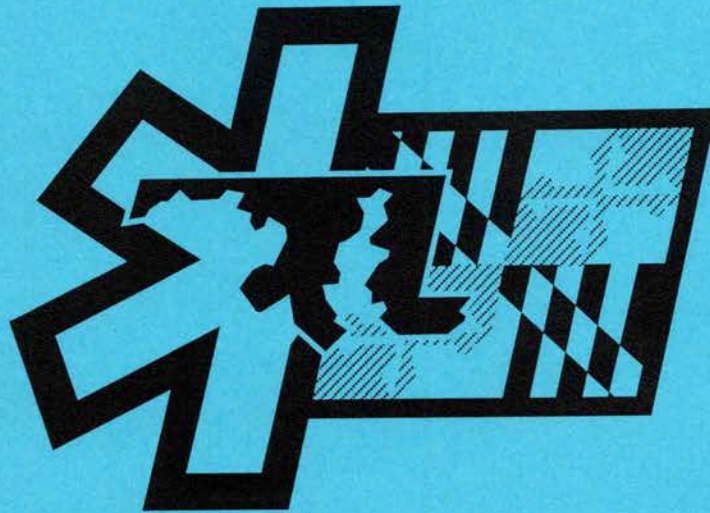


*Maryland Institute for  
Emergency Medical Services Systems*



# Press Report

*January, 2005*





Capital Clipping Service

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## 'Santas' thanked for their generosity

I would like to tell you about a "bunch" of Santas. They are everyday people who have jobs, just like most of us. They have families, bills and worries, much like me and you.

But enough about that. This is to let everyone know about the Santas who, for the past two years, have donated their money and time to help less fortunate families. They have helped brighten the smiles on local families' faces at Christmas time.

It starts with a list from the family, which is provided by the Worcester County Sheriff's Department. At that time, a "shopping night" is scheduled and off these Santas go with information on "their" family, such as ages, clothing sizes and a toy list. The Santas have a blast looking for just the right sizes and colors — this is where the Mrs. Clauses come in — as well as hip styles and the coolest toys, following the list as closely as possible.

The next time these Santas meet is "wrapping night," when everyone joins in to make sure the packages are wrapped just right.

Thanks once again to Mrs. Claus, the boys get their special wrapping paper and the girls are given a little more frill. It is a time we can all relate back to our own Christmas.

During the final days before Christmas, these Santas load up all the gifts and deliver them — not in a sled, but in a Suburban. The wonderful sight of young children with smiles as big as the ocean and the happy look of anticipation, well, it is unbelievable. It is a good feeling to know a less fortunate family will have a warm and happy holiday, just like the rest of us.

Let me take this time to thank all these Santas for their help and support. I look forward to doing this for many years to come. If you see these Santas in your travels, give them a smile, because remember — Santa knows if you have been good or bad.

My best wishes and hopes for a happy holiday to the following: Ocean City Emergency Services, Fire EMS division — Capt. David Collins, Lt. John Holloway, Sgt. Keith Long, Sgt. Jay Foxwell, David Williams, Bobby Magee, Eric Peterson, Kaitie Christello and Ray Wooten, along

Company members Chief Roger Steger, Asst. Chief David Cropper, Asst. Chief Chris Laramore and Asst. Chief Will Lynch. And thank you for a job well done, J.H. Williams II.

Christina Vickers  
Hebron

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## Howard County

# Officials upgrade devices for CPR

By GUS G. SENTEMENTES  
SUN STAFF

For paramedics who are trying to save the life of someone who has suffered a massive heart attack, performing CPR can be strenuous and require help from several pairs of hands. But a new mechanical CPR device now in use in Howard County is making their job easier.

Howard's Department of Fire and Rescue Services is the first in the state to purchase three of the devices, called the AutoPulse, at \$15,000 each.

Manufactured by California-based Revivant Corp., the device was in development and testing for four years and has been on the market for little more than a year. Dozens of fire departments, ambulance services and hospitals across the country have started using it, according to the company and news reports.

The device, [See CPR, 5B]



# Municipals upgrade devices for CPR

CPR, from Page 1a1

which looks like a big chest belt, generates blood flow across the chest area. A patient is placed onto a platform similar to a backboard, and a belt is strapped across the chest. After the push of a few buttons and simple instruction prompts from a small LCD screen, the machine automatically sizes and adjusts to the patient and begins compression. The belt then alternates between snapping tight and slackening to induce blood circulation.

Part of the appeal of the device is that it offers consistent, standardized cardiopulmonary resuscitation, said Dr. Kevin Keenan, the fire department's medical director.

"Our providers have to do CPR in tight spaces, coming down stairs, or trying to do CPR on a gurney while it's moving from a house to an ambulance," Keenan said. "There are limitations even with the best efforts."

The AutoPulse weighs about 22 pounds, excluding a break-size rechargeable battery that adds several more pounds, and can be stored and carried in a bag that slings over the shoulder. The device's chest band is a one-use disposable item that costs \$125.



