
MIEMSS

Subtitle 04 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND COURSES**Notice of Proposed Action**

[04-259-P]

The State Emergency Medical Services Board proposes to:

(1) Amend Regulation .01 under COMAR 30.04.01 Definitions; and

(2) Adopt new Regulations .01 — .02 under a new chapter, COMAR 30.04.08 Specialty Care Transport Education Courses. This proposed action was considered and approved by the State Emergency Medical Services Board at its regular meeting on November 12, 2003.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to set forth the requirements for an Emergency Medical Services Education Program to provide education in specialty care transports.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments on the proposed action may be sent to John Young, Director, State Office of Commercial Ambulance Licensing and Regulation, 653 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1536, or call (410) 706-8511 or fax to (410) 706-8552 or email to jyoung@miemss.org. A public hearing will not be held. These comments must be received by Monday, October 18, 2004.

30.04.01 Definitions

Authority: Education Article, §§13-509 and 13-516,
Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Definitions.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1) — (30) (text unchanged)

(31) "Specialty care transport" has the meaning stated in COMAR 30.09.01.02B(1).

30.04.08 Specialty Care Transport Education Courses

Authority: Education Article, §§13-509 and 13-516,
Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Scope

This chapter governs ALS education programs approved by the EMS Board which have been approved to provide education in specialty care transport.

.02 Requirements.

A. In order to be approved to provide a specialty care transport education course, an education program shall:

(1) Meet all requirements for an ALS education program found in COMAR 30.04.02 except for the requirement in COMAR 30.04.02.12F(2)(d) to conduct at least one full length ALS course every 2 years;

(2) *Have a medical director who, in addition to the other requirements for medical directors in COMAR 30.04.02.06B:*

(a) *Has education and experience in the care of critically ill patients; and*

(b) *Uses specialty physicians as appropriate;*

(3) *Use a curriculum which has been approved by the EMS Board; and*

(4) *Use instructors who:*

(a) *Meet the requirements of COMAR 30.04.02; and*

(b) *Have additional education, experience, and expertise in the care and transport of a critically ill patient.*

ROBERT R. BASS, M.D.
Executive Director
MIEMSS

Title 33

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Subtitle 04 INSPECTION AND COPYING OF RECORDS

33.04.02 Confidentiality of Certain Information

Authority: Election Law Article, §§2-102(b)(4), 3-506(a)(1) and (b), and 3-507(b); State Government Article, §§10-613(b) and 10-615(2)(i); Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[04-253-P]

The State Board of Elections proposes to amend Regulations .02 — .07 under **COMAR 33.04.02 Confidentiality of Certain Information**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to change the entity authorized to make certain records confidential.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Joe Torre, Regulations Coordinator, PO Box 6486, Annapolis, Maryland 21401, or call (410) 269-2847, or fax to (410) 974-2019, or email to jtorre@elections.state.md.us. Comments must be received not later than 5 p.m., October 18, 2004. No public hearing has been scheduled.

.02 Persons Entitled to Seek Confidentiality.

A. — C. (text unchanged)

D. Victim of or Witness to Felony.

(1) Subject to appropriate documentation satisfactory to the [election director] *local board*, an individual may request confidentiality if the individual is a victim of or a wit-

ness to a felony or a delinquent act that, if committed by an adult, would be a felony.

(2) (text unchanged)

E. Others. Subject to appropriate documentation satisfactory to the [election director] *local board*, an individual may request confidentiality on the grounds that the disclosure of the individual's residence address or telephone number:

(1) — (2) (text unchanged)

.03 Applications.

A. Form. A person seeking to keep a record confidential shall apply in writing to the [election director] *local board*, on a form approved by the State Administrator.

B. (text unchanged)

.04 Consideration of Request.

A. Discretion Required.

(1) Except as provided in §A(2) of this regulation, the [election director] *local board* shall determine, in [his or her] *its* discretion, whether to grant a request for confidentiality.

(2) The [election director] *local board* shall automatically grant a request made by the State on behalf of a victim or witness under Regulation .02D(2) of this chapter.

B. Verification.

(1) The [election director] *local board* shall:

(a) — (c) (text unchanged)

(2) — (3) (text unchanged)

C. Confidentiality Pending Decision.

(1) Pending a decision on the application, the [election director] *local board* shall take steps to assure that the records are not revealed to the public.

(2) If a request is made for access to a record for which an application for confidentiality has been made under this chapter, the [election director] *local board* shall complete the application review process before granting or denying the request.

(3) (text unchanged)

.05 Confidentiality Procedures.

A. Requirement. Each [election director] *local board* shall adopt procedures and methods for ensuring that confidential records are not revealed to the public.

B. — D. (text unchanged)

.06 Status Reviews.

A. Periodic Review. [An election director] *The local board* shall review all records designated as confidential under this chapter on a regular basis, at least twice during each 4-year election cycle.

B. Review on Request for Access. If a request is made for access to a record designated as confidential under this chapter, the [election director] *local board* shall review the confidentiality designation before denying the request.

C. Scope of Review. In this review, the [election director] *local board* shall:

(1) — (2) (text unchanged)

.07 Revocation of Designation.

A. In General. If, as the result of a review or for any other reason, [an election director] *a local board* decides to revoke a designation of confidentiality, the [election director] *local board* shall give the registered voter or candidate an opportunity to:

 baltimoresun.com

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/annearundel/bal-ar.drunk19sep19,0,544195.story?coll=bal-local-arundel>

Alcohol deaths rise on roads

Drunken-driving fatalities up from 11 to 25 last year; Police say no cause for alarm; Worst period for incidents in the county since 1993

By Sarah Schaffer
Sun Staff

September 19, 2004

The number of deaths caused by crashes involving alcohol climbed drastically last year in Anne Arundel County, making it the county's worst year for fatal drunken-driving crashes since 1993, according to recently released state figures.

Anne Arundel County recorded 25 alcohol-related traffic fatalities last year, up from 11 the year before, according to the Maryland State Highway Administration.

"It's a very frightening thing," said Leslie Thomas, a spokeswoman for the Central Maryland chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "I would say that people who drive on our roads should be very, very concerned."

Although the number more than doubled in a 12-month span, state officials say the county has no more of a problem with drunken driving than other Maryland jurisdictions.

"Just because [the number of fatalities] is up one year doesn't mean that it won't be down again," said State Highway Administration spokesman David Buck, pointing out seesawing statistics in a number of counties.

Prince George's County recorded 29 alcohol-related traffic fatalities last year, a drop from 35 the year before but still the most in the state. Over the previous decade, the number had risen as high as 49 and dropped to as low as 25.

Baltimore County was second in alcohol-related traffic fatalities last year, with 27; Anne Arundel was third. Among other Baltimore-area jurisdictions, Baltimore City had 11, Carroll County had four, Harford County had three and Howard County had two.

According to the state figures, seven of the 24 Maryland jurisdictions had increases in alcohol-related traffic fatalities, though no others were in the Baltimore area.

Buck said one year of unusual numbers, high or low, does not constitute a trend. He said state officials are most concerned about rural counties where rates of alcohol-related traffic fatalities are much higher

than in congested areas.

He pointed to figures showing that Garrett County had the highest fatality rate last year, 2.67 per 100 million vehicles miles traveled. Anne Arundel had a rate of 1.06.

Lt. William R. Krampf of the Anne Arundel County police agreed that the rising number of fatalities in the county, although unfortunate, is not cause for alarm.

"As far as I'm concerned ... [the number] is pretty average," said Krampf, who heads the department's traffic safety section.

According to the State Highway Administration, Arundel has averaged 20 alcohol-related fatalities a year since 1992. The most was 27 in 1993, and the fewest was 11 in 2002.

Krampf said police have addressed the issue in the past by targeting what he called the region's "problem areas," where a number of fatal crashes have occurred.

The department also conducts regular sobriety checkpoints and driver education initiatives, some of which are funded in part by the State Highway Administration.

As of Thursday, the county had recorded 28 traffic fatalities this year.

Krampf was not certain how many were alcohol-related, but he said he thinks the year-end figure will be lower than last year's.

Krampf said drunken-driving prevention programs have had an impact but that he thinks the public does not view drunken driving as a serious problem.

"Drinking alcohol is legal. And ... until you get groups of people to understand that they need to have designated drivers, those tragedies will occur," Krampf said. "You're going to have people who think, 'This is not going to happen to me.'"

Buck agreed that a cultural shift is needed to further reduce the death toll and added that education and outreach initiatives will help to make the change over many years.

"Eventually," Buck said, "it will become a change that is part of [the public's] values, [but] it takes a lot of time to get these things through to people."

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Capital Clipping Service

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St. Mary's Firefighter's Rescuers Featured in Upcoming Movie, Oprah Show

CHICAGO --- A whirlwind 24 hours last week featured two Prince George's County Firefighters being recognized for their heroic actions that brought John Travolta and Oprah Winfrey to tears.

On Monday, Fire Lieutenant Kenneth Ward and Emergency Response Technician (ERT) Philip Bird were asked to join the Departments Spokesperson, Mark Brady, on a "recruitment trip" that would require an overnight stay.

After having obtained approval from Acting Fire Chief Darrell C. Odom, the trio departed Baltimore Washington International Airport on Monday at 2:30 PM on a flight to Detroit, Michigan.

Not fully believing their involvement in a "recruitment trip", the two firefighters were told by Brady they were also going to participate in filming a documentary on training involving "Rapid Intervention", (a team of firefighters that are prepared and ready to be deployed should a situation deteriorate and immediate, rapid intervention is required at the scene of fires and other incidents).

The three members of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department arrived at Detroit Engine Company 5-Rescue Squad 2 at Alexandrine and Cass Street at about 5:00 PM and were greeted by the Detroit Firefighters that were curious as to all the activity, as was Lt. Ward and ERT Bird.

A film production crew was at the fire station disguised with the task of interviewing firefighters about "Rapid Intervention". In reality, the film crew was part

with their "wildest dreams coming true".

While filming an interview with Lt. Ward and ERT Bird, a loud voice was heard throughout the fire station, "Does anyone here know Ken Ward and Phil Bird?" The two firefighters turned to see who was asking and ended up face to face with John Travolta.

John Travolta, Joaquin Phoenix, Jacinda Barrett, Robert Patrick and other crewmembers from "Ladder 49" surprised the two Prince George's Firefighters with their impromptu entrance.

John Travolta informed the two PGFD members that they would be making an appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show the next morning in Chicago, IL and that he, John Travolta, would fly them on board his private Boeing 707 aircraft.

After about 45 minutes of the actors greeting firefighters, paramedics and police officers, the contingent left Detroit Engine Company 5-Rescue Squad 2 and departed for Metro Airport for their flight to Chicago.

The two firefighters were wined and dined on-board and were given the opportunity to explore all the unique features on the custom built aircraft including John Travolta's private bedroom, bathrooms and dining areas.

After having arrived in Chicago on Monday evening, the PGFD crew was taken to the Oprah Winfrey Show that is filmed at Harpo Studios early the following morning. Another surprise awaited them; their wives joined the firefighters; Robin Ward and Kristen Bird, after having been flown into Chicago by the Oprah

Winfrey Show staff that morning.

The taping of the show started promptly at 9:00 AM and lasted just over an hour. In addition to Oprah Winfrey, the PGFD crew was joined by John Travolta, the crew from "Ladder 49" and PGFD Fire Lieutenant "Dino" Mahaffey for a special presentation that was quite simply "overwhelming and emotional". The segment is scheduled to air on Monday, September 20, 2004, at 4:00 PM.

Fire Lieutenant Kenneth Ward had an opportunity to comment on the rescue of his friend and colleague and stated, "ERT Bird and myself were part of a team of firefighters and paramedics that came to the aid of Lieutenant Mahaffey the evening he was injured, we accept this gratitude on behalf of all those involved."

In Prince George's County, Acting Fire Chief Darrell C. Odom added, "The incident in which Fire Lieutenant Mahaffey was critically injured is currently being reviewed and under consideration for recognition at the Public Safety Valor Awards for all the individuals that were involved."

He continued by saying, "Having such notable and prominent individuals as John Travolta and Oprah Winfrey recognize the efforts of firefighters is gratifying and appreciated, and not just in Prince George's County, it is appreciated by firefighters everywhere."

The Prince George's contingent departed Chicago at 2:30 PM for a return to Prince George's County, twenty-four hours after they started this amazing journey.



Lt. Dino Mahaffey,
of Mechanicsville
Photo courtesy of PG FD

of The Oprah Winfrey Show preparing a segment on firefighting heroes to be televised with a promo for the soon to be released "Ladder 49" movie. This entire event had been set up over the past several days and had been kept quiet, at the request of The Oprah Winfrey Show, with the exception of Brady, Acting Fire Chief Odom and The Oprah Winfrey Show production team. The Oprah Winfrey Show goes to great extremes to keep their storyline under wraps and surprise guests


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Today | This Week

Saving lives

Medical study proves we need more defibrillators in all public places

Sept. 20, 2004 12:00 AM

Sometimes minutes *really* count.

When a person collapses with cardiac arrest, about the only way to get the heart beating again is with a shock from a defibrillator.

Every minute of delay cuts the chance of survival 7 to 10 percent. By the time paramedics arrive, it's often too late.

Just 5 percent of victims manage to pull through after sudden cardiac arrest. It kills 250,000 Americans a year.

Those grim statistics spurred efforts to put automated external defibrillators, which a layperson can use, in public places.

But the question lingered: Do the defibrillators really make a difference? The answer is in. And it's such a deafening "yes" that we should make a strong push for widespread distribution of the devices.

A study published last month in the *New England Journal of Medicine* looked at the effects of putting defibrillators in recreation centers, hotels and other public places. Victims of cardiac arrest were almost twice as likely to survive when they were treated with cardiopulmonary resuscitation and a defibrillator compared with CPR alone.

It's harder to say the word "defibrillator" than to use one. The latest models have audio and literally tell you exactly what to do. There's no risk of shocking someone by mistake: The machines check for a heartbeat and will not administer a jolt unless necessary.

The price isn't cheap, but it's hardly prohibitive: about \$2,000 for some of the most common models, plus some costs for maintenance, training and medical oversight. The machines aren't meant to be stand-alones but be part of an overall emergency plan.

As for liability, all states have adopted legal protection for "good Samaritans" who use defibrillators, and Arizona has one of the stronger laws.

There are compelling reasons to include schools among the places that routinely have defibrillators. Besides the staff members who work there, schools often have adults on site for their own and community gatherings. There are also rare cases when a student's life will be saved. Students who are hit in the chest with a ball, for instance, may go into cardiac arrest. With defibrillation, they recover completely.

And now, it's easier to get a defibrillator for home use. Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration made the sensible decision to stop requiring a doctor's

prescription for the average person to buy the machine.

If a person collapses, though, the first step is still to call 911. And it's important to be able to do CPR.

