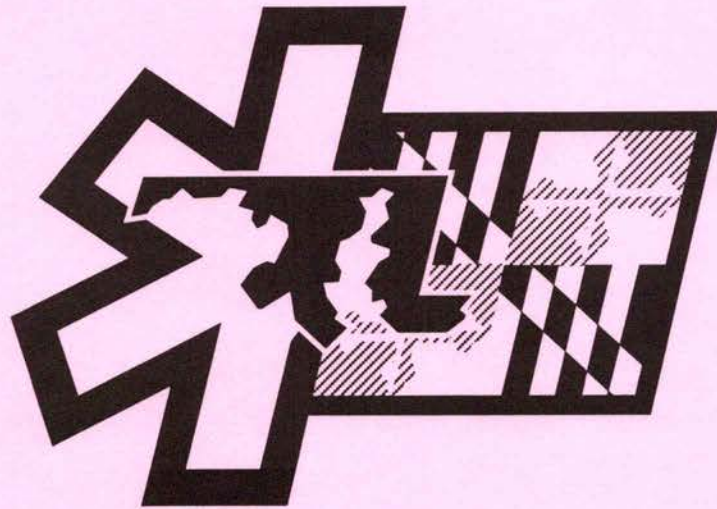


*Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems*



Press Report

December, 2005

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SEVERNA PARK, MD
MONTHLY
DECEMBER 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Mobile Unit Receives AED

5m FB
The Cliff R. Roop Cardiac Support and Education Foundation donated an automatic external defibrillator (AED) to Anne Arundel County for use by Emergency Management personnel aboard the new Mobile Command and Control Unit.

"The Roop Foundation continues to help save lives in Anne Arundel County and across the country," said County Executive

Janet S. Owens. "We know that AEDs are a vital link in the chain of survival. We will use this AED when we utilize the Unit in the County or when deployed to other jurisdictions. This resource was mobilized and deployed to the Gulf Coast region."

Through a public and private partnership with the Cliff R. Roop Cardiac Support and Education Foundation, AEDs have been

placed in several County buildings including The Heritage Office Complex, the Police Training Academy, the Northern District Police Station, Ordinance and Jennifer Road Correction Centers, the Arundel Center, Kinder Farm Park and the County Courthouse.

For more information about the Cliff R. Roop Cardiac Support and Education Foundation, call 410-990-1050.

KENT COUNTY NEWS

CHESTERTOWN, MD
WEEKLY 8,500
DEC 1 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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23 XX....

Tower the topic of an informational meeting

By Craig O'Donnell
Staff writer

ROCK HALL – Like the legendary Martian fighting machines from “War of the Worlds”, thirty-three-story tall, three-legged towers have sprouted around Maryland. Most are on state property such as State Highway Administration lots or next to state police barracks.

They aren't equipped with laser death rays, and they can't travel. The towers are part of a statewide emergency communications network. **547FB**

Other state agencies can share tower space, for example, to hold wireless broadband equipment.

So far, towers in Cecilton and on Morgnac Road outside Chestertown have been completed.

Kent's next tower is planned for the Sharptown Landfill on Crosby Road. At a meeting last year, state officials said they plan to put a third tower on the eastern edge of the county.

According to a letter from Ken Smith, communications

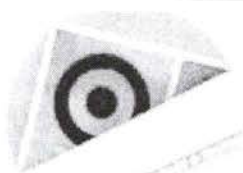
officer at the Kent County Office of Emergency Services, a public informational meeting will be held Dec. 12.

The structure is “not intended as a commercial cellular tower,” the letter said, but is for “up-to-date emergency and other communications-based services to the people of the State of Maryland.” The letter calls the Rock Hall-area location “essential for public safety services.”

Kent County's zoning regulations stipulate that cell-phone providers must use existing structures, such as water tanks, where they are available, so the new tower may bode well for cell-phone coverage on the county's western edge.

The presentation begins at 7 p.m. at the Rock Hall firehouse.

The public is invited to question representatives from the SHA, State Police, Department of Natural Resources, National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Maryland Institute for Emergency Services, and Kent County.



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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/harford/bal-ha.farm04dec04,1,3788630.story>

Pioneering a plan for avian flu outbreak

On the Farm -- Ted Shelsby

December 4, 2005

Hats off to the people in the Delmarva poultry industry.

They have developed what the state Department of Agriculture is calling the nation's first plan to control an outbreak of avian influenza and prevent its spread to humans.

A form of avian influenza - called H5N1 - has been infecting millions of poultry, migratory birds and farm animals in Southeast Asia since 2003. The virus has infected more than 100 people in Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Indonesia, killing more than 50.

Although the H5N1 variety has not been found in the United States, there was an outbreak of another strain of avian flu on the Eastern Shore last year. It resulted in the destruction of more than 300,000 chickens.

But that flu strain was not considered harmful to humans.

The next time, we may not be so lucky. There is concern that it could mutate into a more dangerous variety.

Poultry, health and agriculture officials in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia have taken preventative steps, teaming up to develop a plan to protect humans and an industry that means more to the economy of the Eastern Shore than Disney World does to Orlando, Fla.

The plan was aimed primarily at people who might come into contact with infected chickens, said Bill Satterfield, executive director of the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. They include the crews that would dispose of infected birds and workers who clean and disinfect chickenhouses.

The plan addresses the use of personal protective equipment to prevent human infection with any strain of the virus, preventive vaccines and antiviral drugs, infection control, decontamination measures and surveillance for illness.

Part of the plan is to make the safeguards taken consistent from state to state and with poultry companies and farmers in each state.

Avian influenza is an airborne respiratory virus that spreads easily among birds through nasal and eye secretions, as well as manure. It can spread rapidly from flock to flock, and can be carried great distances by people, vehicles, equipment and clothing.

The plan was put into place this summer, as state agencies prepared to respond to a suspected outbreak within hours, according to Sue duPont, a spokeswoman for the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

She said equipment such as protective clothing and respirators has been acquired, as have antiviral pills.

"We will have these things in hand," she said. "You won't have to try to get a prescription filled on a Sunday night."

Maryland Agriculture Secretary Lewis R. Riley said the steps were taken to protect human health and the state's largest agricultural sector.

DuPont said the plan was established using guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We believe this is the first plan established in the country," said duPont, adding that the department has been sharing information with other states and poultry companies in the Delmarva region, as well as with plants in other parts of the country.

Anthony S. McCann, Maryland's secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, called the effort a "proactive approach to prevent avian influenza in poultry and humans."

Poultry is the leading industry on the Delmarva peninsula, having an annual wholesale value of more than \$1.7 billion. The industry employs about 14,000 workers, and more than 2,000 farms grow chickens.

Firewood's fair price

With a forecast of cold rain and maybe even some snow this weekend, it's a delight to toss another log on the fire to knock the chill off a room.

But there is nothing fun about being ripped off when buying firewood.

That's where Lewis R. Riley and his lieutenants at the Agriculture Department get involved.

When it comes to buying firewood, Riley's gang is out to see that consumers get what they pay for. He has issued his annual cold weather warning: If you're selling firewood in Maryland, know and obey the law.

Maryland's division of weights and measures, which regulates the sale of firewood and many other products from apples to zucchini, falls under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Department.

"It is important that any Maryland residents buying firewood understand the way it is measured and that any person selling firewood in Maryland know and follow the law so that the consumers get what they pay for," Riley said in his annual heating season message to buyers and sellers.

Maryland regulations require firewood be sold by the cord or fraction of a cord. Any other terms, such as truckload, rack or pile, are illegal.

"Most consumers do not understand the meaning of a cord, or they are unaware of the many ways wood can be stacked to look like a cord when it isn't," said Will Wothlie, chief of weights and measures. "If the seller uses a

term other than a cord or fraction of a cord, consumers should be suspicious."

A cord is the amount of wood stacked and stowed in a well-compacted manner in a space of 128 cubic feet, typically in a stack measuring 4 feet wide by 8 feet long by 4 feet high.

The regulations allow for the sale of the small bundles of wood frequently sold by convenience stores to homeowners who only occasionally use their fireplace. It too is sold in terms of square feet.

Sellers are required to have a license from the Department of Natural Resource's forest service.

The law requires that a delivery ticket containing the date of delivery accompany bulk sales of firewood. The ticket must also contain the name and address of the seller and buyer, the quantity of wood delivered, the cost of the wood, the type of wood and the license number of the vehicle that transports the wood.

So far this year, the department has received about 10 complaints, according to Bob Eaves, program manager at weights and measures. "Most of them involved the consumer getting less wood than they paid for," he said.

Some years the department receives as many as 50 complaints and others as few as 20.

Most discrepancies are worked out between buyer and seller.

"If the seller can't or won't correct the problem, consumers should call us before burning any of the wood," Wotthlie said. The telephone numbers are 410-841- 5790 or 800-492-5590.

With the anticipated high cost of home heating oil and gas this year, the demand for firewood is expected to be strong.

Buyers can get additional information on firewood, including which types burn best and a diagram of a cord, by visiting the Department of Natural Resources' Web site at www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/forester/firewoodinfo.html.

ted.shelsby@baltsun.com

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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/howard/bal-ho.seatbelt07dec07,1,7618573.story?coll=bal-local-howard>

Making seat belt safety click in Howard

Chief's Challenge helps the police increase the compliance rate in the county to 97 percent

By Ruth L. Tisdale
sun reporter

December 7, 2005

When entering her 1998 Plymouth Breeze, the first thing Renate Young does before starting her car is buckle her seat belt.

"It has become so common, I don't even think about it anymore," Young said. "I always wear my seat belt to keep me safe because accidents do happen."

With programs such as the Chief's Challenge, Howard County police have succeeded in getting 97 percent of residents to use seat belts.

The Chief's Challenge, a statewide program held in April and May, encourages law enforcement officials to crack down on those who do not use seat belts and is one of the reasons for the county's high compliance rate, said Barbara Beckett, executive director of the Maryland Committee for Safety Belt Use.

"There is no overtime for this," said Beckett, adding that she instituted the program locally in 1988 and saw it picked up nationally in 1992. "While we ask for a stepped-up enforcement initiative, during April and May they actually design checkpoints as a part of their routine enforcement."