At Station 2 in Elliptical City, Master Firefighter Paramedic Joe Koss demonstrates the AutoPulse on a CPR training dummy. Howard is the first county in the state to buy the new device.

Fire officials in Howard say the device has only been used about 10 times in the county, and it hasn't been credited with saving a life yet.

So far, three stations — Station 2 in Elliptical City, Station 7 in Columbia's Town Center and Station 9 in Long Reach — each have one AutoPulse that is brought along on emergency medical calls.

Chris Shiner, battalion chief for EMS operations, said the devices were placed at those stations because they are some of

the busiest in the county and constantly run medical calls to assisted-living and senior housing communities in their areas.

With a growing elderly population in Howard, medical calls for cardiac arrest have increased incrementally and now approach nearly 300 a year, fire officials said.

Shiner, the Howard battalion chief, said among its advantages, the AutoPulse is easy to use, and it frees up the hands of an emergency responder to do other things, such as prepare

and deliver medications.

Fire officials said that the plan is to buy a few AutoPulses a year and phase out an older mechanical CPR device known as the Thumper — that the department has used for several years.

That device has been the only widely used mechanical CPR device for three decades. It has a piston that compresses a smaller area around a person's chest, similar to the effect that manual CPR would have.

Reyviant says that the AutoPulse — which has been approved by the FDA — has demonstrated its effectiveness in animal studies.

"We've shown increases in the range of 20-30 percent of normal blood flow, up to 100 percent of normal blood flow," in animal studies, said Bob Katz, president of Reyviant, which is a subsidiary of Zoll Medical Corp. Zoll manufactures a broad range of emergency medical devices, including automated external defibrillators.

So far, Reyviant has sold about 600 AutoPulses to about

40 customers, including Washington Fire and Emergency Medical Services, which bought 30 AutoPulses.

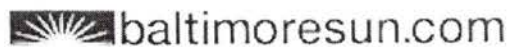
Katz said the device was recently credited with saving patients' lives in Florida and San Francisco.

Reyviant is also participating in a one-year evaluation of the device by a team of university researchers and local emergency medical providers in three cities in the United States and two in Canada. Katz said he expects the results of that study, where researchers will compare the effectiveness of AutoPulse compared with manual CPR in patient outcomes, will be made public.

National survival rates for patients who suffer sudden cardiac arrest are bleak — 95 percent of such victims die before reaching the hospital, according to the American Heart Association.

"Whatever we can do to increase people's chances for survival is what it's all about," Shiner said.





<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/carroll/bal-ca.firemen05jan05.1.7300081.story?coll=bal-local-carroll>

## **Carroll firefighters ask county for \$8.1 million in funds for fiscal 2006**

### **Request is \$274,000 more than officials' projection**

By Ellie Baublitz  
Sun Staff

January 5, 2005

Carroll County volunteer firefighters are asking the county for \$8.1 million for fiscal year 2006 to cover operating expenses for the 14 fire companies, the county firefighters association, round-the-clock ambulance coverage and emergency-vehicle drivers.

Bill Eyler, chairman of the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association budget committee, told firefighters at a meeting Monday that the committee trimmed \$762,000 from a \$8.86 million budget request.

Even with those cuts, the budget that was presented to the county budget office was \$274,000 more than what the county projected the firefighters needed, Eyler said.

Last year, the firefighters received \$7.45 million from the county, said Bridgett Miller, county budget analyst who handles the firefighters' budget.

The fiscal 2006 budget request includes:

- Slightly more than \$4 million for the 14 fire companies.
- \$508,829 for administrative budgets, including malpractice and workmen's compensation insurance.
- \$389,000 for health and wellness, including physicals for volunteers.
- \$520,000 for the emergency-vehicle operator/driver (EVOD) staffing.
- \$2.68 million for round-the-clock ambulance coverage.

"EVOD and 24/7 coverage budgets are per the plan that we came up with that was accepted by the county," Eyler said. "Negotiations [for the budget request] are still needed on that."

Eyler said the county's projected figure was lower than what the round-the-clock plan called for, and did not include money for EVOD funding.



"We have to show cause why we're requesting that much," he said.

Eyler said the firefighters asked for full funding of the health and wellness program to cover the cost of physical examinations for 800 volunteers. Last year, the county gave the association \$200,000 toward the program.

The health and wellness budget does not include Mount Airy, which is funded by Frederick County, he said.

This year's budget request also does not include the Length of Service Program, which has become a separate, self-funded plan, Eyler said. That program provides a stipend for volunteers age 60 or older who have served 25 years or more.

"The guys did extremely well trying to maintain the status quo from last year," said Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association President Marianne Warehime. "They did their justifications and made the budget process less painful."

In May, the firefighters, fire chiefs, emergency medical services and fire police combined into one association, which is also saving the group money, Warehime said.