But overall, Gordon Ewy, director of the Sarver Heart Center at the University of Arizona, says having a defibrillator on hand is "a great idea."

It's like a fire extinguisher, he says. You still call emergency services, but you may be able to prevent a disaster before they arrive.

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▼ ADVERTISING

Firefighter Picked as New Montgomery Chief

By Katherine Shaver

Washington Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, September 22, 2004; Page B03

Thomas W. Carr Jr., a Montgomery County firefighter and paramedic for nearly 30 years, was named chief of the county's Fire and Rescue Service yesterday.

Carr, the first person to lead a united force of paid and volunteer firefighters in the county, was appointed by Montgomery Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D). He said one of his initial tasks will be gaining the trust of the several hundred volunteer firefighters, many of whom had fought the creation of his new position.

"It all starts with good, strong communication," Carr said.

Most large urban jurisdictions have switched to all paid firefighters. But volunteers in Montgomery have retained much community support and significant political clout, fighting off several attempts to consolidate authority under one paid chief. The 19 volunteer chiefs have shared power with a career fire chief, a civilian fire administrator and a seven-member Fire and Rescue Commission. The County Council voted unanimously in May to unite career and volunteer firefighters under one chief starting in January.

Carr, 50, of Colesville, has been chief of the county's 1,000 career firefighters since 2003. He takes over the new job at a time when the county is struggling with aging fire engines, the potential threat of terrorist attacks and recent attention to the fact that, in an increasingly diverse county, white men make up 89 percent of its recent firefighting recruit class.

Michael J. Weiner, president of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department, said Carr will have to work hard to gain volunteers' trust.

"We've certainly had our disagreements in the past with the county and Chief Carr and a number of policies that were implemented without our input," Weiner said. "... This is not something that's going to be healed overnight. These relationships have been festering for dozens of years."

Ken Holden, a volunteer member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and president of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association, said the "overwhelming majority" of volunteer firefighters support Carr.

"I won't sugarcoat it and say every volunteer in Montgomery County loves him," Holden said. "Some people wanted an outsider, but the majority are confident in Tom Carr and his ability to lead both groups."

Duncan also appointed Arthur Holmes Jr., a former planning commission chairman, as director of the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation. Holmes, 73, of Olney, recently oversaw Duncan's "Go Montgomery" program aimed at easing traffic congestion.

Holmes's position pays \$155,000. Carr's salary will be \$161,000.

MARYLAND INDEPENDENT

WALDORF, MD
WEDNESDAY 25,000
SEP 22 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Questionable 'benefits' of interconnecting neighborhoods

Recently, the Charles County commissioners attended a meeting with residents of the Constitution Hills neighborhood to discuss "the benefits of interconnecting neighborhoods." The commissioners actually said that the benefit of connecting neighborhoods would be to increase traffic in neighborhoods and relieve traffic on roads like Route 228 and U.S. 301.

Wait a minute, let me get this concept straight: The commissioners want to put more cars on roads that have children playing on or near them and less cars on the roads that children do not play on? The commissioners want to put more traffic on roads that are not designed to handle higher traffic volume? The commissioners want to put more traf-

fic on roads during morning rush hour when children will be loading and unloading school buses? The residents of Constitution Hills do not believe that a dead or maimed child is a benefit to anybody.

Why, then, would the commissioners pursue such a course of action? Well, only one real answer was provided: To provide better access for emergency medical services to neighborhoods by having more than one entrance. However, when it was pointed out that this line of argument presumes that there is currently a lack of adequate EMS service to the neighborhood, the commissioners were noticeably silent.

So, the reason for interconnecting neighborhoods is to increase EMS access, yet, there is

no current need because EMS services are able to respond within their targeted time frames. It is ironic that the additional traffic within neighborhoods that the commissioners are pushing for is likely to result in more traffic accidents, some potentially involving pedestrians and children, thus resulting in more frequent EMS calls. But, would not the better plan be to limit those accidents and save lives in the first place? Less traffic equals fewer EMS calls.

The commissioners have estimated that after the connection, traffic in Constitution Hills will increase by only 7 percent over current levels. The residents of Constitution Hills believe that this is a gross underestimation.

The new neighborhood will ul-

timately feature 384 new homes, more than twice the size of Constitution Hills (141 homes). We believe that the traffic increase will be in the range of 50 to 75 percent. But, if the increase is only 7 percent as the commissioners want us to believe, then they have provided the best argument against any connection. If the ultimate gain after the connection is simply to funnel only 7 percent (leaving the remaining 93 percent to use alternate routes) of the new traffic through Constitution Hills, then why bother at all with a connection?

The commissioners are apparently not concerned for ensuring the safety of children within our neighborhood.

Tim Hughes, Waldorf

GAZETTE (DAMASCUS)

DAMASCUS, MD
WEEKLY 7,500
SEP 22 2004



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Upcounty shouldn't have to fight for basic services

*Open letter to County Councilman
Michael Knapp:*

I have heard that Adventist Health Care's emergency facility has been denied again. What will it take for the "powers that be" to recognize the situation here in Germantown?

Finally there's a service provider that is on the ball enough to proactively solve a problem for our community (i.e., Shady Grove Adventist sees the clear need for an upcounty emergency facility to support the needs of our residents, and alleviate the overcrowding at their main facility), and they are shot down.

I just find it very difficult to believe that the Maryland Health Care Commission, with no representation from our county, can dictate our fate.

The infrastructure in the upcounty is inadequate to support our rapidly growing population. My kids attend an elementary school with more than 1,000 students, 17 portable classrooms, and we had to fight hard for two years to get approval for the completion of a six-classroom wing that is finally under construction, in spite of the overwhelming evidence that we

would need it as the school was being built just four years ago.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville is the closest hospital to Germantown (it is approximately seven miles from my home), with Suburban Hospital and Holy Cross Hospital each about 30 minutes from here (assuming no traffic). Why should I have drive for a minimum of 15 minutes (again, assuming no traffic) to get to the nearest hospital emergency facility for emergency services when I could drive for three minutes down Route 118?

According to a recent Gazette article ("State health care board denies Germantown emergency center," Sept. 15), Shady Grove Adventist Hospital's emergency room handles three times the national average of emergency visits each year — second in the state only to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore — with more than 30,000 patients from Germantown.

Not only would this facility be a benefit to the citizens of Germantown, but it would also benefit everyone in need of emergency services at the Shady Grove Hospital's main emergency room by alleviating

the overcrowding there.

It is ludicrous that the commission would make this decision without witnessing the kind of growth we are experiencing in Germantown, Boyds and Clarksburg, not to mention continuing expansion in Rockville and Gaithersburg. It's about time Germantown and the upcounty region gets a break and doesn't have to fight for basic resources.

Susan Burkinshaw, Germantown

The writer is president of the KingsView Village Homeowners Association and treasurer of Matsunaga Elementary School PTA.

DAILY RECORD

BALTIMORE, MD
WEDNESDAY 18,000
SEP 22 2004



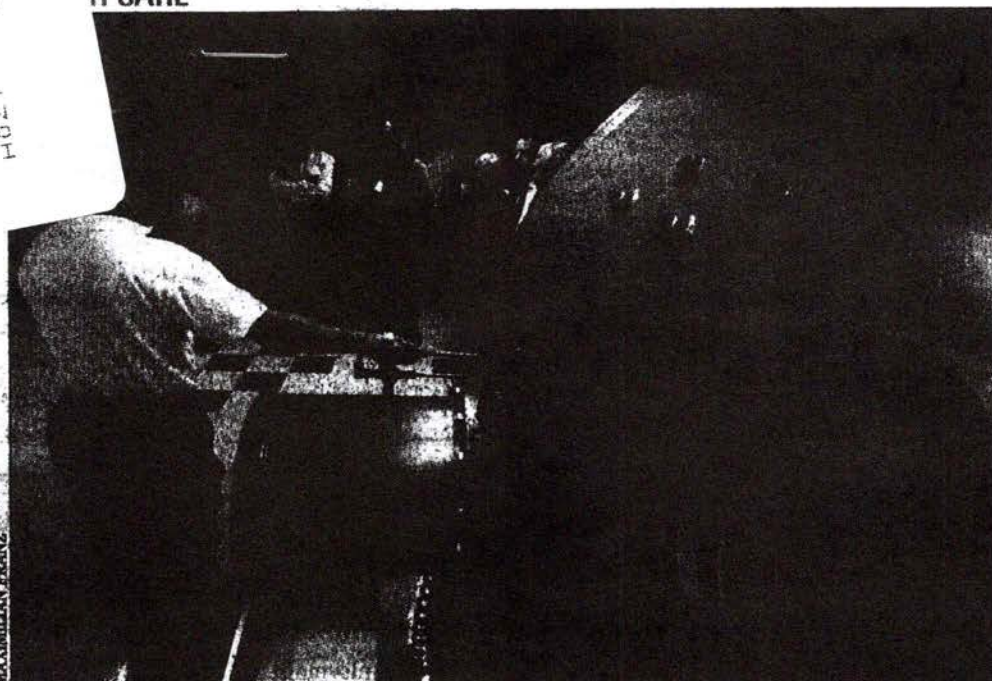
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H CARE



On a tour of Baltimore's R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center by participants of the University of Maryland School of Medicine's International Terrorism and Trauma Conference, Bill Gearheart, hyperbaric chamber technician, talks about the effects of hyperbaric pressure on different conditions and diseases.

Preparing for the worst

UM event has lessons for handling mass trauma
547 F8

BY DEBRA GEORGE SIEDT
Daily Record Business Writer

Health experts from the United States and Great Britain are hopeful a three-day conference on terrorism and trauma at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore will benefit both countries and, eventually, the world.

The U.K.-based Royal Society of Medicine and the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington planned the conference, meant to be an annual event, to highlight how each country responds to terrorism and handles mass trauma.

The conference, which ends today, includes lectures on financing emergency pre-

paredness, resuscitating patients and managing terrorist-inflicted injuries. Northrop Grumman Corp., the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Baltimore-based Vertis Inc., a technology-based marketing company, Sallie Mae and the Emergency Medicine Interest Group at the University of Maryland sponsored the conference.

"It's an international exchange of information from real experts," said Colin F. Mackenzie, professor and director of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "We're looking at the perspective from either side of the Atlantic."

Maryland has not had to manage many

SEE HEALTH PAGE 8A

Health

Continued from page 1A

events with high numbers of fatalities, according to the state's **Office of the Chief Medical Examiner**. The state handled its largest mass fatality incident in 1987 when two trains collided in Chase, a neighborhood in eastern Baltimore County. In that accident, 175 people were injured and 16 died.

The state acknowledges the accident was not as severe as two well-known terrorism-related mass fatality incidents — the Oklahoma City bombing in which 168 people died and the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, which resulted in 3,030 deaths.

"Trauma brought us here [to the conference], but terrorism is linked to that," said Brian J. Browne, director of emergency medical services at the **University of Maryland Medical Center**.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner plans to improve technology to better respond to mass fatality incidents. It wants to link state databases and use global positioning technology to document debris and landmarks to speed response time.

Part of the conference focused on differences in how the two countries handle

terrorism, including the fact that Great Britain relies more heavily on surveillance.

"The U.S. and the U.K. have different legal policies," said Mackenzie. "They can learn from that."

Yesterday's conference schedule included a series of point/counterpoint presentations in the morning on how to treat trauma patients. Presenters discussed the use of "damage control," a method used to stabilize patients who are severely wounded, usually by gunshots or bomb blasts.

"The whole issue of how to deal with a terrorist threat is very real," said Mackenzie. "Bombing remains the most likely threat."

The approximately 40 people attending the conference concluded yesterday with tours of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, the EMS Systems Communication Center at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the Maryland Poison Center and bio-safety labs.

Today, the attendees will consider the education and training of trauma responders, research on terrorist threats and trauma and terrorist injuries.

"We're hopeful a publication will come out of the conference," said Mackenzie. "Then, other countries will be able to benefit, not just the U.S. and Great Britain."

ELDERSBURG EAGLE

ELDERSBURG, MD
WEEKLY

SEP 22 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Fire service open to review, and open to public scrutiny

I'm writing on behalf of the Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department in response to the recent column in *The Eagle* by John Culleton (Sept. 9, 2004, "If volunteer fire departments are fizzling out, what's the next step?").

First and foremost, we agree that Carroll County's Fire/EMS Service has changed dramatically over the past 30 years. In fact, over the last several years — in Sykesville alone — we have added eight full-time and 22 part-time personnel to complement the volunteer members, and to ensure quality emergency service to our fast-growing community.

Although our department does receive public funds through Carroll County government for help with salaries and operating expenses, the money we receive is not enough to cover all our expenses.

Through our annual letter drive, carnival and other fund-raising efforts, the volunteer members of our

department raise the remaining money needed to meet our increasing budgetary demands.

Mr. Culleton's suggestion that "since public money is involved, fire companies need to open their books," is a legitimate one.

What he should know is that, for at least the past 30 years that I have been an active member (I am also the department's treasurer), Sykesville's

books have been open.

That means that any member of the public can come by our department at any time and look at our monthly treasurer's report.

It's posted in plain view on the bulletin board on the first floor of our station. If that report is not sufficient, they may contact me to review our current or previous year's Federal 990 Report, which the Internal Revenue Service requires of all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

Our previous board of county commissioners forced all the volunteer fire departments in Carroll County to bill for ambulance service. Although our department was not initially pleased with this decision, we now realize that without the ambulance billing monies, we would need to increase our fund-raising efforts just to pay salaries and benefits.

As far as I know, the majority of fire departments in Carroll County use a billing company in Delaware. I am not familiar with the Ohio company that Mr. Culleton and his fami-

ly had difficulty with.

Since the inception of ambulance billing, I have been very impressed with the company Sykesville uses. Are there problems with billing from time to time? You bet there are — but in my experience, those problems have been corrected quickly and with one phone call.

I invite Mr. Culleton to drop by the Sykesville Freedom District Fire Department one day and check our bulletin board. He'll be able to review our current monthly report.

I also welcome him to call me — I'm listed in the telephone book. I'll be glad to meet with him and show him just how we spend the money we receive from Carroll County government, as well as the funds we raise ourselves.

After all, we're here to serve the community.

Dennis E. Beard,
treasurer
Sykesville Freedom District
Fire Department

Eldersburg Eagle
Web Poll

Do you believe there's a lack of affordable housing in Carroll County?

To respond to this week's question, log on to www.eldersburgeagle.com and give us your answer.

DAILY TIMES

SALISBURY, MD
THURSDAY 27, 2004
SEP 23 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Red Knights thankful for Bike Week support

The membership of Maryland Chapter 3 Red Knights International Motorcycle Club thanks those who made this year's Delmarva Bike Week an overwhelming success.