Maryland leads the East Coast in compliance with 91 percent, and Beckett said the high compliance rate could also be attributed to the Police Department's effort to educate the community.

"Since the demographics are constantly changing, they haven't gone and just said everybody just buckle up without going out to the community," Beckett said. "It takes a strong enforcement measure to get people to buckle up. We have senior citizens who hand out materials to day care centers. We are working with religious leaders. That's how the community has gotten involved."

Entering her car after a long day of shopping at The Mall in Columbia, Charise Mitchell, a Prince George's

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/howard/bal-ho.seatbelt07dec07,1,5790523,print.story?c...> 12/7/2005

County resident, said she always makes sure she uses her seat belt when driving in Howard County.

"I don't really buckle up for safety reasons -- only to avoid getting a ticket," Mitchell said, adding that although she does not like using a seat belt she makes sure that her two children use theirs. "While I don't normally see the police around giving out tickets, I know that they are there."

Some motorists have mixed feelings about the tough compliance stance taken by Howard County officers. Young, of Baltimore County, said that while it is necessary to use a seat belt, police officers should spend more time stopping criminals.

"It's a waste of time pulling over people just for seat belts," Young said, adding that she regularly visits Howard County because of its proximity to her home. "They should be more concerned with stopping drunk drivers. Drunk drivers affect innocent people -- not wearing a seat belt only affects yourself."

However, Beckett said that one of the benefits of frequent seat-belt safety stops is being able to check for other infractions.

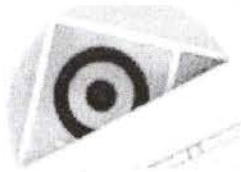
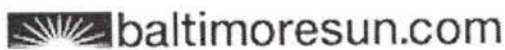
"The Oklahoma bomber was picked up during a routine traffic stop," Beckett said. "On a regular stop, they can pick up guns, drugs and criminals as well."

Beckett said she hopes a time comes when Chief's Challenges would yield 100 percent compliance throughout the state.

"The officers who write these citations are also the ones who see someone who needlessly died because they were not buckled," Beckett said. "At some point, we would like to see them write zero citations."

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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/health/bal-agnes1207,1,4889834.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

St. Agnes Hospital plans to expand

\$160 million project to be completed in 3 phases amid industry boom in Md.

By M. William Salganik
Sun Reporter

December 7, 2005, 11:32 AM EST

St. Agnes Hospital this morning announced a \$160 million expansion project.

The \$14 million first phase will renovate and expand a number of units at the hospital, including the emergency department, operating rooms, outpatient surgery waiting area and maternity area. The second phase will be a \$7.2 million garage for 500 vehicles.

The third -- and most extensive -- phase will include a new patient tower and medical office building. That part, hospital officials said, is still in the planning stage, so detailed information is not available. The announcement comes at a time when Maryland hospitals have been engaged in a building boom as the number of patient visits has increased.

Overall, the Maryland Health Care Commission expects to have reviewed \$2.7 billion worth of capital projects in the three years ending in 2005, compared with \$734 million approved from 2000 to 2002.

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MARYLAND INDEPENDENT

WALDORF, MD
WEDNESDAY 25,000
DEC 7 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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New disaster guide available at Web site

547FD

A two-year project supported by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems will help small, rural and suburban communities prepare and respond to major emergencies, according to a press release.

"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are an all-too-recent and stark reminder of the need to anticipate and plan for mass casualty disasters," said Dennis R. Schrader, director of Maryland's Department of Homeland Security.

The planning guide is the culmination of a two-year project supported by the institute, the agency responsible for coordinating Maryland's Emergency Medical Services..

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations issued the step-by-step guide, "Standing Together: An Emergency Planning Guide for America's Communities," for small, rural and suburban communities to both prepare for and successfully respond to major local and regional emergencies.

The final electronic version of the emergency management planning guide is now available on the joint commission Web site at <http://www.jcaho.org>.

WORCESTER COUNTY TIMES

OCEAN CITY, MD
WEEKLY 20,000
DEC 8 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Consider billing for EMS services

54750
Congratulations to the
Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire
Department EMS on the 20th
anniversary of their
professional services to the

residents of Ocean Pines. We
have had to use their services
numerous times and always
found them to be prompt,
competent and professional.

On one occasion, my wife
had to be transported from a
physician's office in West
Ocean City to Atlantic General
Hospital. This time Ocean City
EMS was called. Subsequently
we received an invoice from
OCEMS accompanied by an
assignment of benefits, which
we executed and returned.

Medicare and my Medigap
insurance paid \$337 to OCEMS.
I wondered why OPVFD was
not doing this. I researched the
EMS of Worcester County and
found that most billed
insurance companies and
Medicare.

I wrote to the OPA board
with this information. The
board advised me that they
forwarded a copy of my letter
to the OPVFD management.
Without a cost benefit analysis
the OPA and the OPVFD
decided that they will
maintain the status quo.

There is no telling how
much net revenue has not been
recovered from Medicare and
other insurance companies
over the 20-year period. It
could be hundreds of

thousands of dollars.

Our OPA board and OPVFD
management should explore
the feasibility of billing
Medicare and insurance
companies for EMS services.
Perhaps this can be
accomplished through the
Budget and Finance
Committee. This is an
additional source of income
for the new year.

AL BEYER
OCEAN PINES



Capital Clipping Service

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left, Sgt. Paul Gregory, Dick Gregory, Sheriff Frederick E. Davis and Lt. Edward Godwin pose with an automated external defibrillator.

Jaycees add to sheriff's supply of automated defibrillators

547FB
BY ANGIE MASON
STAFF WRITER

The Charles County Sheriff's Office's supply of automated external defibrillators has grown to 22, enough to ensure officers in every district are patrolling with one, thanks to donations from the Greater Waldorf Jaycees.

Last year, the Jaycees presented Sheriff Frederick E. Davis with \$22,000 on behalf of the Jaycees to fund 11 of the devices, which cost \$1,995 apiece. Earlier this year, the Jaycees donated the 10 AEDs.

"We just felt it gave us another opportunity to help the safety of our citizens," said Dick Gregory, president of the Waldorf Jaycees Foundation.

The sheriff's office received its first AED in 2003 when Bill Wedding, president of the Charles County Emergency Medical Services Association, and his wife, Elaine, an ad-

vanced life support training coordinator, donated \$2,000 to help the sheriff's office purchase the device.

As emergency responders, sheriff's officers respond to reports of people not breathing but before the office acquired the AEDs, all officers could do was administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a victim suffering sudden cardiac arrest and wait for EMS rescuers to arrive, according to a press release.

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.

"The first ones normally on the scene, in a situation like that, are the police officers," Gregory said. "It has proven very important that the sooner you can get help to someone

having a heart problem, the better your chances are for survival."

He noted that the Jaycees wanted to help the sheriff's office reach its goal of equipping all patrol units on the road with the device.

Davis recently met with Gregory and Sgt. Paul Gregory, a member of the Jaycees and the sheriff's office's official liaison for the organization, to thank them for providing the funding for the defibrillators.

"These donations have the potential to save a lot of lives, and I am very grateful to the Jaycees for helping us provide our officers with this equipment," Davis said in a press release. "We have enough AEDs now to ensure officers in every district are patrolling with an AED."

E-mail Angie Mason at
amason@somdnews.com.



Capital Clipping Service

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Work progressing on public safety building in town

By CHRIS LAVENDER

Special from The Star Democrat

Construction continues on Cambridge's new public safety building on Washington Street, which will be completed by July.

For the past eight months, crews have worked at the 8 Washington Street work site to build the new 58,000-square-foot public safety building. The new public safety building will house the city's fire, police, and emergency medical services depart-

ments.

During a groundbreaking ceremony on May 26, it was announced the new public safety building will be named after late Cambridge City Councilman Edward E. Watkins, who died April 29 at age 85, and served on the city council for more than 35 years.

Cambridge City Engineer George Hyde said Friday the new public safety building will cost \$10 million to build. Hyde added there will be four acres of property surrounding the building.

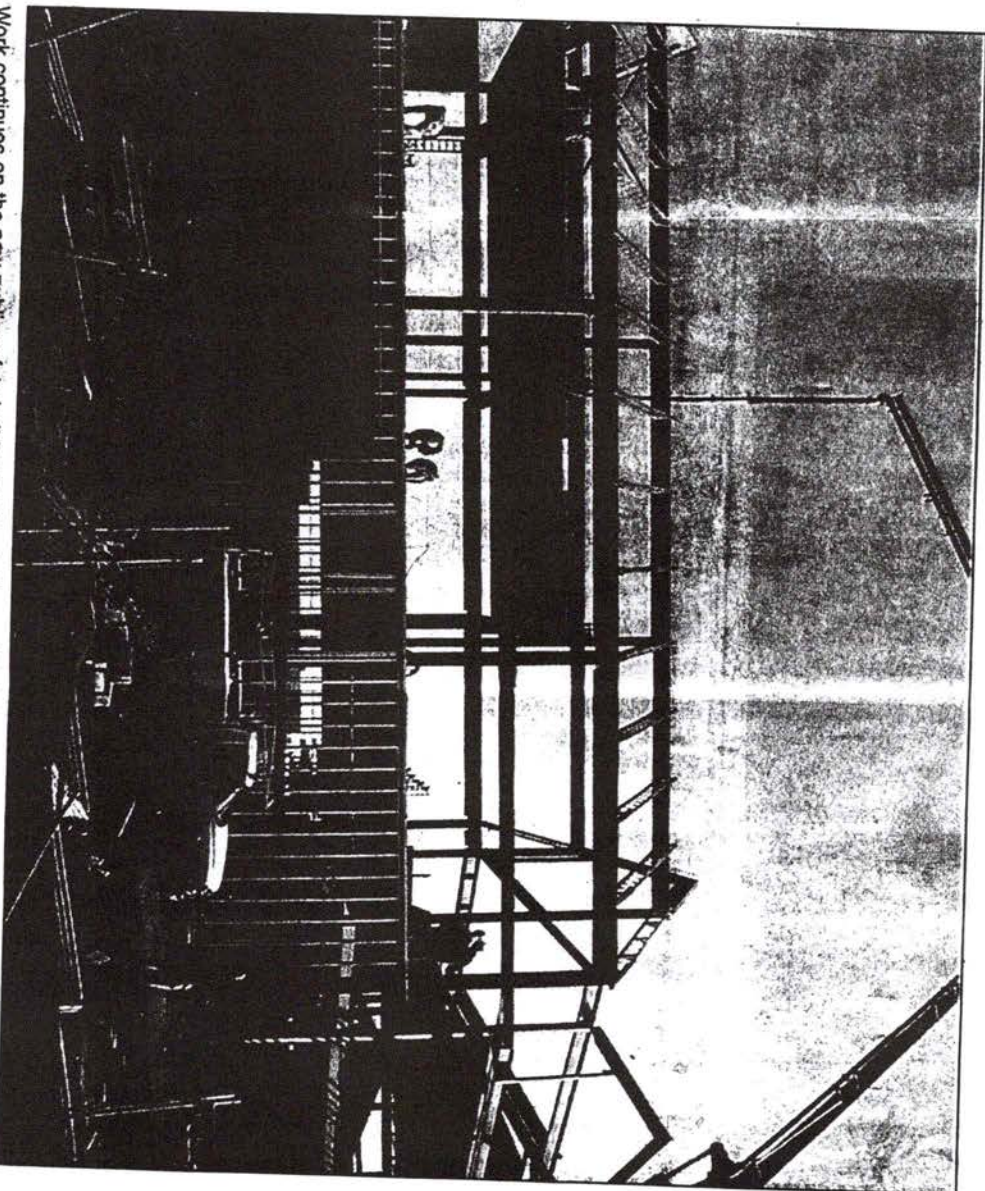
Cambridge Police's new offices will be located in the front half of the building, Hyde said. He added a center section connecting the front of the building to the back of the building will have conference rooms and a communication center.