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# Cut spending, not free ambulance service

I was taken aback when I read only two County Council members — Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg and Howard A. Denis (R-Dist. 1) of Chevy Chase — are against the legislation of "taxing" for the use of the "public safety vehicle," or the ambulance ("CPR for ambulance fee? Two lawmakers say so," Dec. 22).

This service is part of the safety for county residents. Without this service we would lose many residents a day, and many of them are lower income families who are already being taxed enough by the county.

Why add a tax, County Executive Douglas Duncan? This is so irresponsible when so many lives are at risk. You can say that residents aren't going to get taxed for using an ambulance if they have no insurance, yet you have to see that many people are not going to trust this, and are going to hesitate or not call the ambulance.

I got to thinking about the proposed \$350 ambulance fee. I could get

a flight from Baltimore to San Diego on US Air for less than that amount round trip. Do you think that even compares with the gauze and needles and medication that are going to be used by volunteer emergency medical technicians?

And even if the insurance pays for the ambulance fees, what about the insurance premiums going up? This should be a concern to everyone.

I hope that everyone reads this and understands the grave public safety risk involved.

Mr. Duncan, I am sorry but human life is not a game to me, and it shouldn't be to anyone. Please rethink this and the impact it will have on all of us, including you and your family and friends. A better alternative is charging \$350 or even higher for all the prank calls to the fire department or police department.

And maybe even a better alternative, and I will call for this, is restraint in spending our tax money. Please all

residents speak out about this, it impacts you.

Kevin Correa, Olney





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# Fire department's goal: More diversity

■ Timechia Spriggs is one of few African-American — and women — firefighters on the city's force

By Deborah Gates  
Daily Times Staff Writer

**SALISBURY** Meet a firefighter of distinction: Timechia Spriggs, an African American woman and member among the chiefly white, male-dominated Salisbury Fire Department.

She won't be for long. Fire department officials are sinking thousands of dollars into a marketing campaign designed in part to attract African-Americans to the pool of volunteer firefighters. If efforts pay off, Spriggs' celebrity will fade as the city's only black female firefighter and one of a half-dozen African-Americans among the ranks.

"It has been an issue, always a struggle, to match demographics with the community in fire service," said William Gordy, Salisbury's deputy fire chief. "In a pool of applicants, there are only a few African-Americans. The attitude is, we're a bunch of white guys."

Spriggs is a novel recruit in a city where her race makes up 32.3 percent of the population, yet a mere 4 percent or more of the 150 uniform positions. Members of her gender fill 13, or 8.6 percent, of those slots, while citywide, females account for 53.4 percent of the 25,000-resident population.

## Meet Timechia Spriggs

AGE 23

**PRIOR RESIDENCE.** A native of Baltimore County, Spriggs began a career in Emergency Medical Services at age 17 in Middle River, near Essex.

**CURRENT OCCUPATION.** She has been a correctional officer with the Delaware Division of Corrections in Smyrna for the past two years and a volunteer firefighter with the Salisbury Fire Department for more than a year.

**VIEWPOINT.** About being a volunteer firefighter, Spriggs says: "Nobody makes me do it. On the career side, it becomes a job."

.....

"I am the only black female in the whole department. I love it," said Spriggs, a 23-year-old Salisbury resident and volunteer for more than a year at Station 2, where there are five female firefighters. "I didn't want to do it to begin with, but I stayed with it."

Fire department officials are counting on a monthlong television advertising campaign that launched two weeks ago to attract as many as 30 volunteer firefighters, an increase

Timechia Spriggs, the only black female firefighter in Salisbury, serves as a volunteer at Station 2 on Brown and Naylor streets.

Times Photo  
Illustration by  
Todd Dudek



See FIRE, Page 9

## FIRE: Salisbury seeks more diversity on force

**FIRE, From Page 1**

that would boost the number of non-paid fire company positions to 120, Fire Chief David See said earlier this week.

The \$6,000 television ad campaign is being aired through mid-January on four cable network stations, including Black Entertainment Television, or BET, See said.

Other fire departments around Maryland and the nation are diversifying memberships, Gordy said. On Wednesday, the department's training official and only black career firefighter, Lorenzo Cropper, attended a conference in Baltimore on the issue that was hosted by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Gordy said.

"The diversity study is under

way to determine how to attract blacks in emergency medical services around the state," he said. "It's a problem nationwide. Historically, fire service doesn't meet the benchmark in the black community."

Spriggs was an EMS employee in Baltimore County when colleagues convinced her to join the unit of firefighters. She was 17 when she joined the Middle River EMS team near Essex.

"A couple of guys said, 'come on, take the class.' I did and found that I could deal with it," she said.

A trip to a firefighter's convention in Ocean City about two years ago convinced Spriggs, single and childless, to locate to the rural, Eastern Shore. She landed a job as a correctional officer in Smyrna for the Delaware Depart-

ment of Corrections. Several months after that, she was in training to become a Salisbury volunteer firefighter.