We thank the folks at Harley-Davidson of Ocean City for their support and help in raising almost \$2,000 from our second annual Mister Whippy Ice Cream Ride to Chincoteague. Money raised from this event goes to numerous charitable efforts and projects throughout the year.

Part of the money also goes into our Burn-Out Fund, established to provide aid to those on the Eastern Shore who have suffered a loss due to fire.

We thank the Maryland State Police, along with the Worcester County Sheriff's Department and the Police Departments of Ocean City, Berlin, Snow Hill and Chincoteague, for their help in traffic control and for providing public safety in all aspects of the events of Bike Week.

We thank the mayor and city council of Ocean City for allowing the 9-11 Remembrance Parade to take place, and allowing us to help Delmarva Bike Week raise nearly \$5,000 for the Ocean City Paramedics Foundation.

We thank the fire companies of Berlin and Ocean Pines for use of their aerial fire apparatus and for setting up an American flag-draped arch at the parade's entrance to Ocean Downs.

We thank "Salty" Selthoffer for inviting us to be a part of his 9-11 Memorial Service at the All-Star Chopper Show. This was a show of his support of the Red Knights and the support of the emergency services community. We were honored and proud to be a part of his event.

All in all, the efforts of the Maryland 3 Red Knights helped raise nearly \$7,000 during Delmarva Bike Week. This is money used right here on the Eastern Shore.

Lastly, the Maryland 3 Red Knights thanks Berlin, Ocean City, Ocean Pines and neighboring areas for being tolerant of Bike Week. Like any other big event of the season — Sprinfest, Senior Week, Fireman's Week, Cruisers Week and Sunfest — there are crowds, noise, traffic congestion and disruptions.

Most importantly, there is a good time with family and friends, a great opportunity for community involvement and an ever-growing overall increase in local business.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's Bike Week a success, and

thanks for the support of your Maryland 3 Red Knights.

Larry Sackadorf
Ocean City

Sackadorf is president of The Maryland 3 Red Knights, a motorcycle club made up of firefighters. Its nearly 100 members represent nearly 25 different fire companies on Delmarva. Visit www.redknightsmd3.org for more information.



Capital Clipping Service

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New safety measures in place at hospitals

Visitors limited at emergency rooms

FOR THE CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

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CUMBERLAND — New security measures are being implemented in the Western Maryland Health System emergency departments at Memorial and Sacred Heart hospitals to create a safer environment for patients and staff.

Beginning today, all entrance points to the departments will be secured with card-control access and entry will be limited to patients and their support people, as well as physicians and health system staff. Patients and their visitors will enter the department at the triage/registration area on each campus. Ambulance crews will continue to have the same access.

Many hospitals and health systems across the country are limiting visitor access to their emergency departments, and

SEE NEW - 2B

New: Visitor access limited at WMHS emergency departments

CONTINUED FROM 1B

other areas to enhance patient and employee safety," said Marlene Beard, system director for emergency services at WMHS. "Our intent is not to unfairly restrict access to patients and their families; it is to enhance our safety precautions by making sure that those who are in the emergency department have a need to be there."

All members of the medical staff and health system employees will continue to have unrestricted, immediate access to the department via their WMHS name badges, which are linked to the new

security system.

The health system has limited access to the labor and delivery unit at Memorial since the unit opened in 2000. Its card-control access system has worked well for employees and medical staff, and patients and their families appreciate the added security measure.

"Patient and employee safety is paramount to us at WMHS," concluded Beard. "The community's cooperation with these new security measures will be greatly appreciated as we strive to create a safer environment of care for our patients."

ENQUIRER - GAZETTE

UPPER MARLBORO, MD
WEEKLY 6,000
SEP 23 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Road East, the 300-lot Homeland site that extends into ~~Charles~~ County, an 800-unit senior living

See Growth, Page A-2

Oprah salutes local heroes

BY DAVID ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

547
FB

County fire personnel gathered together Monday for an emotional viewing of an "Oprah Winfrey Show" episode that included appearances from three of their own.

About 20 members of the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department congregated in the multipurpose room of the county Fire Services Building in Landover Hills to watch the episode. The show — which saluted fire heroes from across the country — featured Lt. Elmer "Dino" Mahaffey reuniting with two other county firefighters, Lt. Kenneth Ward and Emergency Response Technician Philip Bird.

The county firefighters appeared alongside Hollywood stars John Travolta, Joaquin Phoenix and Jacinda Barrett, cast members of the upcoming firefighter film "Ladder 49."

Ward and Bird participated in Mahaffey's rescue from an Oxon Hill house fire in February. On

See Oprah, Page A-2



James Gatling, Surrattsville High School security member on his walkie-talkie on Tuesday, while at the security desk. The school's five-person security team is using cameras. In a random survey of 38 counts of only six that had both side and main entrance

Branch Avenue

Woodyard Crossing complete

BY TIFFANY YOUNG
STAFF WRITER

Five new stores are set to open

will be 1
has had
two retail
"[We]

The homes will be grouped president of the Greater Acco-

Oprah

Continued from Page A-1

the show, they were credited with being the first two firefighters to reach Mahaffey as he lay unconscious in a smoke-filled second-floor bedroom.

Ward and Bird then pushed Mahaffey out a second-floor window to other firefighters who lowered him to the ground.

"It makes my heart feel good to see the love and the compassion and family bonds that firefighters have for each other," Maj. Carla Blue said after the segment.

Blue, a 15-year veteran of the department, said she and Mahaffey spent their first year on the job together.

"It's unfortunate that we had

to go through the fear of losing one of our own," she said. "It turned out to be a success story."

Today, Mahaffey is in good shape, although he is still recovering from burns and respiratory problems.

Ward and Bird did not know they would appear on the "Oprah" show. Last week they traveled to Detroit thinking they were filming a documentary about firefighters. As they participated in what they thought was an interview, Travolta and the other Ladder 49 stars appeared and told them they were to travel to Chicago for a taping of the episode. Travolta himself flew the firefighters there in his private jet.

While watching the show, the fire personnel laughed at Ward and Bird's jocular antics on the

plane. But when their comrades reunited with Mahaffey on stage, the room grew silent; eyes became moist.

On screen, the firefighters hugged each other and wept freely. Winfrey and the "Ladder 49" cast, who trained with Baltimore firefighters for several months for their roles, cried as well.

Mahaffey struggled to keep his composure as he presented Ward and Bird with the department's highest honor, the Medal of Valor, for their actions.

"Ward and Bird are symbols of all the firefighters and paramedics involved in the rescue," fire department spokesman Mark Brady said after the episode.

E-mail David Anderson at danderson@gazette.net.

tes,LLC
estors

301-595-3838

301-595-4599

3@AOL.COM

Stores

Continued from Page A-1

the construction.

"I would love to see more stores coming over here," said Beatty. "The more people who come through this

Maryland



Governor names new health secretary

By TOM STUCKEY
Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — Gov. Robert Ehrlich chose a Maryland man with extensive experience in the federal government to be the state's new health secretary.

The appointment of S. Anthony "Tony" McCann was announced by the governor Wednesday. McCann will replace Nelson Sabatini, who is retiring from his state position at the end of September.

Like Sabatini, McCann comes from a management background instead of a medical background, although much of his work in the administrations

of former Presidents Bush and Reagan and as a congressional staffer involved health care management and budgeting.

McCann said he is taking a job with a lot of challenges, including "a lot of problems we have to deal with in terms of Medicaid." But he said couldn't begin to talk about how the challenges of the job should be dealt with "until I get over there and start understanding where the department is."

Henry Fawell, a spokesman for the governor, said one of the things that impressed Ehrlich was that McCann oversaw a budget of more than \$400 billion as an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and developed

a \$32 billion budget as chief financial officer for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Those budgets dwarf the \$6 billion budget of the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that McCann will inherit from Sabatini.

Ehrlich also announced the appointments Wednesday of two deputy health secretaries — State Democratic Delegate Van T. Mitchell of Charles County and John G. Folkemer, the state Medicaid director.

Sabatini was secretary of health for former Gov. William Donald Schaefer and again for Ehrlich, and he drew praise from both men at Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Public

Works.

Ehrlich said Sabatini promised to head up the health department for one year to help the new administration get off to a good start, and "I almost leveraged that to two years."

"Nelson is the best in the country," he said.

Sabatini said he is not retiring and plans to work as a consultant in the health care field. He will divide his time between Annapolis and Hawaii.

McCann, a native of Montgomery County, is currently director of financial affairs in The Smithsonian Institution's office for American museums and national programs.

He has held a variety of posi-

tions in Washington, beginning in 1973 as a program director for health programs with the National Association of Counties.

In addition to his stints as an assistant secretary for the VA and the Department of Health and Human Services, he also worked for two congressional committees and was deputy director of the American International Health Alliance, a Washington-based organization that promotes volunteer efforts to improve health conditions around the world.

McCann, 61, has a B.A. degree from Lake Forest College in Illinois and a master's degree from Syracuse University.

Ehrlich nominates ex-federal official for state health post

Silver Spring resident
who served under Reagan,
Bush to start next month

By DAVID NITKIN
SUN STAFF

A veteran federal official who held department management posts in the Reagan and first Bush administrations was nominated by Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. yesterday to replace departing state health secretary Nelson J. Sabatini.

S. Anthony McCann, 61, would earn \$155,000 a year as secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a job he is scheduled to start next month.

The department manages more than \$6 billion in state and federal funds, including nearly \$4 billion for Medicaid programs, and is viewed as a probable source of spending cuts as Ehrlich seeks to balance the budget without new taxes.

Currently a top financial administrator with the Smithsonian Institution, McCann was assistant secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services from 1986 to 1989, and assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs from 1989 to 1993.

He has also held staff positions on Senate and House fiscal committees.

In an interview yesterday, the lifelong Silver Spring resident said he was drawn to the state job by Ehrlich's approach to public policy, which he called "extraordinarily good," and for a chance to manage his own department after years as a federal financial officer.

"There were a lot of things that were easy to say when you are a fed," he said. "Now I actually try to get to operate something. That's the attractiveness of this job."

Sabatini, who recruited McCann for the position, said he respects his successor's abilities.

"He's a first-rate manager. He understands big organizations

and he's always appreciated the role of career employees," Sabatini said. "He's worked on the Republican side of the aisle ever since I've known him, but he does not let his ideology get in the way of his brain."

Sabatini is completing his second stint as health secretary, having also served under Gov. William Donald Schaefer.

He is retiring at the end of the month to spend more time with family in Hawaii and to start a consulting business.

Others considered for the job included former Sen. Robert R. Neall, who withdrew late in the selection process; and Sen. Andrew P. Harris, an anesthesiologist whose candidacy drew criticism because of his strong anti-abortion views.

McCann said he is pro-abortion rights. The secretary's position is subject to confirmation by the state Senate, where Democrats hold a 33-14 majority.

Also yesterday, Ehrlich named two deputy secretaries for the department, promoting longtime agency staffer John G. Folkemer and tapping Del. Van T. Mitchell, a Charles County Democrat.

Mitchell, 48, has been chairman for the last two years of the House subcommittee that oversees the health department's budget.

"It became obvious to me that with the pressures of health care continuing to increase and the older, aging population and things like that, you're going to have to be innovative and creative and find new ways of stretching the dollar in order to meet the needs of the people," Mitchell said. "That's a huge challenge."

Mitchell is replacing Arlene Stephenson, a 22-year department veteran who has been a deputy secretary for five years. Stephenson said she is moving to a position at Springfield Hospital Center, a psychiatric institution in Carroll County, next month.

Sun staff writer Andrew A. Green contributed to this article.

Perryville Fire Company Annual Awards Banquet

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THURSDAY 17,500
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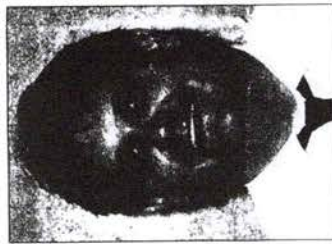
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Harold Riale Jr

- Responder with 255 fire calls
- Driver with 240 EMS calls



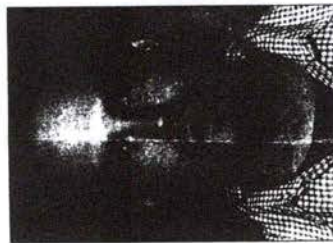
Paul Frazier

- Chief's award
- Responder with 270 fire calls



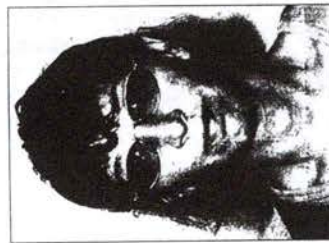
John Barr

- Responder with 250 fire calls



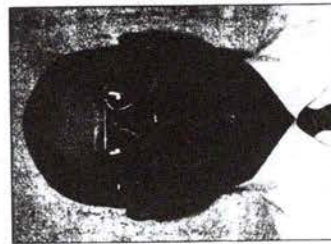
Phillip Thomas

- Responder with 219 fire calls
- Driver 139 EMS calls



Kerri Williams

- EMS Captain's Award
- Provider with 57 EMS calls



Dale Brown

- President's Award
- Firefighter of the



Patrice Burchett

- EMS Provider of the Year
- Provider with 153 EMS calls



Karen Jones

- EMS Captain's Award



Butch Thomas

- Responder with 234 fire calls



John Strause

- Responder with 199 fire calls



Joey Barr
■ Responder with
213 fire calls



Harold Riale Sr
■ Driver with
40 EMS calls



Rob Burchett
■ Provider with
38 EMS calls



Shawn Buchanan
■ Responder with
197 fire calls



Maria Gonca
■ Provider with
49 EMS calls



Sue Hornbarger
■ Driver with
30 EMS calls

NOT PICTURED

Ed Ryan II

- Responder with 208 fire calls

Matt Bannon

- Firefighter of the year award
- Responder with 270 fire calls
- Provider with 44 EMS calls

Lloyd Beard

- Responder with 197 fire calls

G. E. Ryan

- Driver with 70 EMS calls



REPUBLICAN

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Friendsville VFD Receives \$96,300 Grant For Equip.

Friendsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has received a \$96,300 grant from the Department of Homeland Security's Office for Domestic Preparedness in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration, Congressman Roscoe Bartlett announced yesterday.

"This is a big boost to our fire safety," said Friendsville fire chief Terry Spear. "we are very excited and will now be able to purchase much needed safety equipment for our firefighters."

In addition to Friendsville, three other western Maryland volunteer fire departments were also awarded funding: Midland, \$165,320; Bowman's Addition, \$90,296; and Williamsport, \$135,990.

"These federal grants are part of the federal government's effort to equip our nation's first responders," said Bartlett. "Firefighters give their time and energy and put their lives in harm's way to protect us. After Sept. 11, 2001, they also know they might face the need to respond to terrorist attacks. The new and improved operations and safety equipment that will be purchased with these grants will improve the capability of western Maryland's firefighters to respond to emergencies and protect the lives and property of everyone in the surrounding communities."