Cambridge Fire Rescue and Cambridge EMS will be located in the back of the new building, Hyde said. Hyde said the new public safety building will also have a "large bay area for trucks," which will be enclosed.

Cambridge Mayor Cleveland

See WORK

Page A12



Work continues on the new public safety building in Cambridge on Washington Street. The building is expected to be finished by July. The building is expected to house the city's fire, police and emergency medical services departments.

WORK

From
Page A1

Rippons said Friday work crews are on schedule and should complete the new public safety building by July 2006.

Excited about moving in soon, CPD Chief Kenneth Malik, Cambridge EMS Director Bill Watkins and Cambridge-Rescue Fire Company Chief Jeffery O. Hurley Sr. said Friday the new public safety building will enhance their abilities to serve the community.

"We will have more office space," Malik said. "Right now we have detectives and lieutenants sharing offices and our current office has no real closet space."

Malik said "everyone is real excited about moving in." Currently, there are 47 sworn officers in the CPD which has 59 total employees. The new public safety building will help

Cambridge EMS reduce its response time by 50 percent, Watkins said. Watkins thanked city officials Friday for providing a new public safety building.

"It's a big commitment," Watkins said. He added there are 10 full time and 20 part time EMS employees.

Hurley said the new public safety building will provide more on-site security and office space.

"It is centrally located at Route 50," Hurley said. He added a maintenance bay at the site will allow the fire company to wash and maintain its vehicles.

"We are all very excited," Hurley said. "It will be a new modern facility."

Currently, there are 67 active members in Cambridge-Fire Rescue, which has 400 honorary members.

meeting on October 6, 2005, notice of which was given by Board agenda pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

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

Subtitle 01 GENERAL

30.01.01 Definitions

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-208-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.01.01 Definitions**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1480 — 1481 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 01 GENERAL

30.01.04 Procedures for Access to Public Documents

Authority: State Government Article, §10-613(b),
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-209-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted new Regulation .11-1 under **COMAR 30.01.04 Procedures for Access to Public Documents**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1481 — 1482 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

30.02.01 Definitions

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-210-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 and **COMAR 30.02.01 Definitions**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1482 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

ROBERT R. BASS, M.
Executive Director
MIEMSS

Subtitle 02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

30.02.02 Licensure And Certification

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-211-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .06 and **COMAR 30.02.02 Licensure And Certification**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1482 — 1483 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

ROBERT R. BASS, M.
Executive Director
MIEMSS

Subtitle 02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

30.02.04 Prohibited Conduct

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-212-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 and **COMAR 30.02.04 Prohibited Conduct**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

1474 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted with the nonsubstantive changes shown below.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

Attorney General's Certification

In accordance with State Government Article, §10-113, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Attorney General certifies that the following changes do not differ substantively from the proposed text. The nature of the changes and the basis for this conclusion are as follows:

Regulation .02: The year 2007 is substituted for 2006. This change is not a substantive change because it does not decrease the benefits achieved by the regulation or increase the burdens imposed. Specifically, allowing the additional time period for school systems to come into compliance with this regulation was an outcome of the public comment process in which several school systems asserted their need for additional time. This additional time decreases the burden on those school systems and allows them a longer transition to the new curricular requirements.

A nonsubstantive typographical error also is corrected in this regulation.

.02 Certification Procedures.

By September 1, [[2006]] 2007, and each 5 years after that, each local superintendent of schools shall have certified to the [[State(s)] State's Superintendent of Schools that the instructional programming within grades 9 — 12 meets, at a minimum, the requirements set forth in Regulation .01C — G of this chapter.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

Subtitle 04 SPECIFIC SUBJECTS

13A.04.11 Program of Instruction in Survival Competencies

Authority: Education Article, §2-205(h),
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-239-F]

On October 25, 2005, the State Board of Education adopted the repeal of Regulations .01 and .02 under COMAR 13A.04.11 **Program of Instruction in Survival Competencies**. This action was taken at a public meeting on October 25, 2005, notice of which was given by Board agenda pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:18 Md. R. 1537 (September 2, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

13A.06.01 Programs for Food and Nutrition

Authority: Education Article, §§5-206, 7-501 — 7-505, 7-601 — 7-605, and
7-701 — 7-704,
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-206-F-1]

On October 25, 2005, the State Board of Education adopted amendments to Regulation .01 under COMAR 13A.06.01 **Programs for Food and Nutrition**. This action was taken at a public meeting on October 25, 2005, notice of which was given by Board agenda pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1474 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

Subtitle 06 SUPPORTING PROGRAMS

13A.06.03 Interscholastic Athletics in the State

Authority: Education Article, §2-205,
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-207-F]

On October 25, 2005, the State Board of Education adopted amendments to Regulation .09 under COMAR 13A.06.03 **Interscholastic Athletics in the State**. This action was taken at a public meeting on October 25, 2005, notice of which was given by Board agenda pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1475 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION

13A.12.01 General Provisions

Authority: Education Article, §§2-303(g) and 6-701 — 6-705,
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-190-F]

On October 6, 2005, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board adopted amendments to Regulations .04 and .13 under COMAR 13A.12.01 **General Provisions**. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:16 Md. R. 1403 — 1404 (August 5, 2005), has been adopted as proposed. This action was taken at a public

land. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1483 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

30.02.05 Disciplinary Procedures

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-213-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .14 under **COMAR 30.02.05 Disciplinary Procedures**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1483 — 1484 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 02 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

30.02.05 Disciplinary Procedures

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-214-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .16 under **COMAR 30.02.05 Disciplinary Procedures**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1484 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

30.03.01 Definitions

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-215-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 under **COMAR 30.03.01 Definitions**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1484 — 1485 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

30.03.02 Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-216-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.03.02 Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1485 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

30.03.04 Quality Assurance

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-217-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .03 under **COMAR 30.03.04 Quality Assurance**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State

Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1485 — 1486 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

30.03.04 Quality Assurance

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-218-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted new Regulations .06 and .07 under **COMAR 30.03.04 Quality Assurance**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 31:17 Md. R. 1486 — 1487 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

30.03.05 Protocol Development

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-219-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.03.05 Protocol Development**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1487 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 03 EMS OPERATIONAL PROGRAM

30.03.06 Base Stations

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

Notice of Final Action

[05-220-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulations .03 and .07 under **COMAR 30.03.06 Base Stations**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1487 — 1488 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 07 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

30.07.01 Helicopter Communications

Authority: Education Article, §13-509(d),
Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Final Action

[05-222-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 under **COMAR 30.07.01 Helicopter Communications**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1488 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted with the nonsubstantive changes shown below.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

Attorney General's Certification

In accordance with State Government Article, §10-1, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Attorney General certifies that the following changes do not differ substantively from the proposed text. The nature of the changes and the basis for this conclusion are as follows:

Regulation .01: Allows for notification by some other crew member as an alternative to notification by the pilot.

.01 Helicopter Communications to SYSCOM.

- A. (proposed text unchanged)
- B. Notice of Patient Transports.

(1) The pilot or other crew member of a helicopter conducting patient transport or landing at a Maryland hospital or specialty center shall notify SYSCOM as provided in this section.

(2) — (7) (proposed text unchanged)
C. — D. (proposed text unchanged)

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

**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**

30.08.01 General Provisions

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

Notice of Final Action
[05-223-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .04 under **COMAR 30.08.01 General Provisions**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1488 — 1489 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**

**30.08.02 Designation of Trauma and Specialty
Referral Centers**

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

Notice of Final Action
[05-224-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulations .03 and .05 under **COMAR 30.08.02 Designation of Trauma and Specialty Referral Centers**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1489 (August 29, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**

**30.08.03 Requirements for Designated Trauma
or Specialty Referral Centers**

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

Notice of Final Action
[05-226-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .01 under **COMAR 30.08.03 Requirements for Designated Trauma or Specialty Referral Centers**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1489 — 1490 (August 29, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**

**30.08.04 Data Collection and Quality Manage-
ment**

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

Notice of Final Action
[05-227-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .06 under **COMAR 30.08.04 Data Collection and Quality Management**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1490 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

**Subtitle 08 DESIGNATION OF TRAUMA AND
SPECIALTY REFERRAL CENTERS**

**30.08.13 Disciplinary Action for Violation of
Subtitle**

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

Notice of Final Action
[05-228-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .03 under

COMAR 30.08.13 Disciplinary Action for Violation of Subtitle. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1490 — 1491 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

Subtitle 09 COMMERCIAL AMBULANCE SERVICES

30.09.07 Operational Requirements

Authority: Education Article, §13-515,
Annotated Code of Maryland
[05-229-F]

On November 8, 2005, the State Emergency Medical Services Board adopted amendments to Regulation .02 under **COMAR 30.09.07 Operational Requirements**. This action was taken at a public meeting, notice of which was given by publication in 32:21 Md. R. 1738 (October 14, 2005) under State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland. This action, which was proposed for adoption in 32:17 Md. R. 1491 (August 19, 2005), has been adopted as proposed.