"I started to miss (firefighting). I like volunteering because nobody makes me do it," she said. "On the career side, it becomes a job."

Gordy hopes failing numbers begin to reverse within months for African-Americans, women and other volunteers.

"Money is an issue, but we can't sit back and wait for people to come to us. We've got to go into the public," he said. "People think this is a boy's club, but we're breaking that notion down."

■ Reach Deborah Gates at 410-845-4641 or [dgates@salisbury.gannett.com](mailto:dgates@salisbury.gannett.com).





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### PAL Grant

The board amended the budget to include a \$23,500 state grant to compensate city police for their services at the Police Activities League Center.

Police had manned the center on a vol-

untary basis.

Mr. Hall said he did not believe that police spent time at the center for the money that was potentially involved. "They do it because of their hearts," he said.

(See CITY A-6)



Staff photo by Bill Green

United Steam Fire Engine Co. purchased this engine tanker in 1999. The average life span of a tanker is 12 to 15 years. Several stations are slated for new equipment this year.

## County to buy new ambulances, engines

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News-Post Staff

ecunningham@fredericknewspost.com

FREDERICK — Two Frederick County fire stations will receive new engines and ambulances by February, and several other stations are slated to purchase new equipment this year.

The county bought a new \$329,000 pumper for the Westview Fire Station. They should receive the pumper in the next few weeks, said Marc McNeal, Chief of Operations for the Department of Fire and Rescue.

The New Market District Volunteer Fire Co. substation in Green Valley is set to receive a new ambulance in February.

Chief Charles Steed said the new ambulance will replace one that is seven years old.

"Usually ambulances, when they get to a certain age and mileage, they are rotated out and a new one comes in," he said.

The Green Valley station is also approved to buy a new engine tanker this year. The county allocated about \$367,000 for the tanker, according to Michael Gastley, the county's senior budget analyst.

Chief Steed said the 1,500-gallon engine tanker will be ordered in early February and should arrive six months after that. It will replace a 20-year-old tanker that went out of service when it failed

See COUNTY A-6

## OCEAN CITY TODAY

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# Fire/EMS Division receives collective bargaining rights

**By Jennifer Lehman**  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2005) Ocean City's paramedics received collective bargaining rights Monday evening, but will not begin the bargaining process until the fall because of legality issues.

The reason for the delay is that "it will take that long to get it all done," Council Secretary Jim Hall said on Thursday.

Many issues, including ordinance and charter changes, still need to be worked out before the bargaining can take place.

"We gave (collective bargaining) to them and it will actually develop into negotiations early in the fall," Hall said.

The decision was made during a closed session on Monday that was held prior to the mayor and City Council's regularly scheduled public meeting.

"The mayor and council are currently working toward enacting a procedure or process to enable" collective bargaining, Mayor Jim Mathias said. He noted that over the next few months City Solicitor Guy Ayres will be working through these legality issues.

"Procedurally it's something that has to be done in a responsible time frame," Mathias said. "We are working toward that."

According to Mike Maykrantz, of the Department of Emergency Services, Fire and EMS Division, the group – which consists of 34 firefighters and paramedics – is currently waiting to hear from the city in regards to what will happen next.

While collective bargaining will allow the division to negotiate their terms of employment, Maykrantz said, it will also open the lines of communication between the paramedics and the mayor and City Council.

"We were glad to receive the bargaining," Maykrantz said. "We feel it will open a lot of doors for us."

As mayor, Mathias said he is a supporter of collective bargaining rights for paramedics and said the council is moving responsibly to achieve this goal.

"The procedures that have to be enacted are yet to be worked out," he said.

For the last few months, members of the Fire and EMS Division had informally said they wanted to be included in collective bargaining, but the City Council asked them to wait because negotiations were under way with the police department.

After some time had passed, the City Council agreed to move forward with their collective bargaining request on Nov. 6.

At that time Maykrantz asked the City Council to support the group's request for collective bargaining.

"As evidenced by the work of the Ocean City Police Department, the collective bargaining process has fostered better relationships between the police officers and city government officials," Maykrantz said in early November. "Lines of communication have been opened and both sides have grown a new found respect for the jobs they perform. This is a win-win for the city, its employees and the citizen."





<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/bal-chopper0111.1,1360326.story?coll=bal-nationworld-headlines>

# Helicopter crashes into Potomac; 1 dies

## Search resumes for missing crewman; One survives

By Brett Zongker  
The Associated Press

January 11, 2005, 10:14 AM EST

OXON HILL -- Rescuers continued to search today for a missing crewman nearly eight hours after a medical rescue helicopter crashed into the Potomac River and killed one of three aboard.

"One survivor was found clinging to the wreckage. Another victim was found at the wreckage," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Rob Moroney.

The Life Evac helicopter went down about 11 p.m. Monday, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Life Evac transports patients from one medical facility to another.