NORTH COUNTY NEWS

TOWSON, MD
WEEKLY

SEP 23 2004



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Annual ceremony honors members of fire service

A memorial service honoring members of the Baltimore County Fire Service who died in the past 12 months will be held 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Towson United Methodist Church, 501 Hampton Lane.

The annual memorial service honors all career and volunteer firefighters, emergency medical personnel, ladies' auxiliary members and other fire service members who have died,

on and off duty.

This year's service includes 25 volunteers from the Arbutus, Boring, Bowleys Quarters, Butler, Cockeysville, Glyndon, Jacksonville, Kingsville, Lansdowne, Liberty Road, Long Green, Maryland Line, Owings Mills, Pikesville and Woodlawn companies.

Three of those who will be remembered Sunday died in the line of duty. They are First Specialist Thomas Brown of Dundalk Station No. 6, Firefighter Richard Jones of the Maryland Line Volunteer Fire Co. and Firefighter/EMT Connie Bornman of the Middle River Volunteer Ambulance Rescue Co.

—Mary T. Robbins

W. Md. doctors to protest malpractice system

Rising premiums prompt refusal to see most patients

By M. WILLIAM SALGANIK
SUN STAFF

In the first concerted action by doctors in Maryland to force legislative reforms in the state's malpractice system, physicians in Hagerstown said last night that they will refuse to see patients — except on an emergency basis — beginning Nov. 15.

The action comes eight days after state insurance regulators approved a 33 percent increase in malpractice

premiums for next year for the insurer that covers most of the state's doctors, adding to the heated debate over how to control insurance rates that doctors say will drive some out of practice or out of state.

On top of a 28 percent increase this year, it will push premiums as high as \$150,000 for some doctors.

"I guess 'job action' is the right word for it," said Dr. Karl P. Riggie, a surgeon. "It's an effort on our part to make a statement."

He said "the vast majority of specialists" in the area had agreed to join in the action during the quarterly meeting of the medical staff of Washington County Hospital yesterday.

day afternoon. Riggie said the action would continue until Dec. 1, when malpractice insurance premiums for next year are due; if the legislature doesn't act by then, the doctors would decide how to proceed after that.

"Walking, quitting, resigning, leaving, taking sabbaticals for six months — we're going to put it all on the line," said Dr. John Caruso, a neurosurgeon.

The doctors' action is the latest salvo in a continuing battle over malpractice. This year's legislative session considered several possible reforms — ranging from a lower limit on "pain and suffering" awards to mandatory mediation — but none passed. In addition, the issue has been hotly debated in Congress, which has also been deadlocked, and in legislatures in other states.

Physicians planning 'job action' to protest malpractice system

[Doctors, from Page 1B]

The Western Maryland doctors' strategy met with stern disapproval from a key legislative leader. "The General Assembly is not going to respond to that kind of tactic," said Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, a Democrat who has opposed malpractice reform.

Call for special session

Miller repeated his call for a special session to create a state fund to freeze malpractice rates at their current level. That, Miller said, could stabilize rates and allow next year's regular session to consider other reforms being studied by a task force of senators and another named by Republican Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

"The governor needs to spend some time in Annapolis and meet with me and with the [House] Speaker [Michael E. Busch]," Miller said. "We could solve this in a few hours."

Ehrlich spokesmen could not be reached last night. The governor has said that he is willing to support a stabilization fund, but only as part of a package that would change the way the court system deals with malpractice cases. He has blamed trial lawyers and lawmakers — Miller, in particular — for blocking reform.

Dennis O'Brien, a spokesman for the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association, said last night that other factors — such as the Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland, the major insurer, seeking unnecessarily large reserves — were contributing to the high premiums. As for the Hagerstown action, he said previous predictions of doctors leaving their practices had been incorrect, and "we'll believe it when we see it."

T. Michael Preston, executive director of MedChi, the state

that he was not aware of other groups of doctors considering actions similar to the one in Hagerstown, which he termed "a cry for help."

While he added that MedChi "cannot encourage actions that might jeopardize patients' interests," Preston said doctors wanted a full package of reforms but would support stabilization if that were "the only thing that can be achieved at this time."

Washington County doctors have a track record of getting action by curtailing their services. In a 2002 dispute over reimbursement rates, doctors declined to be on call for the hospital's trauma center, shutting it for four months. The state created a fund to pay doctors for treating uninsured trauma patients.

Impact on patients

The doctors said they are not putting patients in jeopardy with their planned action.

"We're not going to not see someone and let them put their health at risk," said Dr. Jeffrey Jones, a cardiologist. "It's the elective stuff we're forgoing."

He said his group includes eight of the nine cardiologists in the county, and deciding to participate in the action was "a terrible, hard decision." The group, he said, had just invested in a new building and equipment. But, he said, "We need to take time away from the practice to focus on the crisis."

Caruso, the neurosurgeon, said threats of lawsuits were leading many in his specialty to avoid cases, such as those of trauma patients. He said that pushes some of those cases to academic medical centers, the hospitals tied to medical schools, where the institution pays malpractice premiums.

He said he favored a system of having medical experts review malpractice cases, similar to the one used in Indiana. "You can't expect juries to understand the nuances of a stroke," he said.

"It's not a matter of paying premiums," Caruso said. "It's the onus of having targets on



Sabatini warns about future Medicaid costs

By TOM STUCKEY
Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS (AP) — When Nelson Sabatini ends his second tour of duty next week as state health secretary, the greatest challenge he will hand to his successor is how to contain the burgeoning growth in the cost of Medicaid.

Sabatini has warned about that growth with increasing urgency since he joined the Ehrlich administration as head of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 19 months ago.

In an interview this week, Sabatini said that when he served as health secretary under then-Gov. William Donald Schaefer, Maryland's Medicaid budget was about \$1 billion. Today, a little over a decade later, it is almost \$4 billion.

Nationally, the Medicaid budget is about \$304 billion and some conservatives and liberals project that the costs could reach \$600 billion over the next decade, Sabatini said.

"If that happens, there will be no discretionary money left in state budgets. You can fund Medicaid, K through 12 and the other entitlements. I don't know how you build roads, do economic development or any of the other stuff," Sabatini said.

"The most frustrating thing for me is that, except for a small handful of people in the legislative body, I just have not been able to get anybody to understand that message," he said.

Medicaid is not the only problem, just the biggest, that S. Anthony "Tony" McCann will inherit when he takes over as secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in October.

With the state facing a potential deficit of \$800 million next year, state agencies have been scouring their budgets, making up lists of items that could be eliminated or scaled back to reduce spending by 12 percent. Gov. Robert Ehrlich has prom-

ised not to increase taxes, and aides say substantial cutbacks will be required to balance the budget. Ehrlich will present to the legislature in January.

The health department has prepared a list of potential reductions that could save \$480 million, but Sabatini said Thursday the list is only a compilation of programs where spending levels are not mandated by the federal government.

"It is not a list of proposed cuts," he said, adding, "I guess you could argue theoretically that they could be cut."

Budget Secretary James "Chip" DiPaula also said the list, first reported by *The Baltimore Sun* on Thursday, is only a compilation of potential cuts, adding that it has not even been submitted to him for consideration.

Sabatini said with the increasing need for health care among people with no insurance and the slow growth in state revenues, health officials must do a better job of controlling costs.

That does not mean denying essential services to people who are in need, he said.

"I truly believe health care is a right and not a privilege," Sabatini said. "What you have to do is cut back on services that may not be essential."

Even in the Medicaid program, which is a federal mandate, savings could be made in areas where the state program exceeds the mandated levels, he said.

"They are making much more progress in other states with a more disciplined approach," Sabatini said.

While there are problems, he said Maryland has done a good job of providing health care services to citizens who don't have private insurance. The challenge is to continue providing good care without bankrupting the state.

Sabatini said during his tenure, the health department has taken some steps to reduce costs without hurting people who need care and has moved to correct problems in the health care system.

The department has closed institutions for the developmentally disabled and "moved them into community-based care where the quality of their lives is improved," he said.

"We opened debate on the need to expand access to health care for the uninsured," he said. "We closed or put out of business some 20-plus nursing homes that were not providing adequate care."

Sabatini will not be retiring when he walks out of his office next Thursday. He will do some consulting in the health care field while dividing his time between his homes in Maryland and Hawaii.

In addition to his two terms as health secretary, Sabatini held administrative positions with the Social Security Administration and was a vice president of the University of Maryland Medical System Corp.

Sabatini was a popular health secretary, earning respect from legislators of both parties for managing a big and difficult agency.

At a meeting Wednesday of the Board of Public Works, Ehrlich said he prevailed upon Sabatini to return as health secretary last year in order to help his administration get off to a good start.

"Nelson is the best in the country," the governor said.

RECORD

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SEP 24 2004



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P-ville volunteers mark 81

By Matt Ward

Record staff

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The 81st annual Perryville Fire Company banquet opened Saturday evening on a somber note with a memorial for two former company members who died this year.

"They have answered the last call and they are now in your station house," the Rev. Rudi Sackett said during a prayer for the late William Knell, a past president and life member of the company, and the late Roy Wood, a past president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and an honorary member of the Perryville company.

As is the tradition at the Perryville banquet, a bagpiper played a medley of "God Bless America," "Amazing Grace" and "Taps," followed by a tolling of the fire bell in the banquet hall lobby.

Gene Worthington of the state firemen's association commended the fire company for including the memorial in its banquet before passing the microphone over to John Strause, president of the company.

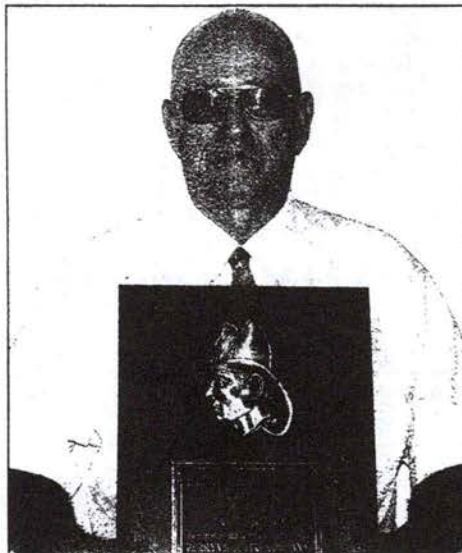
"The hardest position within the office of a volunteer fire company is the office of president," Worthington said.

As is often the case with volunteer fire company banquets, there was a palpable tension underlying the prevailing good mood of the event. Strause alluded to disagreements within the company, saying he was proud of all the volunteers for pulling together when it mattered.

"We fought as individuals in the meetings, but we fought as a group when the fire bell rang," Strause said.

The company's top honor of Firefighter of the Year was shared this year by Matt Bannon, who was away on training during the banquet, and Dale Brown, an older man who went through training over the past year.

"He got into a firefighting class with a bunch of young boys and he stayed with them toe-to-toe," said assistant chief Paul Frazier.



Matt Ward/Record staff

Dale Brown, Perryville Fire Company Firefighter of the Year, shared the top honor with Matt Bannon, who was away on training during Saturday's banquet.

Patrice Burchett took the honors as the fire company's emergency medical service top responder. With three children to take care of, Burchett showed dedication to the company, answering 153 calls, said EMS captain Brian Williams.

The company's top 10 fire responders were Paul Frazier, 270 calls; Harold Riale Jr., 255 calls; John Barr, 250 calls; Butch Thomas, 234 calls; Philip Thomas, 219 calls; Joey Barr, 213 calls; Ed Ryan II, 208 calls; Matt Bannon, 207 calls; John Strause, 199 calls; Lloyd Beard, 197 calls; and Shawn Buchanan, 197 calls.

EMS captain Williams broke his top responders into the top five drivers and the top five medical service providers. The top five drivers were Harold Riale Jr., 240 calls; Philip Thomas, 139 calls; G.E. Ryan, 70 calls; Harold Riale Sr., 40 calls; Sue Hornbarger, 30 calls.

The top five providers were Patrice Burchett, 153 calls; Kerr Williams, 57 calls; Maria Genco, 49 calls; Matt Bannon,



Matt Ward/Record staff

Perryville Fire Company EMS Provider of the Year Patrice Burchett shows off her award.

44 calls; and Rob Burchett, 38 calls.

Perryville Mayor Jim Eberhardt presented the company with a check from the town for \$25,000. The mayor also presented a check for \$1,000 to the company's fire police division.

The town's American Legion post, its ladies auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion donated a combined \$5,400 to the company.

Del. David D. Rudolph, a Democrat representing District 34B in Cecil County, presented citations to the company's award winners.

Rudolph commented that he'd been hearing people in the fire company say "thank you" all night.

"They're thanking us and we're really the ones that should be thanking them," Rudolph said.

Hall plays beat the clock and files for council

By Jennifer Lehman

Staff Writer

(Sept. 24, 2004) Councilman Jim Hall filed for Ocean City's City Council minutes before the 5 p.m. deadline on Tuesday, making him the 14th and final candidate on October's ballot.

Hall, a councilman since 1986, was hesitant about filing because he hoped a progression of younger candidates would be interested in serving on the council.

"I thought there would be a host of new candidates coming through that wanted to do this," he said just after filing. "If there [were] some up and coming new folks that would like to get on – some young people that would like to start down that political path – I could step aside, but I would like to continue to serve and keep the consistency of the council together."

Hall had many supporters urging him to file for the council including fellow Councilman Rick Meehan and Mayor Jim Mathias.

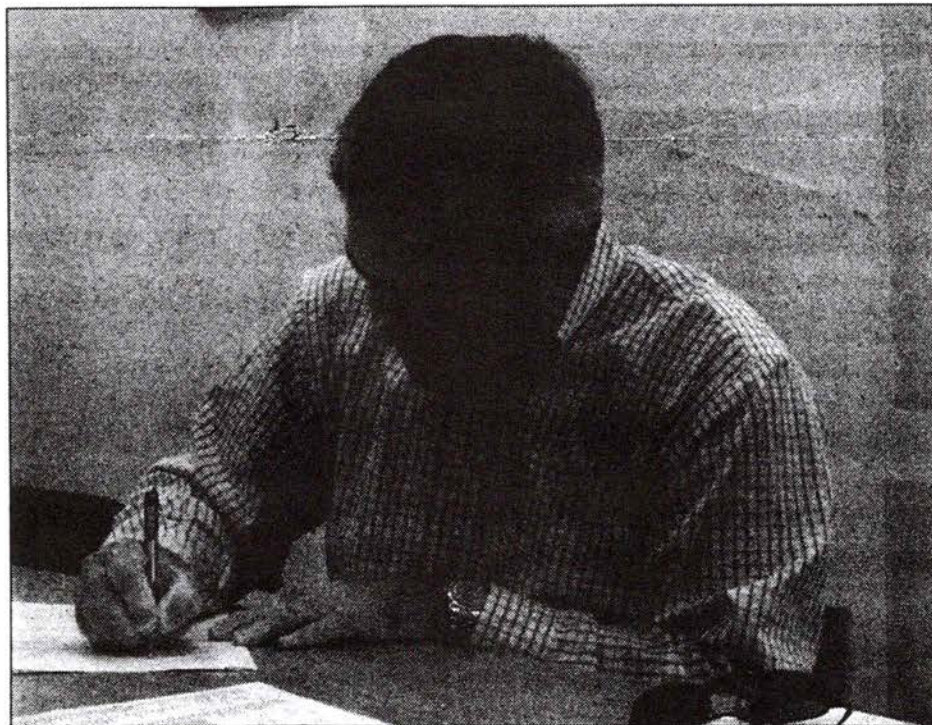
"Jimmy Hall, we started out together and we still stand together in 2004 and ladies and gentlemen I think we need at least one more candidate for City Council, don't you?" Mathias asked the cheering crowd while campaigning at the Public Safety Building on Monday.