Effective Date: December 19, 2005.

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

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
SATURDAY 6,750
DEC 10 2005



Capital Clipping Service

27
.X.3.. 150 XX.... M1

County gets reverse 911

By Pete MacInta
Daily Banner

CAMBRIDGE — Important disaster information is now only a telephone call away for many citizens of Dorchester County.

A pre-
pared state-
ment from
the Dorches-
ter County
Council, the
Director of
Public Safety
Steven
Williams and
Emergency
Management
Director
Wayne
Rehman said Friday they are
pleased to announce that Dorches-
ter County has purchased and
installed an Interactive Commu-



Steve Williams
Director

nity Notification System known
as Reverse 911(R), a product of
Sigma Communications, Inc.

Mr. Williams said, "Dorches-
ter County is committed to
providing the most efficient
emergency response to the com-
munity because critical situa-
tions can arise at any time. The
council has had the opportunity
to review this innovative system
and they recognize that the pub-
lic safety staff places a great deal
of confidence in Reverse
911(R)."

The patented system is an
interactive notification program
that is used in thousands of com-
munities to improve the lines of
communication to the general
population and target groups of
citizens. The system will pro-
vide the county with timely and

See 911 — Page 2

911

Continued From Page 1

immediate notifications of critical
information in times of crisis and
emergencies such as natural disas-
ter, hazardous material incidents,
missing children and road clo-
sures," the statement said.

Regarding answering machines,
Mr. Williams said in a telephone
interview Friday, "Because the
answering actually does open the
telephone line, it leaves a message.
When we get a print-out, it will
show it was left on machine."

What about companies that
have automated answering serv-
ices that ask callers to select an
option?

"It's going to show as a non-
received call," he said. He added

such companies "will need to give
us a direct line."

Cell phone users, especially
those who do not have a land line,
will be asked in the future to submit
cell phone numbers. "We would
have to add that cell phone number
into that system," he said.

When the reverse system is acti-
vated, those with caller ID will see a
local number. "It captures about 10
telephone lines in this building," he
said.

He said additional news releases
will be forthcoming to inform cell
phone users and businesses how to
make sure their phone will be
called in an emergency.

Post your comments on this topic at
newsblog.info/0601.

Staff writer Pete MacInta
can be reached at

(410) 228-3132 ext. 15
or petemacinta@yahoo.com

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
TUESDAY 6,750
DEC 13 2005



Capital Clipping Service

27
.X.3.. 150 XX... W1

Over 2,400 calls handled by 911

Daily Banner **SNFB**

CAMBRIDGE — According to a prepared statement received Monday, the Dorchester County 911 Center reported receiving a total of 2,442 calls for November, with 660 of those transferred to police, as follows:

- Cambridge Police Department, 335
- Maryland State Police, 144
- Hurlock Police Department, 44
- Dorchester County Sheriff, 92
- Eastern Shore Hospital Center, 2
- Dorchester County Animal Control, 1

- Talbot County 911, 4
- Caroline County 911, 24
- Wicomico County 911, 7
- Sussex County 911, 5
- Calvert County 911, 1
- Other, 1

Emergency volunteers and personnel were dispatched for 239 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) calls and 175 fire calls.

Emergency communications specialists handled 697 internal calls such as tests, misdials, cell phone hang-ups, community relations and other matters.

A total of 671 calls were dispatched for service by the

See 911 — Page 2

911

Continued From Page 1
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and/or the Hurlock Police Department, according to a report was issued by Chief Dispatcher Kimberly Vickers.

By percentage, police transfers amounted to about 27 percent, EMS about 10 percent, 7 percent for fire, just over 28 percent for internal and almost 28 percent for the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office and/or the Hurlock Police Department.



Capital Clipping Service

101
x.2d.

23 XX... W1

High school students are first responders in EMT program

SMFB

USA TODAY

On a Saturday morning at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, 18 high school students gather around a 25-year-old woman who they have been told is having severe trouble breathing. They are to address the crucial question: How do they save her life?

The experience is part of an emergency medical technician training session; the "victim" is a student acting out a role in a routine group exercise.

The 18 participants, however, are anything but routine. The sophomores, juniors and seniors, some as young as 16, attend Bayside High School Health Sciences Academy, a magnet program in Virginia Beach that prepares students for careers in health care.

Since this fall, Bayside students have been able to enroll in a year of specialized courses to earn a basic EMT certification.

Specific numbers aren't yet available, but Joann Freel, executive director of the National Association of EMS Educators, says EMT education in high schools is a growing national trend.

At a time when advanced degrees are preferred or required in most fields, Bayside Health Sciences Academy coordinator Bonnie Alder says her school's program motivates students with visions of becoming medical professionals.

And with expectations by the Department of Labor that employment of EMTs and their more advanced counterparts, paramedics, will

Participants who complete the program participate in first-aid teams at their schools and can assist in ambulance response calls.

increase 36 percent or more through 2012, basic certification has become a foot in the door to a profession increasingly in demand.

Everyday emergencies make it clear how important it is to have people capable to assist in a crisis, says Ron Flannigan, administrator of a program similar to Bayside's in rural Stevens County, Minn.

"I can think of a couple events here where people have had heart attacks," he says. "Our students handled the crowd, coordinated a response and brought these people home to their families. It's the day to day where you save a life here and save a life there. This is where these students intervene somehow, somewhere, every day."

Students who complete Flannigan's program participate in first-aid teams at their schools and can assist in ambulance response calls covering a 5,000-square-mile area considered "ultra-rural." The influence of such programs to encourage students earning medical degrees to return to their home towns after college is vital to combat the areas' shortage of health-care providers, Flannigan says.

Graduates of Bayside's year-long program leave high

school with seven college credits, says Gwen Carr, Tidewater Community College dean of health professions. They also will be eligible to test for basic EMT certification.

"You've already stepped way ahead of folks who have been a firefighter for years and don't have the credentials," Carr said.

Brooke Carrington, 16, a Bayside junior seeking basic EMT certification said, "I've wanted to be a doctor since I was 5." As a Virginia Beach lifeguard this past summer, Carrington made seven rescues of conscious patients and participated in a "redline" drag, in which several lifeguards hold hands and dive in a line to comb the sea bottom for a drowning victim.

Carrington and her classmates will take six credits of EMT classes and participate in four-hour "practicals" each Saturday, learning everything from lifting stretchers to writing hospital reports.

"Most folks who are EMTs ... are very hands-on," says Helen Nelson, the college's basic-life-support program coordinator. "Even the students who are quiet in a lecture come to life during a practical."

KENT COUNTY NEWS

CHESTERTOWN, MD
WEEKLY 8,500
DEC 15 2005



Capital Clipping Service

29
X.3.. 23 XX... W9

Queen Anne's County moves forward with alert system

By Tammy Stafford

Special from the Star Democrat

CENTREVILLE — After Hurricane Isabel, the Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services realized that there was a need to have an effective system of notifying residents of emergencies.

The need for such a system also became apparent to the Town of Centreville after a boil water advisory was issued last February.

The county has been working for the past two years to purchase an emergency alert system that would send out automated messages to every residence in the county.

Queen Anne's County Commissioners voted 5-0 during an afternoon meeting Dec. 6 to approve a contract with "Reverse 9-1-1."

On that same night, John Chew, director of the Department of Emergency Services met with the Centreville Emergency Communication Committee to discuss the benefits of having the system.

The department has been working on purchasing the system for about two years. Chew credited Norman P. Pinder Jr. for "pushing the issue."

Currently, EMS notifies residents of emergencies through alarms, radio and television. The county has no local news station that is available to both cable and non-cable customers or a local radio station. And sirens are becoming increasingly inefficient, said Chew.

"Within the last 10 years, this concept of taking the 911 data and reversing it has become very, very popular," said Chew.

The 911 center, by law, has access to an Emergency Server List, which Verizon provides to them for a fee. The database is updated monthly. The list includes unlisted numbers, as well as listed numbers and cannot be used for anything other than emergency alerting, said Chew.

The county currently is installing a geographic information system (GIS) mapping system at the 911 center and the emergency alert system will be linked to it. The system allows EMS to notify a residence of an emergency by circling the area and creating a voice file that will then be sent out through county phone lines.

All of the county lines travel through the 911 center. The system will grab any available lines and use them to notify residents, allow-

ing them to send out 46,000 calls in about 20 minutes, said Chew. Notifications can be sent from any computer that has access to the Internet by anyone who has been administratively approved. Although the wire line telephone is the primary receiver, databases can be created to send messages to pagers, email addresses, cell phones, etc, said Chew.

But residents must opt-in to those services. In order to create these lists, information is generally sent out to residents in their water bills, he said.

"(The emergency alert systems) are designed for emergency use, however, its administrative use probably has the most value on a day to day basis," said Chew.

The system can be used to notify employees of delayed openings, school closings and cancellations. Because the emergency server list cannot be used, subsets would have to be created with residents giving permission to add them to the list, said Chew.

The system will cost \$40,210, in addition to a \$3,300 annual update fee and maintenance after the second year. There is no cost per call associated with the service.

EMS has grant money from the Department of Homeland Security to fund the program, but is requesting supporting funding from other

departments and the Queen Anne's County Board of Education. The Board of Education would be the largest administrative user in the county.

Chew requested a one-time contribution of \$3,000 from the Town of Centreville. The contribution has not been discussed by the council.

It could take 30 days to get the equipment and have it installed, but it will probably take a couple of months before the system is fully operational, said Chew. A public relations open house will be scheduled at the Department of Emergency Services once the system has been installed.

SOMERSET HERALD

PRINCESS ANNE, MD
WEEKLY 3,000
DEC 14 2005



Capital Clipping Service

82 .X.3.. 150 XX... #1

McCready staff gets evacuation training

CRISFIELD — Key staff members at McCready Memorial Hospital and the Alice Byrd Tawes Nursing Home are attending a new, intensive course in crucial evacuation and safety procedures health-care employees need to know when fire, natural disasters or other threatening incidents occur.