Authorities said the helicopter had just completed a drop-off at the Washington Hospital Center and was returning to its base in Stafford, Va., when it went down. There were no patients on board.

A Maryland State Police trooper stationed at the bridge was first to report the accident. A passer-by alerted Sgt. Billy Dunston that the helicopter had entered the water.

"I saw a helicopter come across the bridge. It looked pretty low to me when it went across, but I didn't see it come out the other side," Dunston said.

The witness was able to pinpoint where the helicopter crashed.

"It didn't seem real," said Arthur Stewart, 39, of Washington. "I thought it would go down and come back up."

Police were able to see where the survivor was in the water after a Maryland State Police helicopter arrived. The man, whose name was not released, was rescued by boat. He was in fair condition today at the Washington Hospital Center.

"We have interviewed the survivor and he believes they may have hit something," Moroney said.

There are many large cranes near the bridge as part of a project to replace the aging span. Authorities said they don't know whether the cranes played a role in the accident.

The bridge links northern Virginia and the Washington suburbs of Maryland. It carries Interstate 95 and Interstate 495, the Capital Beltway, over the Potomac.

None of the three occupants has been identified.

The National Transportation Safety Board was sending investigators to the scene.

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## WBAL Radio News

Maryland's NEWS TALK

### Med Evac Helicopter Crashes Into Potomac

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

The Associated Press

Rescuers continued to search Tuesday for the last victim nearly eight hours after a private helicopter crashed into the Potomac River.

"One survivor was found clinging to the wreckage. Another victim was found at the wreckage," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Rob Moroney.

The Life Evac helicopter went down around 11 p.m. Monday, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Life Evac transports patients from one medical facility to another.

Authorities said the helicopter had just completed a drop-off at the Washington Hospital Center and was returning to its base in Stafford, Va., when it went down. There were no patients on board.

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Police were able to see where the survivor was in the water once a Maryland State Police helicopter arrived.

The bridge carries the Capital Beltway, over the Potomac.

"We have interviewed the survivor and he believes they may have hit something," Moroney said.

There are many large cranes near the bridge as part of a project to replace the aging spans. Authorities said they don't know if the cranes played a role in the accident.

None of the three occupants have been identified.

The National Transportation Safety Board was headed to the scene.



[washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)

## Copter Crashes in River; 2 Die

Craft Hit Something, Survivor Tells Rescuers

By Allan Lengel, Martin Weil and Fred Barbash  
Washington Post Staff Writers  
Tuesday, January 11, 2005; 10:51 AM

Authorities resumed their search this morning for one of two crew members whom police said died when a medical evacuation helicopter crashed into the Potomac River late last night near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Firefighters and police rescued one man from the water and recovered a single body just after the Life Evac helicopter went down shortly after 11 p.m. several hundred yards off the National Harbor development in Prince George's County. Authorities said they believed a third crew member, whose body has not been recovered, was dead.

Life Evac specializes in transporting patients from one medical facility to another. Authorities said it was returning from the Washington Hospital Center to its base in Stafford County, about 40 miles south. No patient was said to be on board at the time.

Maryland State Police Sgt. Billy Dunston, who was patrolling in the area, told television interviewers that he "observed a helicopter flying unusually low past the construction equipment," near the bridge. "I didn't think anything of it until a citizen advised me that a helicopter had crashed into the water," he said. The witness was able to pinpoint the area where the chopper went into the water, Dunston said, which helped rescuers do their work more quickly.

The survivor was found in the water clinging to the tail section of the craft, according to Alan Etter, a spokesman for the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Authorities said the man had numerous injuries but was able to talk to his rescuers. Depending on the tide, the water in the area ranges from knee-deep to shoulder-deep.

The survivor is at the Washington Hospital Center.

One body was removed from the water shortly after the crash, said Maryland State Police Col. Thomas E. Hutchins at a televised news conference this morning. Prince George's County Fire and EMS Capt. Chauncey Bowers said divers would expand their search for the second body this morning.

None of the three occupants of the helicopter was identified immediately, and no cause of the crash had been determined. Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board were en route to the scene this morning. Several large cranes jut skyward near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which is being renovated. Hutchins said he did not know whether the cranes played any role in the crash.

A Web site for the helicopter service said it was affiliated with Virginia Commonwealth University. Crews on each mission consist of one flight nurse and a flight paramedic team. A spokesman for Air Methods Corp., of Denver, told Fox 5 news that it provided the helicopter, an EC 135, to the university. The chopper was less than a year old, the spokesman said.

The two people who died were described by authorities as a man and a woman. The body apparently was located in the submerged wreckage by divers who were part of a vast turnout of police and fire



departments that joined the search and rescue effort. Among those responding were the Maryland State Police, the D.C. Fire Department marine unit and units from the Alexandria and Prince George's County police and fire departments.

A variety of helicopters take to the skies above the Washington area daily, for purposes that include law enforcement, search and rescue and medical evacuations.