Hall became convinced to re-file and said he is happy with his decision to run, explaining he has quite a few projects to finish.

"I love to do it, I enjoy doing it and ... the town's at a crossroads that I think it needs a steady hand and I would like to be part of that team," Hall said.

Hall said growth is a very important issue in this town and the people of Ocean City are not so much concerned with development, but overdevelopment.

"And that's something I'm going to have to get a hold of and handle," he said. "Overdevelopment is not going to be tolerated



OCEAN CITY TODAY/JENNIFER LEHMAN

Councilman Jim Hall files for Ocean City Council just before Tuesday's 5 p.m. deadline. Hall hesitated about filling, but said he is happy with his decision to run, explaining he has quite a few projects to finish.

in this town from here on out."

Hall also wants to continue his work on the Police Commission; he has been chairman for "as many years as I can remember." He also noted that this is the first year of union negotiations and he really wants the fire and Emergency Medical Service departments to be apart of it.

"I am a huge supporter of the police, fire, EMS, emergency services, and lifeguards and would like to continue to serve with those folks because they do such a great job for us," Hall said. "I'd like to continue to serve on the Police Commission, something near and dear to my

heart, as well as the new Fire Commission, which is just coming out of the gate."

Hall noted the town has a very important mayor's race that could change the complexion of Ocean City – which is a reason Hall wants the council sticking together.

"I look forward to serving with whoever is elected, that's what the people have decided. And either way I'll serve graciously with all of those and hopefully I can bring some of my years experience to those that are new," Hall said. "The people have spoken, I've listened and it's a new day in Ocean City and that's why I filed."

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
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Jefferson UCC honoring firefighters-EMTs, Sept. 26

Jefferson United Church of Christ and the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company will host the fourth annual Firefighter's Recognition and Remembrance Sunday, on Sept. 26 at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church at 3837 Jefferson Pike, Jefferson.

This is an opportunity to say "thank you," to the members of Company 20, the firefighters, the EMT's and the medics who serve the Jefferson community.

The main meditation in the service will be shared by Chip Jewell, director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service for Frederick County, and other remarks will be

shared by the Rev. Guy Wenck, one of the chaplains of Company 20 and host pastor.

An honor guard will precede the procession into the church with the memorial floral wreath. Special music will be provided by the Citizen's Brass Band. There will be a reading of those who have died in the past year. There will be a special blessing for the fire and rescue equipment used by Company 20.

At the conclusion of the service, the memorial wreath will be taken by the honor guard and the members of the fire department to the Memorial Gardens of the

Jefferson UCC Cemetery. They will follow Scott Cameron, the bagpiper, as he plays, "Amazing Grace." Members, friends and visitors are invited to follow the procession.

A time of fellowship, prepared by the members of the church's Adult Fellowship, will follow the service. Tours of all the fire and rescue vehicles will be available.

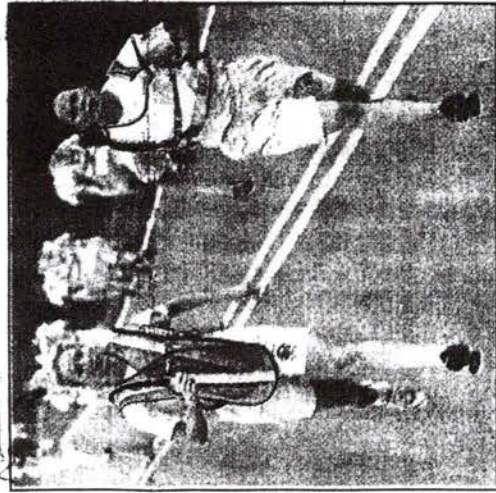
Free blood pressure checks for anyone who desires one will be given by the EMT's of the Jefferson Volunteer Fire Company.

For more information or directions, call Jefferson UCC at 301-473-8262.



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Staff photo by Skip Laurence

Kathy Messner, coordinator of health and fitness at the Frederick County Public Safety Training Center, left, and firefighter-in-training Kathryn Hale sport water pack hydration units, which carry water and are worn like a backpack.

Safety first at training site

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News Post Staff
ecunningham@fredericknews-post.com

FREDERICK — Firefighter recruit training does different things to different people. For the 26 rookies, it forces them to assume leadership roles, work as a team and strive for goals.

For the instructors at Frederick County Public Training Center on Reich's Ford Road, Recruit Class Seven is the first in two years, and a chance at a fresh start for the program.

And for wellness administrator Kathy Messner, it has turned her into a "tough little animal."

"It's like you have a puppy that has turned into a

(See TRAINING A-11)

Training: Safety comes first for recruits

(Continued from A-1)

police dog," said Richard Himes, assistant chief of training for the Division of Fire and Rescue.

Ms. Messner walked between three strength-training stations Friday morning. It was about 6:30 a.m. and the recruits had just finished a light jog and a stretching session before heading to the garage where blue exercise mats were set up.

"Do you know where do go?" she asked the recruits. "Then, get there."

The men, and one woman, separated into three groups and prepared to do pull-ups, push-ups and sit-ups. Each was counted, and the latter two were timed. Ms. Messner designed the recruit fitness program to include assessment days, usually held on Fridays, when their progress is recorded.

One recruit improved from one pull-up to three in only five weeks, and others made similar improvements. Almost all recruits shaved at least a few seconds off their mile-and-a-half run.

"The way (Ms. Messner)

designed the program, they are building strength and endurance," Chief Himes said. "There have been some individual achievements that have been pretty significant."

The scene is best described as organized chaos inside the garage where the recruits perform their strength exercises. They cheer for others and encourage them to push their limits.

"They are starting to turn into teams," Chief Himes said. "As part of the groups, they want their groups to do well. When you fail, you not only fail yourself but the group as well."

The recruits' backgrounds span from Hood College graduates to computer graphics designers. And they are the first to go through training since the July 2002 death of recruit Andrew Waybright, who died from heat-related injuries.

Since then, the program has been revamped, and Chief Himes said the focus is safety and hydration. Many of the changes are based on a Board of Inquiry's recommendations, and some were instituted independently.

The recruits strap orange nylon packs filled with water to their backs, a new addition to the program. The containers hold about a half-gallon of water that recruits can drink through a nozzle extending from the 4-pound pack.

"I don't know how to compare (this class to other classes), because we're doing things so differently," he said.

Recruits also monitor their heart rate while they work out with wrist bands that also tell time and count calories burned.

"The heart monitor has an individual high limit set, so they know if they exceed their limit," Chief Himes said.

Ms. Messner also logs their resting heart rate, blood pressure and weight at the beginning and the end of their mile-and-a-half run.

She assesses the group's progress as a whole, before planning next week's physical training. "What she is going to do is based on the level of the group," Chief Himes said.

Some days, recruits are able to sign up for supplemental workouts on areas they would like to

improve, like tower runs and pull-ups.

"Each has a fitness prescription and know what they need to do to work on their weaknesses," he said.

With a time of about 9 minutes, 30 seconds, recruit Kathryn Hale was first to finish Friday.

"She always wins this race," Ms. Messner said.

But even those recruits who finish first, go back to run with those in the back. And there are constant chants of, "Good job Hale" and "Let's go seven."

Recruits also spend hours in the classroom each day in addition to their physical training. They have studied to be emergency medical technicians (EMT) since their second week. The recruits will take the EMT exam next week, according to Chief Himes. Firefighter training begins Oct. 4.

Wednesdays are devoted to overall wellness based on a program Ms. Messner designed. This week, they learned sign language specific to emergency response.

The class will graduate from the 17-week training program in December.

REGION

Hagerstown doctors to refuse all but emergency surgery

HAGERSTOWN, Md. (AP) — Washington County doctor groups on Thursday said they will stop performing non-emergency surgery on Nov. 15, as a protest against rising malpractice insurance premiums.

"I guess 'job action' is the right word for it," said Dr. Karl Riggie, a surgeon. "It's an effort on our part to make a statement."

On Sept. 14, the Maryland

Insurance Administration approved a 33 percent rate increase for Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Society of Maryland, which insures most of the state's doctors. With this year's 28 percent increase, premiums will be as high as \$150,000 for some doctors.

Riggie said "the vast majority of specialists" in the area had agreed to join in the action dur-

ing Thursday's quarterly meeting of the medical staff of Washington County Hospital. The action would continue until Dec. 1, when malpractice insurance premiums for next year are due. He added that if Maryland's General Assembly doesn't act by then, the doctors would decide how to proceed.

"The General Assembly is not going to respond to that kind of

tactic," Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, a Democrat who has opposed malpractice reform, told The (Baltimore) Sun.

Miller repeated his call for a special session to create a state fund to freeze malpractice rates at their current level.

This year's legislative session considered several possible reforms — ranging from a lower

limit on "pain and suffering" awards to mandatory mediation — but none passed.

Examples of elective, or non-emergency, surgery include hernia repair, gallbladder removal, breast biopsies and colonoscopies, Riggie explained. Emergency cases, such as trauma or ruptured aneurysms, will not be affected, he said.

"We're not going to not see

someone and let them put their health at risk," said Dr. Jeffrey Jones, a cardiologist. "It's the elective stuff we're foregoing."

In 2002, Washington County doctors, in a dispute over reimbursement rates, refused to be on call for the hospital trauma center, shutting it for four months. The state created a fund to pay doctors for treating uninsured trauma patients.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
MONDAY 41,707
SEP 27 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Former chiefs talk of personnel needs

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News-Post Staff

ecunningham@fredericknewspost.com

EMMITTSBURG — Jeanette McGuire opted to shed her title as chief of Emmittsburg Ambulance Co. soon after she was suspended. She was the fourth chief to come and go in three years.

Ms. McGuire now serves as a member of Vigilant Hose Co., where she assists with the emergency medical services (EMS) program.

She was a five-year member and Emmittsburg's top responder before her Sept. 4, 30-day suspension.

Her suspension was prompted by the company's failure rates, which were as high as 35 percent during day, night and weekend hours. A call is considered failed if

members do not leave the station within eight minutes.

Sunday night, at their regular meeting, ambulance company members elected Richard Sharer Jr. as chief, and John Compton as deputy chief. The vote was unanimous for both, according to Emmittsburg Ambulance Co. President Joe Pelkey.

County commissioners voted earlier this month to provide career emergency medical technicians based at Vigilant Hose Co. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Another former chief, firefighter and EMT, Ann Messner, served with the ambulance company for 14 years before she was elected chief in 1998. She resigned in 2001 after struggling to improve response times.

"Generally, what happens is when you are chief, you are chief until you don't want it anymore ... same with president," she

said. "Most of the time, they have them stay for 10 years."

Ms. Messner said the ambulance company's record for consistent leadership is poor. She now volunteers at Vigilant Hose Co.

In 1999, she said, she did not believe the company required career personnel.

"But this time they needed the (24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week) coverage," she said. "There is no way they can handle that volume of calls."

Before commissioners voted, Ms. McGuire said she also believed the ambulance company required 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week coverage by paid personnel.

"My only concern was to be sure the ambulances got out the door when the community called for help," she said.

But other board members preferred 12-hour coverage, five days a week. She said she sided with the board but was personally committed to 24-hour coverage, a decision she voiced openly.

"(The company) has had a response issue for several years, but I believe that I have been the only chief to admit that the ambulance company had a problem, admit that they needed career help and swallow some pride in the best interest of the community," Ms. McGuire said in a letter to the Frederick County Commissioners explaining her resignation.

Mr. Pelkey said her suspension had nothing to do with the request for career personnel and was based on her refusal to work with membership.

(See FORMER A 6)

Former: Chiefs talk of personnel needs

(Continued from A15)

After the suspension, Ms. McGuire, who also works as a paid emergency medical technician at Thurmont Ambulance Co., said she could not go back.

"This was a difficult decision for me, but I couldn't return to that organization after the way they treated me," she said. "I am deeply hurt and insulted for the things that have been said about me and the way the whole situation was handled."

She said the problem was based, in part, on her desire to improve the relationship among Thurmont Ambulance Co., Vigilant Hose Co. and Emmitsburg Ambulance Co.

"These improved relationships created quite a problem with a lot of the members of the ambulance company," she said.

She said Commissioner Mike Cady called to express his respect and support for her and

her decision after he received her letter.

"What (Ms. McGuire) was facing was exactly what I was facing in 1998 until 2001," Ms. Messner said.

She said each year volunteers fought to improve their company's response rate. Each year when they looked at the statistics, she said, members rallied and said they wanted to remain an all-volunteer organization.

"Then, they would sign up for duty and not show up," Ms. Messner said.

Pretty soon, there were six EMTs running calls, double the number actively responding to calls as of August 2004.

Ms. Messner said current company leaders have not contacted her for help, but she has made herself available as a resource.

"This is just what I went through," she said. "In July 2001, response times just got very bad very quickly and I had already

fought it for three years and I was six months pregnant, and I quit. I just ran out of energy to fight it."

She said members essentially fought the same problem for 10 years, dodging failing response times and losing members.

During her tenure, in June 2001, members took a vote of no confidence against the president. The same month, the vice president, assistant treasurer and assistant secretary resigned.

Ms. McGuire recently enrolled in a firefighter training class at the Frederick County Public Safety Training Center and will graduate in December.

"That will allow me to participate more in what the fire company does," she said.

Until then, she is busy providing support for the career staff, who are running first due ambulance calls from Vigilant Hose Co. The ambulance company volunteers now run second due calls, if needed.

 baltimoresun.com

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.medals27sep27,1,2273139.story?coll=bal-local-headlines>

City Fire Department honors members' heroism

Dozens are recognized at event attended by 1,000

By Richard Irwin
Sun Staff

September 27, 2004

The deadly water taxi accident in March was among the emergencies remembered yesterday as the Baltimore City Fire Department recognized dozens of its members for heroism and outstanding service.