The training is being provided by the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute of the University of Maryland. It is funded by a Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

The Institute is the state's comprehensive training and education system for emergency personnel. It plans, researches, develops and delivers programs to enhance the ability of emergency service providers to protect life, property and the environment.

The course being provided to McCready employees was specifically designed to meet the needs of the Foundation as a healthcare facility. It covers



Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute instructor Tom Wilson supervises as Tawes Nursing Home employee Barbara Arnold, RN, uses the special chair to practice moving nursing home activities assistant Leah Cruikshank down the stairs.

fire safety, incident command, and a smoke drill. McCready is the only one of the three hospitals on the Eastern Shore to complete a smoke drill.

Participants in the training are learning to assess the vulnerability of patients and residents, and are taking part in emergency planning and evacuation drills. A key evacuation activity includes the use of evacuation chairs specifically designed for the emergency transport of patients down stairwells.

McCready is in the process of purchasing such a chair, which allows health care workers to evacuate individuals who can't use the stairs on their own. The chair holds up to 300 pounds and, using it, a single person can move a patient down a flight of stairs in as little time as nine seconds.

Plans are shown for the second of four radio towers

By Craig O'Donnell
Staff writer

CHESTERTOWN — It was not a sellout crowd.

Craig Fetzer, chief of communications for the State Highway Administration, and Ken Smith, supervisor of emergency services for the county, took the floor in front of two residents to unveil plans for a 330-foot tall tower just outside Rock Hall.

The tower, on a self-supporting tripod base, is of gray galvanized steel. It will be located at the county's Sharptown transfer site on Route 228.

The 7 p.m. meeting on Monday was in the Rock Hall fire hall.

Fetzer said this tower will be identical to one now in place on Morgue Road at the SHA district office near Chestertown. It is the second of four planned for emergency services radio and broadband communications.

Much of Fetzer's presentation repeated the one he made a year ago in Chestertown.

He stressed that "we've saved a tremendous amount of money" by partnering for tower projects among state and local agencies.

Fewer towers get built and maintenance costs are cut, he said. By using galvanized towers rather than painted ones, the state saves \$17,000 per tower every seven years.

Of the other agencies that use the tower, each one is responsible for the cost of installing and maintaining its own equipment. Smith said that Kent County expects to use Homeland Security grants to pay for radio equipment for local first-responders.

The Department of Natural Resources wants better radio coverage in the upper bay, said the DNR's Alan Kealey.

Tom Miller of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Services and Mike Bennett of the Maryland State Police also spoke of the benefits to their organizations.

Miller said, "The downside is the viewshed ... you are going to see a 330-foot tower."

Rex Kershaw, of Allens Lane, peppered the officials with questions.

"Who maintains this?" he asked.

The towers are typically maintained by the organization that owns the land, Fetzer said. Miller said his organization might contribute to the Rock Hall tower's upkeep.

"Is there a guarantee?" Kershaw asked.

Fetzer said that there is a 10-year warranty.

Kershaw also wanted to know if cell companies would be removing their equipment from nearby water towers in favor of the new location. He said he suspected the radio waves contributed to corrosion on the tanks.

By federal law, the tower would be available for private companies wishing to lease space.

County zoning regulations require wireless and cellular operators to use existing structures before erecting new towers. At the same time, cell phone coverage near Rock Hall often has been the topic of complaint at commissioners' meetings. The new tower could be used to improve reception.

Fetzer said that he expected the tower to be finished in June, "if not sooner," at a cost of \$500,000.

He said the plan had been through state environmental review and had been reviewed by the Maryland Historical Trust.

However, the Rock Hall project has not appeared on county planning and zoning agendas.

Wednesday, Betty Carroll, planning and zoning executive secretary, said the state exempts itself from local permits.

A comment form comes from the state to the planning office, she said, and the office always responds, but the state does not publicize its plan.

So there would not be the planning and zoning commission public notice that is usual for, say, a cellular tower or something as small as a lot line adjustment.

Carroll suggested a call to the Maryland Department of Planning "state clearinghouse," which handles paperwork for such projects, to find out why there has been no public notice.

Several messages left at the telephone number she provided were not returned by press time Wednesday afternoon.

WORCESTER COUNTY TIMES

OCEAN CITY, MD
WEEKLY 20,000
DEC 15 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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150

XX.... V2

**OPA urged to
explore EMS billing**

547FB
With reference to Al Beyer's letter to the Editor ("Consider billing for EMS services," Dec 8), Al is a very competent retired CPA. I got to know him from the AARP tax aide program. He corresponded with the OPA board and the Budget and Finance Committee about a year ago with his suggestion for an additional source of income for the Ocean Pines EMS.

His correspondence to the Budget and Finance Committee c/o the committee chairman was not passed on to the entire committee. When this came to my attention, I distributed his letter to the committee myself, and subsequently looked into

See LETTERS, Page 32 A 1

LETTERS, from Page 32

Annual Ocean Pines billing potential: The actual 2003 county ambulance grant to OP EMS was based on 650 credit runs from Worcester County to a hospital location. Some ambulance runs were to Peninsula Hospital but we will use Atlantic General at 6 miles round trip.

■ Estimate 50 percent collectible calls.

■ Estimate 10 percent collection fee.

■ Estimate 1/2 of the runs was acute care and 1/2 was less acute care.

The estimated collection:

\$25 runs X (\$375/run + \$36 mileage) = \$133,575 (Acute)

\$25 runs X (\$200/run + \$18 mileage) = \$70,850 (Less Acute)

For a total of \$204,425 X .50 = \$102,212 X .90 = \$91,990.

There is also some additional potential income if the EMS elected to charge a premium like Ocean City does for calls outside of Ocean Pines and for calls within Ocean Pines for non-property owners. There is also some potential income from retroactive billing after certification. The window for filing Medicare claims is 15 to 27 months.

The revenue generated from EMS ambulance billing would come from prepaid Medicare taxes and prepaid Insurance premiums. We have all paid for this and we are all entitled to it.

NORM KATZ
OCEAN PINES

BOWIE BLADE-NEWS

BOWIE, MD
WEEKLY 42,646
DEC 15 2005



Capital Clipping Service

26
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8 XX... W1

EMT response

Sir:

577FB
I read with great sadness the story about Charles Palmer and the care he received prior to his death. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family. I write hesitantly, because I don't want to give the impression that I do not hold EMTs and other emergency care health providers in the highest regard, because I do. Their jobs are difficult and demanding, and they have no margin for error. But I had such a sickening sense of déjà vu that I had to respond.

The EMTs that responded to Mr. Palmer had suggested that "he probably had a cold or something." I heard those same words 12 years ago when EMTs assessed my husband when he had all the classic symptoms of a heart attack. Although he was only 35 and in great physical shape, he was having severe chest pains, difficulty breathing, and pain radiating down one arm. The EMTs that came to our home asked him questions, took his vital signs, but showed no signs of urgency. I had to strongly urge them to get him to the hospital quickly.

My brother-in-law was visiting us that weekend and I told him the name of the hospital and asked that he call for directions and meet us there. My husband and I waited several minutes in the ambulance before the driver got in. He explained that he had given directions to my brother-in-law. I was incredulous that they would take the time to give directions when my husband's life was at stake. Fortunately for us, his heart attack was not fatal, and after bypass surgery he was fine.

I am glad the *Blade-News* and county officials are pressing for better answers from emergency personnel. The Palmers deserve them. I hope responders will treat inquiries and reviews as an opportunity for improvement and reassess their care, rather than take a purely defensive stand. By not treating life-threatening symptoms as such, we are left to wonder what

level of response emergency personnel will give our citizen's most critical needs.

CAROLE EIBEN
Bowie

AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD
FRIDAY 29, 917
DEC 16 2005



Capital Clipping Service

24
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XX... W1

Heather Marie Hooker to wed Charles Edward Packard Jr.

Edward and Patricia Hooker of Havre de Grace have announced the engagement of their daughter, Heather Marie Hooker, to Charles Edward Packard Jr., son of Charles and Linda Packard, also of Havre de Grace.

The bride-to-be is a 1997 graduate of Havre de Grace High School and a 2003 graduate of University of Maryland at Baltimore County where she earned a bachelor of science degree in emergency health services management. She works for Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers Inc. as a customer service manager.

The prospective groom is a 1992 graduate of Havre de Grace High School and a 1999 graduate of University of Maryland at Baltimore County where he earned a bachelor of



science degree in emergency health services management. He works with the State of Maryland at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Systems as the state EMS training officer and is also assistant chief of the Susquehanna Hose Co.

An August 2006 wedding is planned.

SUNDAY CAPITAL

ANNAPOLIS, MD
SUNDAY 48,132
DEC 18 2005



Capital Clipping Service

400
.x.2c.

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W1
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Family thanks hospital staff

547FD
EDITOR'S NOTE: We reserve this space for readers to publicly say thanks to Good Samaritans. If you'd like to acknowledge a good deed, write to us in fewer than 300 words at The Capital, P.O. Box 911, Annapolis, MD 21404 or e-mail capletts@capitalgazette.com.

The family of Keith Boggs wishes to thank everyone who has shown compassion and generosity during the recent loss of our son.

Words can never express our deep gratitude to everyone who came to the assistance of our son in the early morning hours on Oct. 18 after he struck a deer on Route 258.

We are so very grateful to John Palemone, who witnessed the accident and sought help by getting someone to call 911; and the efforts of the EMS personnel from the Deale and Lothian volunteer fire departments as well as the police and emergency helicopter crew that flew Keith to the Shock-Trauma Center at University Hospital in Baltimore.

Their collective efforts allowed us to see Keith, talk with him and tell him that we loved him prior to him being taken to surgery.

As Marylanders we are so fortunate to have the Shock-Trauma Center. The doctors, nurses and other staff work tirelessly with commitment and compassion every day, treating everyone with dignity and respect.

KAREN (BOGGS) and
DONALD JAMESON

ARBUTUS TIMES

COLUMBIA, MD
WEEKLY 7,323
DEC 21 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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X.4..

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State offers dose of flu info on Web

BY JACQUELINE RUTTIMANN
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE 547F-83

Last year's seasonal flu vaccine shortage and the looming threat of avian flu have prompted Maryland government agencies to create a Web site filled with flu facts.