Many of them use the Potomac River as a principal north-and-south route to avoid flying over congested neighborhoods and to minimize noise. Last night's incident was the first crash of a medical services helicopter in recent memory.

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[www.newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com)

## Patient surge swamps hospital

Publish Date: 01/11/05

By Liz Babiartz  
News-Post Staff

FREDERICK -- It's not influenza or pneumonia that is keeping the medical staff at Frederick Memorial Hospital busy this season.

It's people with severe upper respiratory illnesses who have been showing up at FMH since Christmas. And many are sick enough to be admitted, said Dr. John Molesworth, director of emergency medicine at the hospital.

About 25 to 30 percent of the patients who have come to the emergency department, coughing and feverish, have been admitted. Traditionally about 15 percent of the patients are checked in, Dr. Molesworth said.

Many seeking care during the last two weeks at Frederick Memorial Hospital have been elderly. There have been a few cases of children with respiratory syncytial virus, a lower respiratory tract infection caused by a virus.

With so many admissions, the hospital's inpatient beds are filling up, causing a backup in the emergency department, Dr. Molesworth said.

"When there are a lot of sick people that are being admitted, we don't have the bed space to move people," Dr. Molesworth said. "The ER beds don't turn over that fast, and it causes a logjam."

The logjam caused the hospital to go on yellow alert Jan. 6. Yellow alert is triggered when a hospital's emergency department is overwhelmed. Priority 2 and Priority 3 patients -- those who do not have life-threatening conditions -- may be diverted to another institution, but the hospital must take critically-ill patients.

FMH was on red alert three times last week: Jan. 3, 6 and 7. A red alert signals that no cardiac-monitored beds are available, and patients with non-life threatening conditions should be diverted to another hospital. The hospital still has to take priority 1 patients.

Overcrowding and problems with bed availability is nothing new at FMH.

In 2003, the hospital was on yellow alert 13 times, for a total of 136.16 hours. It was on red alert 13 times, for 161.44 hours.

To meet the need, Frederick Memorial Hospital opened last May its newly expanded emergency department, which doubled the number of beds to 48 beds. Since the opening, FMH has been on yellow alert only five times.

"The space in the ER has worked very well," Dr. Molesworth said.

But even with a bigger and better ER, Frederick Memorial Hospital continued to be on red alert nearly twice as often as the year before. During 2004, the hospital was on red alert 25 times, for a total of 501.49 hours, more than three times the number of hours.

The lack of inpatient beds is "why we are building a new hospital," said Ken Coffey, Frederick Memorial Hospital spokesman.

The \$93 million expansion project will increase the beds from 220 to 280. Mr. Coffey says he hopes it will reduce the number of red alerts.

The increasing rate of red alerts appears to be part of a national trend, said Lisa Myers, director of program development at the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System.

"The problem isn't that emergency departments are getting slammed," Ms. Myers said. " ... It's that patients have come into the ER, been taken care of, but the staff can't get rid of them because no beds are available in the hospital."



Maryland hospitals try to figure out how to operate as efficiently as possible, but additional beds must be approved by the Maryland Health Care Commission, which can often require a lengthy process, Ms. Myers said.

Mr. Coffey agreed the state's building process for hospitals "often takes a long period of time and typically you have to be at capacity or over capacity to get approval."

"By the time you built it, in many cases, it's time to add on again," he said.

[lbabiarz@fredericknewspost.com](mailto:lbabiarz@fredericknewspost.com)



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AMBULANCES FEEL SAFE, TOO



KEN KOONS/STAFF PHOTO

Ed Yingling, an EMT with the Westminster Fire Company, checks the oil of Taneytown's ambulance in the Westminster station. Westminster is borrowing Taneytown's ambulance because both of Westminster's ambulances are being repaired.

## Rising EMS calls strain resources

Fire companies in Carroll adjust to needs of expanding population

By GREG GUENTHNER  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Westminster Volunteer Fire Company is adjusting to handle an increasing number of calls for medical assistance.

In Westminster, calls for emergency medical services have risen faster than the rate of fire calls over the past three years, said Kevin Utz, chief of the Westminster fire company.

Countywide, EMS calls increased about 5 percent from 2002 to 2004, from 9,070 calls to 9,510 calls, and fire calls have increased about 1.5 percent, from 2,365 calls to 2,401 calls, according to the Carroll County Bureau of Emergency Communications. For the past several years, EMS calls have made up approximately 40 percent of all dispatched incidents in the county.

Because of the changes, Utz said, Westminster has sold one fire engine to the Carroll County Emergency Services Association, which now acts as a reserve engine for any fire company in the county that might need it.

In 2004, the fire company purchased a utility vehicle that makes runs during EMS calls, he said. The department also recently purchased an attack vehicle that will be able to go on EMS calls, he said. The attack vehicle holds 250 gallons of water, Utz said, and is smaller, so it can fit down narrower streets and the operator does not need a commercial driver's license.