More than 1,000 people attended the city's 12th Firefighter/Paramedic Appreciation and Awards Day program in a banquet hall at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel - this one held on the eve of the local premiere of a movie fictionally depicting the lives and work of Baltimore firefighters.

Also highlighted was the Lakeview Towers high-rise apartment building fire near Druid Hill Park on Jan. 16 last year, which saw the rescue of several residents, many of them elderly, from smoke-filled floors and apartments.

The program was preceded by a video on the water taxi accident, in which five people died and 20 were rescued after the craft overturned off Fort McHenry during a sudden squall. Much of the video was recorded by the Fire Department during the 10-day effort to recover the dead, including a 6-year-old boy, under hazardous conditions.

Fire Chief William J. Goodwin Jr. - in his remarks praising all of the day's honorees - recalled in particular standing at dockside as a firefighter involved in the search said, "I just want to bring that little boy up and wrap him in a blanket."

Receiving the department's Heroic Service Award medal for rescue and recovery efforts in that incident - at risk to their own lives - were Lt. Kenneth B. Hyde, coordinator of the hazardous materials task force, pump operator Samuel Burrell Jr. of Engine No. 29, emergency boat operator Robert Sebeck of Fireboat No. 1 and now-retired firefighter Bernard D. Muller.

More than 60 firefighters of all ranks were honored for their efforts in 18 dwelling fires, water rescues, vehicular rescues, assisting police in capturing suspects, investigating the causes of fires and rendering medical aid since the start of last year. Others were honored for community service.

Distinguished service awards went to Battalion Chiefs Frederick C. Ruff IV and Patrick J. Walsh, both of the Communications Division, for their part in coordinating manpower needs when rains from Tropical Storm Isabel a year ago flooded the police headquarters building basement and threatened to knock out power to police communications and the 911 system

"For 29 years as a member of the Fire Department, I've watched the men and women of this department

perform heroic deeds," Goodwin said after a similar comment by Mayor Martin O'Malley.

The fictional depiction of Baltimore's firefighters - the motion picture Ladder 49 - will have its local premiere with a \$200-a-ticket screening and reception at 8 tonight at The Senator Theatre, in a fundraiser for the Baltimore City Fire Foundation.

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DAILY TIMES

SALISBURY, MD
MONDAY 27, 2004
SEP 27 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Health Care

Cowan named director

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GEORGETOWN — Dr. Paul T. Cowan Jr. was recently named by the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services as the Sussex County EMS associate medical director.

In this new position, Cowan will assist Sussex County EMS Medical Director Dr. Kevin Bristowe in providing medical oversight and direction for the county's paramedic service.

As an emergency physician and former paramedic, Cowan brings an interesting perspective to Sussex County EMS. Prior to attending medical school, Cowan was a Kent County paramedic and served on the state paramedic advisory committee. During his residency at Christiana Care Health System in Stanton, Del., Cowan served as chief resident and was named Resident of the Year in 2002.

He graduated from medical school at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. Cowan completed his post-baccalaureate pre-med curriculum at Delaware State University in Dover and has a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

At this year's annual EMS week award's banquet, Cowan was named EMS Physician of the Year for 2003. He is currently president elect of the Delaware chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and has previously served as treasurer and secretary.

Cowan's wife, Cheryl, is a nurse anesthetist for Delaware Anesthesia at Beebe Medical Center. A native of Smyrna, he and his wife live in Lewes.

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
TUESDAY 6,750
SEP 28 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Truck hits ditch in front of Daily Banner

By David Insley
Daily Banner

547FB
CAMBRIDGE - Sometimes, news comes right to the Daily Banner.

A tractor-trailer truck skidded into a ditch on the 1000 block of Goodwill Road Monday afternoon at 1:10 p.m.

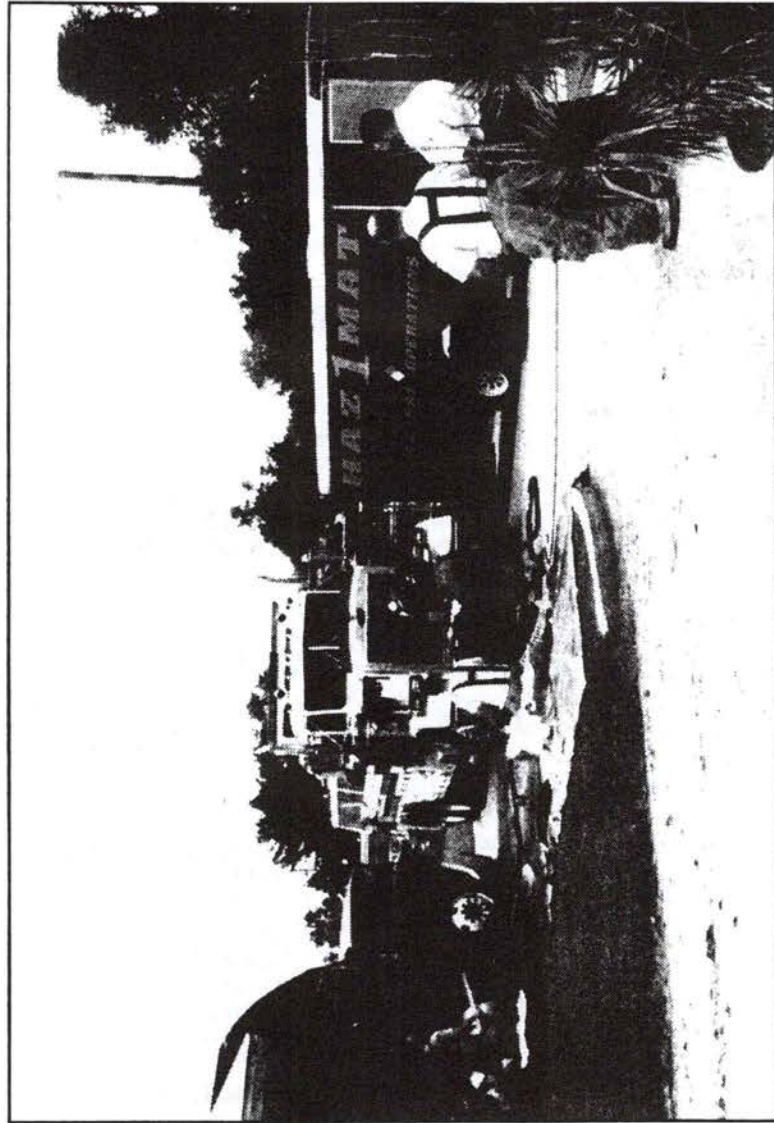
The truck, reportedly loaded with paper products, slid off the side of the road, the cab's front two tires being propelled over the ditch's culvert, partially blocking the driveway to the Daily Banner offices.

A hazmat, or hazardous materials, team, was summoned along with Cambridge Emergency Medical Services and members of the Cambridge Police, according to Rescue Fire Co. chief Bill Watkins.

"We brought the hazmat team in because when the truck wrecked, it damaged the gas tank there," Chief Watkins said, pointing at a 70-gallon tank on the right side of the tractor portion of the vehicle.

"We need to get that drained before we try to move it," he added. "If we don't there's a risk it'll catch fire., so we have to get everything out of the tank first."

"There shouldn't be any problem getting it drained, though," he added.



Daily Banner/ David Insley

Members of Rescue Fire Company's hazardous materials team drain the gas tanks of a tractor-trailer combination that crashed in a ditch in front of the offices of the Daily Banner on Monday afternoon.

A special heavy-duty tow at 2:55 p.m.

truck by Jess Jr. and Sons No injuries or deaths were reported as a result of the accident. The truck was removed from the ditch and towed away were unavailable by press time.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Daily Banner staff writer David Insley can be reached by phone at (410) 228-3131, Ext. 40, or emailed at news@newszap.com.

Real heroes, Hollywood style

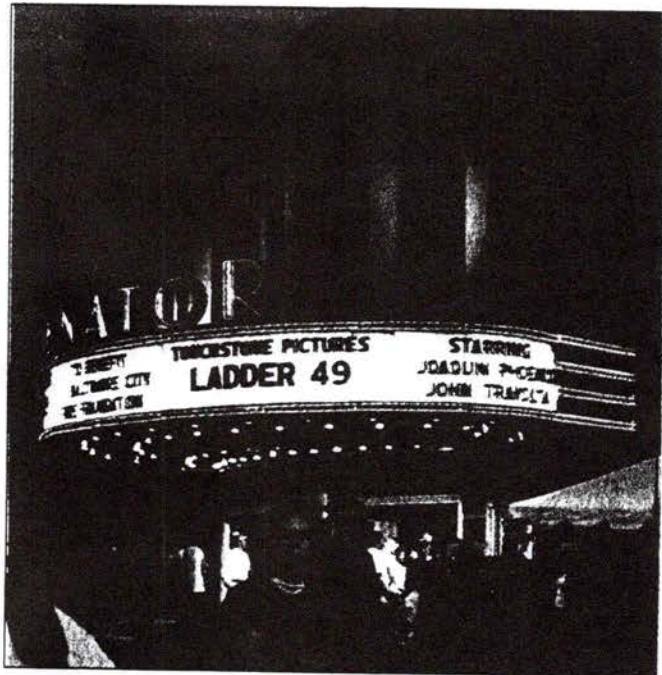
Movie: The premiere of 'Ladder 49' is an occasion for civic pride and to celebrate fire-fighters' courage.

By CHRIS KALTENBACH AND
MARY CAROLE MCCAULEY
SUN STAFF

The most realistic parts of *Ladder 49*, the new film shot in Baltimore and starring John Travolta and Joaquin Phoenix, are the things that movie-goers will never see on-screen.

They won't see Baltimore Fire Lt. Mark Yant standing just inside the door of a burning home, ready to spring into action if the film's deliberately set fires began to rage out of control and an actor became trapped.

They [See *Ladder*, 7A]



ELIZABETH MALBY: SUN STAFF

The premiere of "Ladder 49," filmed in Baltimore, draws its stars and the crowds to the Senator Theatre.

The Sun 9/28/04

Real-life heroes, Hollywood style

[Ladder, from Page 1A]

won't see the cameras wrapped in the retardant material, and the crew — camera operators, gaffers and sound supervisors — suited up in firefighters' gear.

They won't see Travolta, Phoenix, and the actors who portrayed firefighters going through strenuous training at Baltimore's fire academy and, later, riding along with the city's engine companies.

"They were on the fire trucks with us every day," firefighter Don Coster said before last night's benefit screening of the new film at the Senator Theatre.

Ladder 49, the story of a firefighter trapped in a burning building and the efforts to save him, opens nationwide Friday.

Director Jay Russell has said *Ladder 49* is the first major feature film since Sept. 11, 2001, to explore firefighters' daily lives, and those who have attended advance screenings praise its fidelity to both the tone of life in the firehouse and the realistic portrayal of the techniques and challenges of battling blazes. As such, it is a rare look at the men and women who have become American heroes since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center three years ago.

Baltimore had a rare role in shaping that look, and so such local luminaries as Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., Mayor Martin O'Malley and Baltimore Fire Chief William J. Goodwin Jr. joined Travolta, Phoenix and hundreds of others for last night's \$200-a-plate screening and prefilm party, held in the Belvedere Square parking lot.

About 800 tickets were sold for the event, which raised \$175,000 for the Baltimore City Fire Foundation, according to Allied Advertising, the firm handling publicity for the film.

Two shiny red fire engines were parked on York Road outside the Senator Theatre, their ladders extended so that they met in the middle and formed an upside-down "V." From that makeshift scaffolding hung an immense movie poster. Dozens of onlookers filled the sidewalks behind police barricades, and diners in a York Road Chinese restaurant pressed their faces to

Yant said that one particularly daring rescue in the film is based on real life. In the early 1990s, a high-rise in Times Square caught fire. The New York fire department lowered a firefighter down a rope outside the building to where the victim waited by the window. The victim jumped into the firefighter's arms, and the pair was lowered to safety. The

line could have broken and sent both plunging to their deaths, but that's the kind of risk firefighters take all the time, Yant said.

As for the glamour part, to everyone else, Joaquin Phoenix is a movie star. But to Shawn Little and cousins Don and Matt Coster, he was just another guy keeping the firehouse running. Not only did Phoenix make it

through the academy training, but he also spent six weeks on the job, riding to fires, pulling hoses, living the life.

"He cleaned tables, he cleaned toilets, he did the same things we did everyday," said Little, an emergency vehicle driver with the department's Truck No. 10. In the movie, Phoenix, the rookie, is the butt of good-natured hazing. That's also true to

life, says Baltimore County firefighter Joe Carter, who after two years in his Owings Mills station is still low guy on the totem pole.

"I slept with a frog," he recalled cheerfully earlier in the day. "And I kept hearing this 'bit' all night, and I didn't know where it was coming from. The next day I found it, alive and unharmed, duct-taped inside my pillow-case."

If Baltimore's firefighters learned to respect the film's stars, it worked both ways. Russell, Travolta and Phoenix were among the 1,000 people attending the 12th Firefighter/Para-

medic Appreciation and Awards Day program Sunday at the Marriott Hotel.

"These are all the guys who helped us make it so real," Travolta said of that ceremony yesterday. "You looked out there, and every other face was one of the guys who helped train one of the actors."

Baltimore County firefighter Mike Fold agrees. He and his sister, Elizabeth, have cameoed in *Ladder 49*. "It takes a certain brand of person to do this job," he said. "You talk about courage, and you talk about sacrifice ... they're our true heroes."

the glass window to get a glimpse of the stars.

The party tent was draped in red and lit by red strobe lights. Guests sipped champagne and sampled caviar and star-shaped chocolate cookies. The Police Emerald Society of Baltimore Pipe Band, which has a cameo in the film, played bagpipes outside the Senator dressed in kilts.

Even political rivals O'Malley and Ehrlich Jr. made nice, smiling and waving at each other as the traditional sidewalk block decorated for the premiere was unveiled.

"I want to thank director Jay Russell for filming this great film in the greatest city in America," O'Malley said to the crowd.

Ehrlich, his wife Kendel alongside him (she actually spent a day on the set, he noted with pride, but wasn't on film), spoke glowingly of the effect movies filmed and set in Baltimore, have on civic pride.

"It's hard to measure, but it definitely counts," said Ehrlich.

"It's very important to our image, so that people may see this movie and say, 'Hey, Maryland might be a nice place to go.'"

Ladder 49 could just as easily have been made elsewhere. New York, and Philadelphia also were competing for the movie, and filming costs in Toronto are particularly low. But Baltimore offered unprecedented firehouse access to the cast and crew. "We told them that as long as they portrayed the city and the department fairly, we would cooperate in any way we could," Goodwin said.