"This Web site (flu.maryland.gov) represents a Maryland-based resource to ensure that the citizens of Maryland have day or night access to get their flu-related questions answered," Gov. Robert Ehrlich said at the site's Nov. 17 launch.

Various Maryland agencies were involved in the state Web site's creation, including the state's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources as well as the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

While flu season occurs annually in both humans and animals, this year's avian flu, caused by the H5N1 virus, has proven deadly to millions

of birds and a few people who closely worked with them.

The state's Web site provides information on the differences between seasonal flu and pandemic flu, preventive measures and links to other federal and world health organizations including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

The latest version and timeline of Maryland's pandemic influenza preparedness plan — in the works since 1999 — is also on the state's site.

Health officials generally approve of the Web site.

"It's very solid and easy to navigate," said former Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Peter Beilenson. "It gives answers to appropriate questions."

Jeffrey Levi, senior policy adviser of the nonprofit health advocacy group Trust for America's Health, said the site was "a good start" and that the information was "fundamentally correct."

One site feature, however, could be confusing — a traffic light icon in the upper left now shining green, indicating the pandemic's status. Beneath this symbol is a phrase that states that there is no flu pandemic in Maryland or the United States.

"Its placement gives it prominence and it will likely confuse rather than inform," said Ray Bullman, executive vice president of the National Council on Patient Information and Education, a Bethesda-based nonprofit.

Furthermore, health officials point out that the "Find a Flu Shot" section could be more helpful by noting flu clinic locations or the immunization program phone number. It now merely lists addresses of local health departments.

"Availability of vaccine should also be posted," Bullman said.

The Web site is still in its preliminary stages, said DHMH spokeswoman Karen Black.

"This is just a first step in many steps," said Black. "We will fine-tune some of the choices that are currently on the site."

CECIL WHIG

ELKTON, MD
WEDNESDAY 17,500
DEC 21 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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.x.3d.

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XX....

W1



The CD cover for Loron Anderson's collection of instrumental traditional Christmas music.

Creating Christmas CD helped medic cope

By Jaime E. Cherundolo

jcherundolo@chespub.com

571FB

For the last six years, Conowingo resident Loron Anderson has come home from long, stressful shifts aiding victims of car accidents, heart attacks and other traumas to relax behind the piano. It's a hobby he started at age 10 with private lessons and even considered briefly as a career, but for the most part, piano playing has served merely as a stress reliever in the busy paramedic's life.

"Music is something I enjoy," said the 26-year-old, whose full-time paid job is working as a Cecil County Emergency Services Medic. He also volunteers as Emergency Medical Services Chief for the Rising Sun fire department. "It's low stress, like no stress actually, and if I make a mistake playing music, it doesn't matter. If I make a mistake on the job, it might be deadly."

Although Anderson said music is the one area of his life where mistakes are acceptable, there are few to be found on his instrumental debut, "Piano Christmas," a compilation of classic Christmas carols he released last month.

The CD was the result of an early birthday present from his parents.

"They knew this recording engineer in Philadelphia and got me studio time for a birthday present," Anderson said. "Working in the medical field is hard. They probably knew I was getting ready to pull my hair out. It's unbelievable hours, low pay. Music is the one thing I do for myself."

It was the ideal gift, Anderson said, and after 12-hour shifts on the ambulance, he

See CD, C3 ▶

Christmas music CD

► CD, from page C1

A

drove to Ryan Recording in Holland, Pa., popped a SmartDisk with Christmas songs he'd been rearranging into the keyboard, and ten hours later, had his first CD. Mary Ann Kyte of Rising Sun did the cover art and the disc was sent to a friend of a friend in Utah. Anderson said, to be mass produced and packaged.

"I've always wanted to make a CD," he said. "I just never had the resources."

Anderson's interest in music started at an early age. He said it is a gift he acquired from his grandfather:

"He could play every musical instrument there is," said Anderson, who aspires to do the same one day. "I think it just carried on."

After graduating from high school, he pursued a music degree at a Christian college in Pennsylvania, but after one year, decided another destiny was calling.

"I was in a car accident when I was 14 or 15. It was snowing and our car hit a truck and it plowed into a pole and then we plowed into the truck," he said. "I decided then that I wanted to be in EMS and that's the direction I took."

"Eighty percent of music majors become medical professionals," he said. "I heard that in a class I took. I think it's the mentality of musicians and medical professionals. I'm not sure how they're connected. Maybe it has to do with the emotions of those

people. You have to be passionate and driven."

Anderson's passion and ambition for his profession recently earned him the title of EMS President at the fire company. He'll assume the position in 2006, becoming the youngest elected president in the organization's history.

Despite the vast amount of time and energy he's devoted to being a medic, Anderson said he's never given up on music and has played in his spare time at weddings, funerals and in church. He's even taught a piano class or two.

"[Music] is probably the one thing I do for myself," he said. "If I didn't have a way to deal with what I see on the job, I'd be admitted by now."

To date, Anderson has sold roughly 120 of the 200 CDs he's put out, available for \$13 at Bender Music in Elkton and Perfect Petals and PC Enhancements in Rising Sun. He plans to start working on a second CD just after New Year, allowing time to apply for copyrights and to work on a few original songs.

"When people see me, they only see me doing this," said Anderson, during an interview last week at the fire house. "A lot of people are buying it just to see if I can actually play. It's pretty funny. But I'm happy. It's something I did for myself."

CATONSVILLE TIMES

COLUMBIA, MD
WEEKLY 15,748
DEC 21 2005



Capital Clipping Service

31
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State offers healthy dose of flu information on Web

BY JACQUELINE RUTTIMANN
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE 54748

Last year's seasonal flu vaccine shortage and the looming threat of avian flu prompted Maryland government agencies to create a Web site filled with flu facts.

"This Web site (flu.maryland.gov) represents a Maryland-based resource to ensure that the citizens of Maryland have day or night access to get their flu-related questions answered," Gov. Robert Ehrlich said at the site's Nov. 17 launch.

Various Maryland agencies were involved in the state Web site's creation, including the state's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,

Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources as well as the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems.

While flu season occurs annually in both humans and animals, this year's avian flu, caused by the H5N1 virus, has proven deadly to millions of birds and a few people who closely worked with them.

Scientists and health officials worry this particular strain could mutate, allowing it to be spread from person to person in a pandemic. The state's Web site provides information on the differences between seasonal flu and pandemic flu, preventive measures and links to other federal and world health organizations including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

The Bush administration released national avian flu preparedness plans and a similar Web site called pandemicflu.gov in November.

The latest version and timeline of Maryland's pandemic influenza preparedness plan — in the works since 1999 — is also provided on the state's site.

Health officials generally approve of the Web site.

"It's very solid and easy to navigate," said former Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Peter Beilenson. "It gives answers to appropriate questions."

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One site feature, however, could be confusing — a traffic light icon in the upper left now shining green, indicating the pandemic's status. Beneath this symbol is a phrase that states that there is no flu pandemic in Maryland or the United States.

"Its placement gives it prominence and it will likely confuse rather than inform," said Ray Bullman, executive vice president of the National Council on Patient Information and Education, a Bethesda-based nonprofit.

"Since there are no actions or expectations assigned/associated with the colors, the meaning/intent of each color is left to individual interpretation," he wrote in an e-mail.

Furthermore, health officials point out that the "Find a Flu Shot" section could be more helpful by noting flu clinic locations or the immunization program phone number. It now merely lists addresses of local health departments.

"Availability of vaccine should also be posted," said Bullman, referring to this year's delay in distribution of regular flu vaccines in scattered areas throughout the region. "There should be at least a reference to community pharmacies as places to inquire about getting a flu shot."

The Web site is still in its preliminary stages, said DHMH spokeswoman Karen Black.

"This is just a first step in many steps," said Black. "We will fine-tune some of the choices that are currently on the site."

OWINGS MILLS TIMES

OWINGS MILLS, MD
WEEKLY 34,000
DEC 22 2005



Capital Chipping Service

129
.x.3... 23 X02... W8

Fire company in need of Yuletide generosity

BY LINDA STROWBRIDGE 54743

"Can I sell you a Christmas tree?" emergency medical technician Erwin Gingles calls as he walks toward a clutch of customers at the Owings Mills Volunteer Fire Company's tree stand.

"Not at \$40, you can't," replies a woman, sounding disappointed. She motions her children back toward a minivan and adds, "I'm sorry. I'm cheap."

Gingles shrugs and smiles and wishes the woman a Merry Christmas before heading back into the fire station.

It's a minor hitch in a year that has seen major fundraising set-

backs for the busiest volunteer fire company in the county.

Company President Harry Wallett projects the organization will fall \$75,000 short of its fundraising goal for 2005. And, indirectly, Hurricane Katrina may be partly to blame.

"People are giving money to hurricane relief efforts, and there's not much money out there for other causes," he said. Just 2 percent of the 35,000 households that received the company's fundraising appeal in the mail made a donation, he noted.

"The sad part is we have to go out and beg for \$250,000 every year," Wallett said. "We're just to

help the people, but we also need the people to help us."

The biggest fundraising problem was last spring, when the company couldn't get a permit to hold its annual carnival at the Owings Mills Metro lot. Both the Maryland Transit Administration and the Baltimore County Police Department declined to allow the event due to the many fights that broke out at the carnival last year.

The carnival, Wallett said, was the fire company's single biggest fundraiser, and its cancellation cost the company \$50,000 in revenue.

Other fundraising efforts through the year also fell short of previous

The golf tournament brought in \$7,000 compared with \$12,000 in previous years. The family portrait sessions earned \$14,000 rather than \$24,000 previously. In early December, corporate donations were down, and proceeds from the company's annual fundraising drive were running \$17,000 below its normal average of \$60,000.

The company, which has an annual operating budget of just over \$400,000 — one-third of which comes from Baltimore County — will not trim operations due to the fundraising shortfall, Wallett said. To meet operating expenses, the

See **Volunteers**, page 5

Fire company struggles to pay bills

Volunteers, from page 1

company will have to withdraw cash from another fund, which was established to cover equipment purchases. Dipping into that fund, Wallett cautions, isn't desirable in an area that's growing rapidly and, as a result, requiring more emergency services.