"We're trying to think outside the box," he said. "This is one of those things that we've got to do well in." Westminster's fire company, along with most others in Carroll, is receiving an

increasing number of calls for medical assistance.

In the Sykesville-Freedom district, calls for emergency medical assistance were more than two times the number of fire calls in 2004, said Libby Luebberman, captain of emergency medical services for the Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department.

Luebberman said she attributes the growing number of calls to the increased population in South Carroll. On busy days, she said, paramedics will have to call in ambulances from neighboring districts to cover calls when the Sykesville-Freedom district's ambulances are busy.

"It drains our resources," she said.

Marianne Warehime, president of the county volunteer emergency services association, agreed that the county's growing population has probably caused the increases in EMS calls. She said the growing population has caused the increases in EMS calls, but she said the fire companies are doing a good job of handling the calls.

ing keep fire calls down.

Other fire companies have also found ways supplement their ambulance fleets.

Winfield Community Volunteer Fire Department uses two sport utility vehicles that hold life support units and can act as first-responders if an ambulance is busy on another call, said Chief Greg Dods.

The two utility vehicles help shorten response times for people who need immediate medical attention, Dods said.

The Manchester Fire Co. uses one life support unit to supplement its ambulance, said Second Assistant Chief Scott Hahn. The department also sold two of its three pumper trucks and purchased a larger pumper. The pumper fleet was downsized because of a lack of manpower to operate three pumper trucks, Hahn said, not because of a shift in EMS calls in the area.

Reach staff writer Greg Guenther at 410-857-7886 or [gguenther@frederick.com](mailto:gguenther@frederick.com).





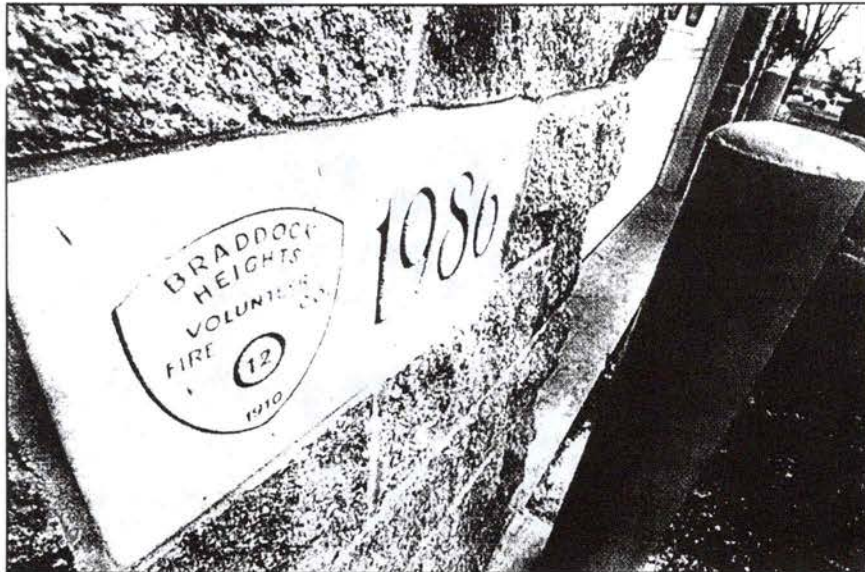
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FOCUS

# FAIL SAFE



Staff photo by Sam Yu

The Braddock Heights Volunteer Fire Co. is located off Jefferson Boulevard and is one of a number of Frederick County fire companies that have had problems responding to emergency calls. Braddock Heights' failure rate for 2004 finished at just more than 50 percent.

*Emergency responses are up, but so are county failure rates. Why can't some stations make the call?*

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News-Post Staff

ecunningham@fredericknews-post.com

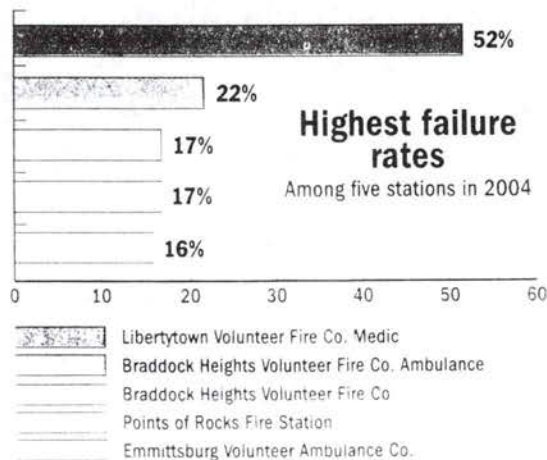
In 2004, Frederick County's firefighters and emergency medical technicians responded to more than 22,000 incidents.

By county standards, they failed nearly 2,000 of them.

If emergency responders do not leave the station within eight minutes of receiving a call it is considered a failure. Individual companies had failure rates as high as 52 percent for the year, according to data from Frederick County Emergency Communications.