In addition, Baltimore is among the 10 busiest fire departments in the nation, Goodwin said, with more than 100,000 responses a year to reports of fires, hazardous materials and medical emergencies "It was appealing to us because this gave us a chance to talk to people about what we do," he said.

About 300 of the department's 1,700 firefighters and personnel participated in some way in *Ladder 49's* production, according to Yant, the film's technical adviser, though he emphasized that the filming never resulted in empty fire stations.

"The safety of Baltimore residents never was compromised," he said. "We juggled shifts so the city never was without protection. And Disney, which released the film, picked up the entire tab for the overtime. This didn't cost taxpayers one penny."



Capital Clipping Service

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Medical, emergency services awarded funds for equipment

Wendy Garner
Times-Record

DENTON - Seven Medtronic LIFEPAK 12 heart monitors will soon be distributed throughout Caroline County's Emergency Medical Services operations.

The new monitors are being paid for in part with grant funds received through the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). "There are five regions which receive state funds and a panel decides how to divvy up the allotment by need," shared Kevin Gillespie, Director of the Caroline County Department of Emergency Medical Services. "As part of Region 4, we submitted a grant to upgrade all of our heart monitors. We were awarded a 50/50 match

receiving \$36,470 from the state and the county agreed to cover the match. Our budget paid for an additional \$17,000 for incidentals which ran outside the scope of the grant like blood pressure cuffs and pediatric capable pads."

Speaking before the Caroline County Commissioners Sept. 14, Gillespie shared the benefits of this new equipment which will offer improved capabilities for immediate patient care, give medical personnel an extra hand with blood pressure and other patient monitoring, allow compatibility with existing equipment and offer long term reliability of the equipment.

"We were planning to upgrade the current equipment which is five to 18 years old," said Gillespie. "Medtronics came to us and offered to provide us with state-of-the-art equipment on a trial basis. I was able to learn a lot through this process; there was more involved in the testing but the county will come out well ahead. We are able to purchase the equipment for less than the expected upgrade would cost. Yearly maintenance fees alone would have run around \$8,500 for the first year with the upgrade."

These new compact monitors will not only register blood pressure and heart rate but will also measure pulse oximetry, the amount of oxygen the body is taking in, and capnography, the amount of carbon dioxide the body is expiring. This helps the Emergency Medical Technician determine how efficiently a patient's body is breathing or ventilating, how well the body is exchanging what it is receiving.

"Being able to monitor blood pressure through the equipment is a big asset as it is difficult at times to get a

reading in the back of a moving rescue unit," shared Gillespie. "It also impacts other procedures when you have to stop frequently for updated readings. This monitor is like having an extra person assisting the EMT."

The equipment has been ordered and is due in by mid-October. Users have already received training so once all the units have been received, they will become operational immediately.

MIEMSS received another federal grant for \$1 million of which Region 4 received \$165,000. This grant is related to bioterrorism. Five of 12 proposals were selected and Caroline County's grant was prioritized as number one. \$36,000 was awarded to allow one mass casualty trailer to be divided into two trailers. Out of each trailer, 15 immobile patients can be back-boarded for emergency care and about 100 walking patients with cuts, scrapes and fractures can be handled. Once ready, one trailer will be housed at Goldsboro Volunteer Fire Company and the other at the Preston Volunteer Fire Company. These units should be fully operational by the first of next year.

Bryan Ebling, director of Caroline County Emergency Management Agency, requested from the County Commissioners public meeting on Sept. 21 approval for a heavy duty 2004 Chevrolet Tahoe which will be used to tow the trailers for emergency response and Hazmat operations as needed. This is a government-style, no frills added, 4 wheel drive with cargo hatch command support vehicle. The vehicle and incidentals, including hitch and radio, at a cost of \$35,000, will be paid for through a Homeland security state grant.

GAZETTE (ASPEN HILL)

ROCKVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 8,500
SEP 29 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Underlying problem not solved

Ambulance fees and homeland security have generated a lot of comment in local newspapers. Gleaning information from these sources leads one to wonder what kind of obfuscation is going on. Some problems with these proposals were pointed out in Kenneth D. Fisher's letter ("What took so long to act on security czar?" Sept. 15). There are many other problems.

The Gazette recently noted that Sandy Spring Fire Department responded to 41 medical emergencies in one recent week. There are 33 Montgomery County fire stations listed in the telephone book. The ambulance charge is expected to be \$350.

$33 \times 41 \times 52 \text{ (weeks in year)} \times \$350 = \$24,624,600$. Not the expected \$2 million to \$6 million claimed by county officials.

At least two fire stations are prohibited by charter from charging for services. Unless the charge is equitable across the county, it should not even be considered.

Insurance questions would not be asked on 9-1-1 calls, the fire administrator said. Hospitals can't give out patient information. So who will be responsible for getting that information?

The fee could be waived if family income falls below ... etc. Who will process claims for reduced or free service? How many people would be responsible for administering the program?

County government has to accept that the

primary function of governments is providing safety and health, which includes services for the poor and disabled. Residents already pay for these services through various taxes and fees. Programs other than safety and health should be paid for by the users of those programs. Examples: dog parks and skate parks, which cater to special interests. First things first is a laudable standard by which to abide.

The newspapers seem to imply that emergency services will be rolled into a new Montgomery Homeland Security Department. That won't solve the underlying problem.

It is a shame that county residents have not been able, over the last 40 years, to elect politicians who can devise a policy to solve the volunteer fire rescue service problems. Instead, residents pay more and more to get less and less.

Here's one idea: Entice the volunteers to dissolve their 501c charters and donate the stations and equipment to the county. The county could provide jobs for the volunteers. The county could pay a fair price for the property in the form of neighborhood development. The county could simply ask the volunteers what they want and then negotiate. It is long past time to solve this problem. It will not be solved in expensive, incremental steps. Forty years is proof of that.

Helen Dodson, Olney

GAZETTE (NORTH POTOMAC)

ROCKVILLE, MD
WEEKLY 4,000
SEP 29 2004



Capital Clipping Service

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Buddy Ey of North Potomac is a Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) assistant chief and no stranger to crisis situations.

But from Sept. 2-20, he's worked in the state of Florida and surrounding locales as part of a special response team dealing with the destruction wrought by Hurricanes Frances and Ivan.

As the task force leader of a search and rescue team organized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), he helped organize search and rescue efforts after Hurricane Frances, which hit Florida on Sept. 5. Fortunately, little structural damage occurred, so there was no need the team's expertise in rescuing trapped victims.

Hurricane Ivan, which hit on Sept. 16, was another matter entirely. The destruction was so widespread that United States Coast Guard and Army aircraft and boat support were called in to support the efforts of state and federal rescue teams. For three weeks, more than 6,000 properties were searched for victims, including many destroyed or submerged buildings.

Ey is now back home and back at work at the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services headquarters in Rockville.



Capital Clipping Service

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Sheriff's office receives donation of 11 defibrillators

When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, every second counts. Victims of the condition need help quickly and, often times, an electric shock from an automated external defibrillator means the difference between life and death.

Now, thanks to donations from the Greater Waldorf Jaycees and Bill and Elaine Wedding of Indian Head, the Charles County Sheriff's Office is equipped with these life-saving devices.

Officers respond not only to crime-related incidents, but to medical emergencies as well and are often the first rescuers on the scene. But until recently, when someone was suffering sudden cardiac arrest, all officers could do was administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation to the victim and wait for Emergency Medical Services rescuers to arrive. Each minute that passed without administering a shock with a defibrillator reduced the victim's chances of survival by 7 to 10 percent, according to the American Heart Association.

In February 2003, Bill Wedding and his wife, Elaine, donated \$2,000 to the sheriff's office to purchase an AED. The Weddings each have more than 30 years of community service in Charles County; Bill is the president of the Charles County EMS Association, and Elaine is the advanced life support training coordinator for EMS.

In 2004, Dick Gregory, president of the Waldorf Jaycees Foundation, and Kevin Wedding, president of the Waldorf Jaycees chapter, presented Sheriff Frederick E. Davis with \$22,000 on behalf of the Jaycees for another 11 AEDs, which cost \$1,995 each. The Jaycees have also allocated funds to provide the sheriff's office with 10 more AEDs next year.

"AEDs are proven to save lives when the shock is administered to a victim of sudden cardiac arrest within the first five to seven minutes of the onset of the emergency. When our officers are first on the scene, we want them to have these devices so the victim can get treated as soon as possible," Davis said. "We've wanted to purchase AEDs for a couple of years now, but it's not until



CHARLES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Charles County Sheriff Frederick E. Davis, center, stands with two automatic external defibrillators and, from left to right, La Plata officer Mark Powers, La Plata police Sgt. Wayne Wathen, EMS Association President Bill Wedding and Kevin Wedding and Dick Gregory of the Waldorf Jaycees. The men have played integral roles in the sheriff's AED program. Not pictured is Dr. Lee Goodman.

the gracious donations from the Waldorf Jaycees and Bill and Elaine Wedding that it became possible. These people have truly made a difference in their community and because of them, our officers will be equipped to save the lives of victims who need the shock from an AED to survive."

On May 19, the sheriff's office received certification through the Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems to establish its AED program.

In 1999, a law went into effect that permits a business, organization, association or other facility certified by MIEMSS to set up an AED program so if someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest on the facility's premises, appropriately trained nonmedical personnel can administer the device to the victim before EMS personnel arrive, which greatly increases a victim's chance of survival. Each certified AED program, according

to MIEMSS requirements, must have a sponsoring physician. Dr. Lee Goodman, medical director for the emergency room at Civista Medical Center in La Plata, is the sponsor for the Charles County program.

"I want to thank Dr. Goodman for sponsoring us," Davis said. "We've worked well over the years with Dr. Goodman and the staff at Civista Medical Center, and this is another great opportunity for us to enhance public health and safety in our community together."

After an officer uses an AED to help a victim, the officer will follow the victim to Civista Medical Center. A downloading station is set up at the hospital so, once the AED is used, the system will capture the data and print out a record.

Each sheriff's officer has received training to use the AEDs; however, the devices are relatively simple to use. The devices are voice-prompted and will

not allow the officer to shock a person who does not need to be shocked. The AED will analyze the victim and determine whether a shock should be administered. If it does, the officer will shout the familiar "Clear" warning to ensure no one is touching the victim and then administer the shock in an attempt to restore the victim's heart rhythm.

The AED will deliver three shocks if the victim continues to be unresponsive. After the third shock, the AED will prompt the officer to check the victim's pulse and, if no pulse is detected, the officer will administer CPR for one minute. The AED will advise the officer once the minute has passed, and the officer will then reassess and analyze the victim and repeat the process.

Unless the AED advises "No Shock" it will deliver up to nine shocks — three at a time followed by a minute of CPR — and any treatment following the nine shocks is at the discretion of EMS personnel.

Because of their ease of use and the life-saving value, AEDs are seen more and more at locations other than hospitals and advanced life support units. Some malls, neighborhood associations and other organizations have acquired AEDs, including the Waldorf Jaycees, which will keep one of the AEDs at its community center in Waldorf.

Sgt. Wayne Wathen and Officer Mark Powers, La Plata police officers who are certified by the American Red Cross as AED trainers, will train Jaycees personnel on how to use the devices.

The La Plata Police Department established an AED program several years ago and uses the same model AED the sheriff's office has purchased, the Lifepak 500 AED. The remaining 11 AEDs will ensure each part of Charles County is patrolled at all times by an officer equipped with an AED. Four of the AEDs will be used in patrols in the Waldorf district, three in the La Plata district and two in the Indian Head district. On-duty officers will be responsible for carrying AEDs to ensure the devices are available throughout the county.

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Ambulance company's morale on rise

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News-Post Staff
ecunningham@fredericknews-post.com

"This is why we do what we do."

Chief Richard Sharer Jr.
Emmitsburg Ambulance Chief

EMMITSBURG — Less than 24 hours after Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. elected a new chief and deputy chief, volunteers were dispatched to an emergency call.

Emergency medical technicians arrived at the Sleep Inn on Monday morning and performed CPR on a man who was suffering from a heart attack.

"This is why we do what we do," said Chief Richard Sharer Jr., who was elected Sunday night.

The Monday morning call was the first since he took office. EMT John Compton was elected deputy chief the same night.

The new chief said he hopes this call sparks a trend of good performance and service by the ambulance company. The volunteers now run second-due calls while career ambulance personnel are stationed in Vigilant Hose Co. The county pays to provide personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week because of the ambulance company's history of poor response rates.

Sunday night, before he was elected, Chief Sharer arrived with seven pages, a "plan of action outlining his hopes for the company's future."

One part of the new plan would require all officers and members to commit to a three- or four-hour shift, one of which would be on a weekend.

The chief said he wants "all the slots filled on the duty rosters to get the ambulances out the door the way they are supposed to be."

Chief Sharer said he hopes members will report to the station during most hours, so career staff will be needed only 12 hours a day, seven days a week.

"My hope is that we don't have to go with the 24 hours a day, seven days a week shift if we have to get career people," he said.

A decision about whether to create a fire tax district to fund career ambulance personnel in Emmitsburg is expected to be made in early November.

Renewed interest in the ambulance company and revived spirits are already obvious to Chief Sharer. He said a few weeks ago it was not uncommon to ride by a deserted ambulance company parking lot.

"When I rode in here yesterday I couldn't find a place to park," he said. "I have seen a complete change in the morale."

Chief Sharer said he would like to show County Commissioners a list of times the company has coverage.

"We could tell them these are the times we are strong. It

said. "And these are the times when we need the most help."

The chief said he hopes to create an incentive program to ensure volunteers show up for the times they sign up for.

"If you have officers that preach it but can't do it, then you aren't going to have the membership follow you," he said.

Both Chief Sharer and Deputy Chief Compton said they hope to improve the relationship the ambulance company has with surrounding fire companies.

"There has always been animosity between neighboring companies," Chief Sharer said. "We are here for a common goal. We are all here for the good of the community."

He said people seem happier with the direction the company is taking.

Deputy Chief Compton said Chief Sharer "has a lot of great ideas that will push this company forward."

Two new volunteers, who were voted into the company Sunday, walked into the station excited and smiling.

"That was good to see," Deputy Chief Compton said. "It was seeing their expressions and the looks on their faces. They were excited to be a member of the company."

He said the station is no longer empty for long stretches day and night. There are people cooking dinner, talking about the latest news and going over drills.

Chief Sharer said he has been with the ambulance company since 1996, but has been involved in the fire service since 1983. He is a trained EMT and firefighter, and has been certified in hazardous materials. He was deputy chief for a number of years.

Deputy Chief Compton is an EMT, firefighter, rescue technician and a swift-water rescue technician. He has been trained in basic trauma life support, handling hazardous materials emergencies and administering CPR. He says he will soon sign up for an emergency medical services incident command class.

He also was assistant chief for a period in 2000 and a lieutenant from 2002 to 2003.