Positioned in the midst of a county-designated growth zone, the Owings Mills Volunteer Fire Company has responded to more than 2,100 fire calls and 1,780 medical emergencies this year, through Dec. 13.

"People don't realize what a complex area this is," fire Lt. Thomas Bender said. "You have to be a well-rounded firefighter to survive."

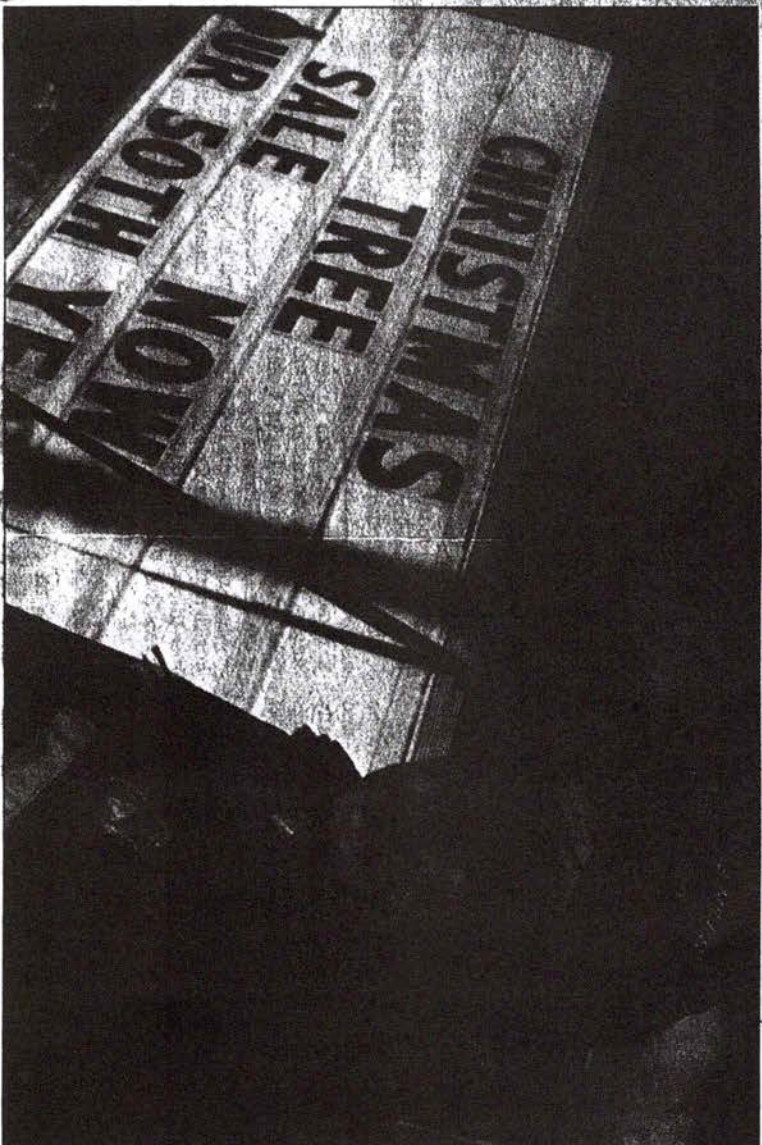
The company, Bender explained, has to be trained and equipped to deal with the emergency needs of numerous large industrial and commercial complexes, as well as high-density residential areas and the Metro.

Unlike in other suburbs, demand for emergency services in Owings Mills doesn't plummet during the daytime, he added. The area's office buildings, retail centers and factories draw a large influx of people during business hours.

To meet that need, the company now supplements its volunteer work with two paid emergency medical technicians on duty at the station from 7 a.m. until midnight daily, said EMS Lt. Jeremy Scheinker. (Baltimore County increased aid to the company to cover the technicians' salaries.)

The additional personnel, Scheinker said, are needed not only to handle fires, car crashes and other catastrophes, but also basic human needs.

"A lot of the calls I like the best are not the exciting ones," Scheinker said. "We have a lot of senior assisted-living facilities in the area. A lot of times you'll encounter an elderly person who really doesn't have anybody to talk to on a regu-



Harry Wallett, president of the Owings Mills Volunteer Fire Company, hopes to make up some lost ground in fundraising with Christmas tree sales. Wallett projects the organization will fall \$75,000 short of its fundraising goal for 2005.

PHOTO BY FRANK BLIN

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
THURSDAY 41,707
DEC 22 2005



Capital Clipping Service

52
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8 XX... W1

Career EMS staff arrive in town

EMMITSBURG — The six career staff from the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services arrived at the Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. about 6 p.m. Dec. 15, according to Chief Rick Sharer.

Walter Murray, director of fire and rescue services, decided Nov. 15 that the paid staff should be stationed at the ambulance company. They had been housed at the Vigilant Hose Co. in Emmitsburg.

"It has really been working out well," Mr. Sharer said Wednesday. "The guys are starting to get adjusted and starting to get to know our people."

Mr. Sharer said he and president Joe Pelkey are working with the new staff to set up their weekly chore schedule for housekeeping, equipment checks and other duties. He said the ambulance company volunteers have been able to respond first to about a dozen emergency calls since the arrival of the career staff.

COMMUNITY TIMES
(REISTERSTOWN EDITION)

OWINGS MILLS, MD
WEEKLY 11,000
DEC 28 2005



Capital Clipping Service

83
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23 XX... W4

Shock Trauma Center trains Air Force

We have long known that the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore is the nation's premier institution for the treatment of trauma victims. What has not been well known is that since 2001, the Air Force has relied on shock trauma to help train military medical personnel for combat conditions.

I recently joined Lt. Gen. George Peach Taylor Jr., the Air Force surgeon general, on a tour of the Center for Sustainment of Trauma and Readiness Skills program at shock trauma.

CSTARS enables Air Force surgeons, critical care doctors, nurses and other skilled professionals to work side-by-side with their civilian colleagues to refresh their skills.

The House also recognized the importance of CSTARS when it appropriated \$2 million in new funding this year in the defense appropriations bill to expand knowledge of battlefield injury and shock, particularly from "blastwaves."

In Iraq, the Air Force is currently part of a joint team of

more than 600 medical providers deployed in 10 different locations.

Baltimore's Shock Trauma Center was chosen by the Air Force for CSTARS because it is the only completely integrated health care system in the nation that deals with a patient from the initial trauma through rehabilitation. The military has a similar comprehensive approach to patient care.

Benjamin Cardin On the Hill

During the 1990s, the General Accounting Office recommended that Department of Defense health care providers get additional training in busy civilian trauma centers. CSTARS is the first large-scale Air Force collaborative relationship with a civilian trauma center.

In addition to training Air Force medical personnel, other health care professionals from the U.S. State Department, U.S. Army and U.S. Navy have rotated through CSTARS.

During my visit to shock trauma, I observed a CSTARS training lab where military personnel sharpen their skills using patient simulators. The

lab is designed to simulate a medical field hospital — including 100-degree temperatures — so training is as close as possible to military conditions.

The Air Force medical service sends 25 to 32 health care professionals for approximately one month of training at shock trauma. Since its inception, more than 1,000 medical personnel from the Air Force and other branches of the military have rotated through the program. This program also benefits the Shock Trauma Center because so many skilled military personnel work side-by-side with University of Maryland personnel.

Baltimore's Shock Trauma Center treats more than 7,500 seriously injured patients each year. Statewide coordination of trauma response and the center's approach to patient care has made it the nation's top trauma facility and one that the Air Force recognizes can provide additional training for its health care professionals.

Democrat Benjamin L. Cardin represents Maryland's 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Capital Clipping Service

592 150 X... W2

Theobald 'officially' takes helm of Emergency Services

By Christine Cullen
Staff Writer 541FB

(Dec. 23, 2005) Emergency Services Director Joe Theobald, appointed by Gov. Robert Ehrlich as the director of the Emergency Management Agency for Ocean City, was sworn in Tuesday at the Court House in Snow Hill, when the new position officially became effective.

"I'm very happy to be here and I love my job," said Theobald, who joined the city as the Emergency Services director back in May.

As Emergency Services Director, Theobald coordinates the city's emergency departments such as fire, EMS, communications and others. The emergency services division managers report to him, and he in turn reports to City Manager Dennis Darc. "I coordinate and basically facilitate everything in the emergency services area," said Theobald.

The position of Emergency Management Agency director is required by law to be appointed by the governor. Theobald received a letter from Gov. Ehrlich on Nov. 16 informing him of his

appointment, which was unanimously approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Theobald noted that since the Emergency Management Agency is one of the groups under the umbrella of Emergency Services, he already oversees the agency and his appointment was more of a formality than a change to his responsibilities.

Ocean City is recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the state as an independent emergency agency, thus it is separate from the county's emergency departments. If a disaster strikes, Theobald is responsible for working with the county and state to ensure the safety of the citizens.

"In times of disaster my role is that I'm one of the key advisors to the Mayor and City Council," he said. "When the emergency center is activated, I report directly to the mayor."

All of the emergency services departments play important roles in keeping the public safe, said Theobald, and he gave credit to every department for the jobs they do every day.

"We're all part of the public safety group, and we're all key players. I'm basically a facilitator," he said.

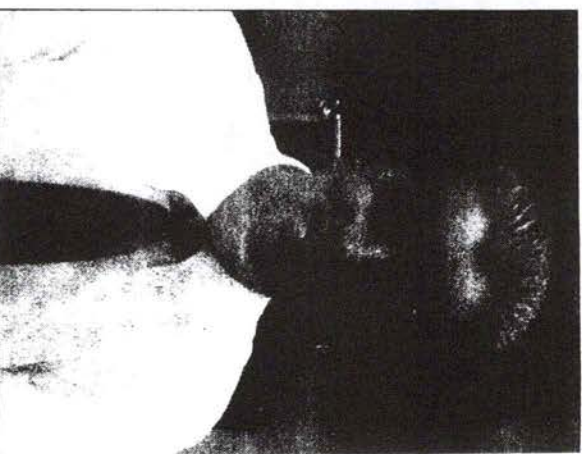
Theobald is a busy man, as he is also in charge of reviewing the city's emergency response plan and making revisions and running annual tests and exercises to ensure the plan can be carried out safely and effectively.

He started work at the beginning of the busy summer season, but said he is busier now than he was during the summer.

Before joining the city as the Emergency Services director, Theobald served 29 years with the police department in his hometown of West Caldwell, N.J. He also served as chief of the West Caldwell Fire Department from 1996 to 2003.

After retiring in March 2005, the career public safety employee accepted the position in Ocean City, where he had spent many summers with his wife and three daughters.

"I consider myself very fortunate to be here and working with such amazing people," Theobald said.



Joe Theobald has been appointed by Gov. Robert Ehrlich as the director of the emergency management agency of Ocean City. Theobald began working for the town in May 2005 and was sworn in a director Tuesday morning.

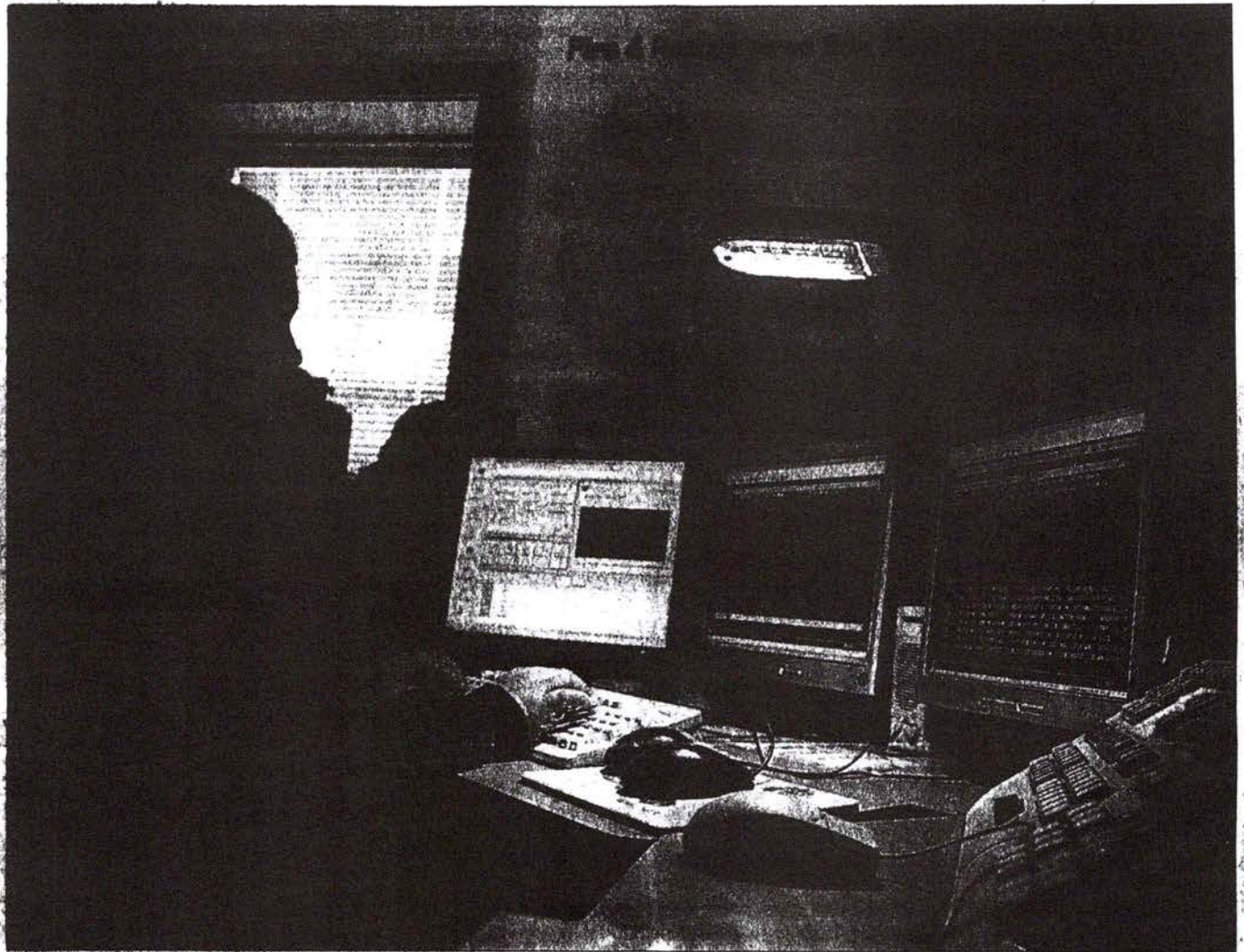


Capital Clipping Service

68

XX.... W4

Always on the front line



STAFF PHOTO BY DEAN GEISER

Brandi Shorter, fire and EMS communication specialist, dispatches an ambulance to Mechanicsville from the emergency communications center in Leonardtown. Dispatchers use four consoles to do their job.

County dispatchers remain linchpin as 911 system advances

BY JASON BABCOCK

STAFF WRITER

It's a quiet morning. The phone rings from time to time. The television in the corner is broadcasting cable news. The lights are dim.

The phone rings again. On the other end of the line someone says her mother isn't breathing. Brandi Shorter, 25, asks the caller to listen closely for breathing. The woman's mother, it turns out, is still draw-

ing breath.

Shorter then dispatches the Mechanicsville Volunteer Rescue Squad to head to the ailing woman.

"We've already had two non-breathers this morning," said Shirley Copado, communications manager.

That kind of crisis is the routine in the workday of a communications specialist at the St. Mary's County Emergency Control Center, whose job is to dispatch aid to those who need it.

The 7,100-square-foot center has been operating in its present location on the corner of Leonard Hall Drive in Leonardtown for more than four years now.

While the technology has changed, the job is still basically the same as it has been for decades. When someone is in trouble and needs help, a calm voice is there at the control center to take the call any time of day or night, any time of the year.

See Emergency, Page A-10

Emergency

Continued from Page A-1

The bare minimum staffing in the dispatching room is four specialists, five if possible. Full-time employees work 12-hour shifts.

During storms and other bad weather, there are many more on hand, usually more people than the nine available work stations, ready to help out.

Some days can be slow and others can be rapid fire, and there is no way to accurately predict when either is going to happen. The only regularly quiet times are usually between 3 and 5 a.m.

"It's a very exciting and it's a very stressful job," Copado said. "You can be sitting here reading or watching television at night and all of a sudden the bottom drops out. It's nothing you can predict. Anything can happen at any time and this county is just getting so busy."

With a population of 95,000 now, and more traffic being added to the county roads, technology is doing its best to keep up with the demand.

When a simulcast emergency call goes out, it is sent to the pagers of the members of the fire department or rescue squad that can respond most quickly. A fax with the call's information and a map to the house or business is automatically sent to the emergency workers' home base as well.

But sometimes first responders can still have trouble locating a newer home. "There's so many newer roads coming in, and so many little ones," Copado said.

When a 911 call comes in, one of the dispatcher's four computer screens displays the phone number, name, address and sometimes directions. Two other screens display the pending calls, by priority, and where sheriff's deputies and fire and rescue squads are. The fourth screen displays all the radio frequencies and who's talking on them.

In the days when the emergency control center was located underground next to the circuit courthouse, before it moved out in early 2001, the communications system had trouble identifying cell phones.

Under the new system, cell phone numbers are identified and

latitude and longitude are provided to the dispatcher.

So far, there hasn't been a situation where someone has called from a cell phone, lost and in trouble in the county. "We've never had that," Copado said. There was an instance of juveniles calling pranks into the center and they were tracked on their cell phone to help a police officer find them.

In 2004, the center handled 85,985 calls on its computer system. The bulk of the calls for police assistance stem from domestic disputes, she said. The bulk of ambulance calls are for trouble breathing.

Calls of seemingly lesser medical importance come in from time to time, for a headache or a nosebleed. But sometimes, minor ailments like that could be leading to something much more serious such as a stroke, Copado said.

"We cannot refuse a call," she said.

Some calls, however, are not necessary. "A lot of people think if they take an ambulance to the hospital you'll get seen quicker. That doesn't happen anymore," she said.

"There's a lot of interesting stories to tell," Copado said.

Once a woman called from the Maryland Manor trailer park, where Wal-Mart now stands in California, stating that her baby had fallen off the kitchen counter. An ambulance was dispatched. After the rescue volunteers arrived, they called back to the 911 center, stating they don't treat animals. "Her dog fell off the kitchen counter," Copado said.

Other calls are memorable for tragic reasons. There was an incident at a store in Mechanicsville where a woman called 911 to report that her estranged husband was coming to kill her. A loud bang was heard over the phone and then only the clanging of the receiver as it bounced off the counter, dangling from its cord.

Shorter has been a communications specialist for five years now, and is also a member of the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department.

"We get excited on days we don't do much," because those days are becoming exceedingly rare, she said.

It is Shorter's job to calm the caller down to retrieve information.

when a young member of the Mechanicsville Fire Department was involved in a fatal accident when responding to another call.

"That was hard to hold your composure and later on, break down," she said.

While there is always someone to take an emergency call, staffing has been an issue in the control center and was addressed recently by the county commissioners through a department reorganization and consolidation.

"Turnover's a big situation," Copado said. "This job's always been underpaid. It's not a clerical job anymore. They used to call them clerks. Now we call them communication specialists."

There are now different grades that dispatchers can move up to depending on the amount of their training, providing for more upward mobility.

The sheriff's office used to have its own dispatchers, but those have been consolidated into the county's public safety department. The Maryland State Police still dispatch their own calls, though. Timothy K. Cameron, director of public safety, said he would like to explore the option of handling state police calls as well. "That would be a big-picture issue to work out with the state," he said.

But with the hundreds of channels available within the new communications system, "I think we're really pushing the envelope here," he said.

Emergency 911 service didn't arrive in St. Mary's until June 20, 1977, nine years after the first 911 call was placed in Alabama. At the time, St. Mary's joined Charles, Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland to have the system.

The county's first emergency control office was opened on Aug. 16, 1954. Then, it was called the St. Mary's Civil Defense Radio Control Center, and it was located in the municipal building located off Tudor Hall Road. It was manned by four people, 24 hours a day. The center had two 60-watt shortwave radios, one to contact police and the other to volunteer fire departments. To call the center, you had to connect through the telephone operator.

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