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Getting the message out on emergency care

Risk Watch hit with kids

By CHUCK MACDONALD
For the Blade-News

A high school football player breaks his leg in a Friday night game and is hauled to the hospital in an ambulance.

A serious car accident results in a victim being evacuated by helicopter to the nearest hospital.

Hospital personnel practice how to coordinate a possible bioterrorist event.

An elementary school student learns how to recognize a serious health crisis in her home and how to get help by dialing 911.

Unfortunately, each of these events are signs of our times. And the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems is taking the lead to make sure our area is thoroughly educated and prepared.

Bowie resident Marie Warner Crosson is the Region V administrator for the program in Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery and St. Mary's counties. Her agency provides the framework that allows these programs, which are crucial to emergency care in this area, to exist.

"I came out of a career in college



Blade-News photo by Linda Blachly
Marie Warner-Crosson is pictured with items she uses to educate Bowie children in emergency services.

addition to organizing training and oversight of the various emergency personnel, the agency prepares its people for how to react in a terrorist event.

"While a lot of attention might focus on Homeland Security, the CIA, etc., it's the local agencies like ours who have to handle the results of a terrorist event,"

(See EMS, Page A2)

By CHUCK MACDONALD
For the Blade-News

Imagine a child's pleasure when he gets to give his parents homework.

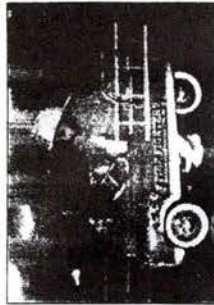
In the Risk Watch program, part of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, children get to do just that. And the parents have to complete the assignment. If they know what's good for them!

In Risk Watch, children can participate in a comprehensive injury prevention program through their school. The prevention activities target the high-risk and high-frequency injuries from preschool through eighth grade.

Through the program, children learn about such unintentional injuries as pedestrian and bicycle accidents, poisonings, choking and strangulation, fire, water and drowning, and falls. A second curriculum covers disaster preparedness. In these lessons children learn how to be prepared for hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes.

So where does the homework come in? As part of the curriculum the children

INSIDE



COMMUNITY: Kids get fired up about fire safety at Glenn Dale VFD Open House. **A12**

BUSINESS: Twins Polish Pottery store opens in Old Bowie. **C7**

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(See PARENTS, Page A2)

PARENTS

(Continued from Page A1)

learn what to do in case of fires.

Then they involve their parents

by asking them to do a family

escape plan. This would include

how to exit the home and where

to go in case of fire.

"This is an excellent program," said Bowie resident Marie Warner-Crosson, the Region V administrator for the MIEMSS.

"This program is getting the right message to the right people. Often the best way to get this message across to families is through the children."

The program has proved suc-

EMS

(Continued from Page A1)

said Warner-Crosson. Images of New York City firefighters and police leap to mind. "So we work hand in hand with hospitals, fire departments and police departments to make sure we are prepared for such an event."

From the big events to the small, Warner-Crosson's team plays a hand in it. For example, if an ambulance picks up a person at an accident, which hospital do they drive to? Hopefully not a hospital that is overloaded already while another hospital has plenty of people to handle cases.

MIEMSS provides the framework that ties together services that include EMS, police, fire and hospitals. The Emergency Medical Resource Center is a communications center operating seven days a week, 24 hours a day and monitors hospital traffic and links emergency ambulances

to hospitals across the state. Warner-Crosson coordinates emergency medical services in an area that includes 14 hospitals and three trauma centers.

According to Warner-Crosson, you always hope that you never have need of emergency care, but if you do, you're glad they're ready for you.

"We have an incredible system here in Maryland," says Warner-Crosson. "We work with the EMS professionals to make sure that they can provide the best care possible. We hope to become a model for other states and services to use."

If you would like to arrange for elementary school children through high schoolers to learn how to respond to crisis situations, call the Region V office at 301-474-1485. For information about the programs, go to www.miemss.org.

cessful with special-needs children as well.

"We have taught some things to children who are unable to verbalize. Yet they have learned that in an emergency they are to punch in 911, then stay on the phone until help arrives."

The Risk Watch curriculum, developed by the National Fire Protection Association, has been designed by safety experts and is taught in the school by teachers and experts from the community. The cost is \$600 per school for a nine- to 12-hour program. Some of the learning material has been provided to the Bowie Library by the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary for use by home-schooled children. A grant from the National Fire Protection Agency helped make these programs possible.

According to Warner-Crosson, not only are the programs important, but they are just plain fun. "One of the lessons about bus safety has a pop-up bus big enough for several children to fit into. Then the class learns about how and

where to properly exit a bus from. They even put tape down on the ground to indicate 'the danger zone' where the bus driver's blind spots are," she explained.

"The need for programs like these are reinforced through some deadly examples," said Warner-Crosson. "One Bowie child perished in a fire because she was afraid of the appearance of a fireman."

According to Warner-Crosson, a large man in strange clothes, wearing a breathing apparatus might frighten a child. But not one who had been through the Risk Watch program. "They know that a fireman is their friend. And they know how to react in other dangerous circumstances. This is one school assignment parents will be glad their children took."

For information about the Risk Watch Program, visit www.miemss.org. Click on EMS for children, then Risk Watch. Or go directly to www.RiskWatch.org.

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Stephanie Kalinich 301-262-3700, Ext. 237
skalnich@chladnews.com
Annette Escherfeld 301-262-3700, Ext. 202
aescherfeld@chladnews.com

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:
Kathy Simont 301-262-3700, Ext. 222

ADVERTISING
301-262-3700
Fax 301-262-7314

ADVERTISING MANAGER:
Tom Adams 301-262-3700, Ext. 210

CIRCULATION
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Fire and Rescue members put Collins on fast track to top post

by Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

After having served 32 years of his life in the volunteer fire service, Jim Collins, Laurel's own press information officer, said now was the time to take on a bigger challenge. On Sept. 17, he got what he wanted.

Prince George's County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association members elected him as second vice president of the organization.

The post gives him a pulpit to lobby for the concerns of not just his

local Laurel Volunteer Fire Department but all emergency volunteers in the county.

"I've been a delegate with the association for [seven] years," Collins told The Gazette. "You're their voice ... and there's always issues with the volunteers on a daily basis."

Collins said that those who have held the position of second vice president, usually become first vice president before becoming association president after yearly elections.

Collins hopes to be in the top slot in two years.

Right now, he wants to concentrate on making the situation for volunteers, particularly in light of heightened terror threats, better.

"Since 9/11, I go around to these stations and ask them if we have things to deal with biological, chemical or nuclear attacks," Collins said. "But we don't have the equipment to these situations."

Volunteers and career firefighters alike, Collins said, will almost certainly be the first responders to a major disaster or terrorist threat and not be fully equipped when they get there.

"If we're talking about large scale terrorism, are we able to deal with it?," Collins said. "No."

Collins said that the way to get that equipment was to find funding available through grants.

"Everybody knows that the money is hard to come by," Collins said. "We want to make sure that volunteers get what they deserve."

Collins said he was also committed to ensuring harmony between volunteer and paid firefighters, something that hasn't been all that easy to come by in the past.

He said, however, that things were changing — specifically that his association, the paid firefighters union Local 1619, the county fire commission and the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute would meet monthly with Fire/EMS Chief Darrell Odum to take on issues about what emergency personnel need to do their jobs.

"We agreed we're going to set the table and resolve these things," Collins said.

E-mail Guy Leonard at
gleonard@gazette.net.

BOWIE BLADE-NEWS

BOWIE, MD
WEEKLY 42,646
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Good Samaritans

Sir: *CL-EB*

My 18-month-old daughter and I wish to thank the good Samaritans and the Bowie Fire Department's EMTs who helped us through an emergency Saturday, Sept. 25.

As I was driving on Belair Drive, I was horrified as I looked in my rearview mirror to see my baby having a seizure in her car seat. I pulled over, got her out of the truck and I began screaming for help. Time was standing still for me as my only child was helpless in my arms. Instantly, two Belair Drive residents were by my side, calling 911 and reassuring us. A few people pulled over and stood by to offer their help. One man in particular, who I will never forget, told me that he was an EMT in training and a lifeguard. He knew exactly what to do. As I prayed out loud, he stroked my daughter's head and talked to her until she came out of the seizure. He called my husband as well as my parents on his cell phone.

The 911 response was excellent and the EMTs were wonderful. I wish I could thank these good citizens in person. My family truly appreciates your kindness.

CHRISTINA BAYES
Bowie

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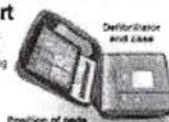
CNN Health News

- Complications halt separation surgery
- Defibrillators multiply

Restarting the heart

Portable defibrillators -- devices that deliver an electric shock to people whose hearts are beating erratically or stop -- can be used to keep a heart attack victim alive until medical help arrives.

First, determine that the person is not breathing and there is no pulse. Turn the defibrillator on.



Position of pads

Then, plug the cord into the defibrillator and wait for it to check for a heartbeat. It will indicate if a shock is needed. If so, press the shock button. One or more shocks may be prompted by the defibrillator.

SOURCE: Philips Medical Systems

Training Key to Defibrillator Success

By DANIEL YEE

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (AP) - Because defibrillators are more affordable than ever, they are quickly becoming commonplace in schools, businesses and other public places such as airports. But ordinary people, even with training, often can't use the devices under the pressure of an emergency.

"It's not the box on the wall that saves a life -- someone has to be trained to know what to do in an emergency and how to use it. That's what saves a life," said Robin McCune of the American Heart Association.

A year ago, when rising prep football star Ryan Boslet suddenly went into cardiac arrest during a workout in his school gym, a portable defibrillator was only the length of a basketball court away in the athletic director's office.

But it was never used.

A school staff member couldn't figure out how to operate it. Coaches called 911, then administered CPR to the 6-foot-4, 270-pound defensive tackle. The 17-year-old teen died later that day.

Chattahoochee High School had only recently obtained its defibrillator and the model it got was different from the one on which school officials had trained.

When Boslet's heart attack occurred on Feb. 20, 2003, the trained staffer couldn't find the device's pads, which were tucked under a flap inside the box. The adhesive electrode pads, placed on the chest, are needed to deliver the electrical shock that can restore heart rhythm. School officials thought the device was not operable and no one else tried to get it to work.

Health officials estimate 200,000 to 300,000 portable defibrillators exist in the United States, although the exact number is not known.

With the help of visual and verbal instructions, six people unfamiliar with the devices used them to revive heart attack victims at Chicago's airports -- including the busy O'Hare International Airport -- in 2002, according to a New England Journal of Medicine study.

Such success is not always the case. Experts say even trained operators can falter if they don't regularly train on defibrillators. Merely having the \$2,000 devices is not enough.

"The device is very simple, but the situation is not very common," said Mary Fran Hazinski of the heart association. "When you find yourself in the midst of an emergency situation, it's easy to get flustered."

Over the past 20 years, defibrillators have evolved to automatically detect the heart's



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Training Key to Defibrillator Success

rhythm and decide whether it needs a shock. But people need to be familiar enough with the devices through training - and retraining - to use them quickly enough to provide a heart attack victim the best chance of survival, Hazinski said.

• [Back to](#)

In one report in a medical journal, volunteers had trouble opening the device's packaging and failed to properly place the pads that deliver the shock. Better instructions on some models may help more people use them, according to an article in the July issue of the journal Prehospital Emergency Care.

Another study published last year indicated defibrillators were used only slightly more than a third of the time by rescuers in places where the devices were nearby. About four out of five non-health workers couldn't use them properly when training on mannequins, according to the December issue of the Journal of Dental Education.

That's why groups such as the heart association and hospitals like Children's Healthcare of Atlanta are working to train more people about the warning signs of cardiac arrest, how to administer CPR and use the defibrillator.

A defibrillator certification program involves a four-hour course and needs to be renewed every two years. The heart association also recommends refresher training every 60 to 90 days.

In addition, a school or company always should have a plan to handle medical emergencies - that includes use of the defibrillator - and all staff, students or employees should be regularly trained, Hazinski said.

"If they practice, everyone is able to respond and that will give the victim the best outcome," she said. "It has to be a coordinated and practiced response plan - it does nobody any good if someone donates an (a defibrillator) to a school and it's locked in a cabinet."

Patients who receive CPR and a defibrillator shock within three minutes of going into cardiac arrest survive 74 percent of the time. Just two minutes longer and the survival odds drop to 40 percent, previous studies have shown. Nationally, those who go into sudden cardiac arrest only have a 5 percent survival rate.

Students dying of cardiac arrest is rare - about 12 to 15 of the nation's 5 million high school athletes, according to the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research.

Since Ryan's death, his high school has bought three more defibrillators and trained more than a third of the school's 140 staff members.

"Are we more prepared probably than any school in the country? We probably are," said principal Tim Duncan.

Although Chris Boslet, Ryan's father, harbors no ill feelings toward the school, he still wonders if Ryan could have been saved with the device.

"In my opinion, it would have removed that one element of doubt we still live with," he said. "We just don't know if a defibrillator used in the right amount of time would have saved him, and I guess we'll never know that."

On The Net:

American Heart Association: <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3011859>

Federal defibrillator info:

<http://www.foh.dhhs.gov/Public/WhatWeDo/AED/FOHFAQ.ASP>

American Red Cross info: <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/aed.html>

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ISSUE

EMS HOME **Studies Show Layperson Use of AEDs Increases Rate of Survival to Hospital Discharge**

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Recent studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* show that training and equipping laypersons to use automatic external defibrillators on cardiac arrest victims in public locations increases rate of survival to hospital discharge.

Researchers conducted a prospective, community-based, multicenter clinical trial in which they randomly assigned community units, such as shopping malls and apartment complexes, to a structured and monitored emergency response system involving lay volunteers trained in CPR alone or in CPR and AED use. More than 19,000 volunteer responders from 993 community units participated in the trial. Patients were similar in age, proportion of men, rate of cardiac arrest in a public location and rate of witnessed arrest. No inappropriate shocks were delivered. There were more survivors to hospital discharge in units assigned to have volunteers trained in CPR and AED use (30 survivors of 128 arrests) than in units assigned to have volunteers trained only in CPR (15 survivors among 107 arrests). From this, researchers concluded that trained laypersons can safely and effectively use AEDs on victims of cardiac arrest.

A related article reported that bystanders performing CPR and using an AED save as many cardiac arrest victims as highly trained EMS providers. The chances of surviving a cardiac arrest nearly quadruple if fast-acting laypeople perform CPR instead of waiting for EMS, says the article, and more than triple if a shock from a defibrillator is delivered within eight minutes. Experts concluded that these findings could lead to significant changes in the way EMS systems across the country allocate resources.

EMS Magazine will follow up with a more extensive report on these studies in the November issue. The original articles can be found in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Volume 351, #7, August 12, 2004.



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