In 2004, Libertytown Volunteer Fire Co.'s medic unit failed 52 percent of its calls. Of its 630 calls for the year, county data shows it failed to leave on time, or at all, 326 times.

Braddock Heights Volunteer Fire Co. failed 22 percent of its 450 ambulance calls and 17 percent of its 280 fire calls. Point of



News-Post graphics by William P. Sears II

Rocks Fire Station, a substation of Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Co., failed 17 percent of its 147 fire calls in 2004 and 14 percent of its 148 ambulance calls.

These statistics were obtained

for comment, but did not return phone calls.

Frederick County Emergency Communications Stationary Warehouse

See FOCUS A-14

# Focus: Failing rates

(Continued from A-1)

said each station's calls are separated by fire and ambulance to help monitor where stations have trouble. Most often, the trouble spots are ambulance calls.

Mr. Waesche said ambulance calls require more time, and there are more of them — three times the number of fire calls in the county last year. And one call can tie up an EMT for three hours.

Jim May, president of the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, said some stations have a problem finding enough EMTs to run ambulance calls. Training to become an EMT takes longer than training required to respond to fire calls.

It takes even more training to reach paramedic status. Chip Jewell, director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, said this might be one reason for Libertytown Volunteer's poor response rates for its medic unit.

"We are still trying to fill medic slots," he said. "It's an ongoing process. You can't just plug them in. It takes time and training."

## Paid staff

Seven county stations logged failure rates of more than 10 percent for the year. Mr. Waesche said that if a station fails 10 percent of its calls or more over a 12-month span, it triggers attention from officials.

Many stations have requested additional paid personnel.

"The failures are being corrected through the addition of career personnel," Mr. Waesche said. "If there were no career personnel, the response rates would be unacceptable."

Mr. May said Urbana Volunteer Fire Co. will upgrade its paid staff from 10-hour shifts to 24 hours a day, seven days each week. Carroll Manor Volunteer Fire Co. and Braddock Heights Volunteer Fire Co. have done the same.

The past year was not the first that Braddock Heights had "response issues," he said. When the station's ambulance is called to an emergency, dispatchers also call another station — either Independent Hose Co., Jefferson Volunteer Fire Co., Middletown Volunteer Fire Co. or Myersville Volunteer Fire Co. — as a back-up.

"There is no guarantee the volunteers are going to get the ambulance out of the station," Mr. May said. If the volunteers make it out, the other company is told to turn back, but that puts a burden on those companies.

Myersville, New Market District Volunteer Fire Co., United Fire Co., Westview Fire Station, and Citizens Truck Co. also asked for additional paid staff.

Paid firefighters are becoming commonplace in many formerly volunteer stations.

"They really shouldn't fail a call because someone is there to take it," Mr. May said. "If that's a paid ambulance, why is there a fail rate?"

Mr. Waesche said more than 600 of 2004's calls were transfer calls, meaning a station was asked to fill in for another. Often, these result in failed calls.

## Dwindling volunteers

Mr. May said a combination of fewer volunteers and more emergency calls, caused by an increased county population, and has led to increased fail rates for many stations.

"It's a concern that volunteer recruitment is down, and retention is becoming a problem, too," he said. "It's a concern, but it's a regional, if not national, trend."

Station leaders have to compete for volunteers' time. The volunteers have work, family obligations and little time to take a three-hour ambulance call.

"The companies know this," Mr. May said. "Locally, that's why companies have their fingers on the pulse of how to get people to respond to calls."

They know they need paid personnel to handle around the clock emergencies. "We can't stay here complacent and not request the help necessary to get help to the citizens," he said.

Mr. May describes the current fire system in the county as "integrated" — a mixture of paid and volunteer firefighters and EMTs. There are about 1,200 active volunteers countywide, and 900 go out on calls. The county employs about 200 paid emergency personnel and has 64 part-time positions.

Mr. Waesche said 15 years ago most failures were limited to day-time hours at volunteer stations. Now the figures span day, night and weekend calls.

"We are seeing more of a need in the suburban areas for night and weekend" help "than we did years ago," Mr. Jewell said.

## Success

While some stations struggle, others have a history of high success rates. Nine stations boasted zero percent failure rates for 2004.

Vigilant Hose Co., an all-volunteer station, had only two failed calls in 2004 and a zero percent fail rate overall. Company spokesman Wayne Powell, said that has everything to do with leadership.

"Without good, capable people, you can't do it," he said. "And we have very high expectations."

Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. had a history of high fail rates until county commissioners voted to provide 24-hour-a-day paid staff at the station. They have not failed a call since October, and Chief Rick Sharer said he looks forward to continued

Continued





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# Fire companies in line for funding

## Bills to be introduced in Annapolis

By Liz Holland  
SomerSet Herald

PRINCESS ANNE — The County Commissioners were expected to make a decision this week on how much to increase appropriations to eight volunteer fire companies so that local departments can introduce legislation in the Maryland General Assembly session which begins today.

Under consideration was a proposal by the county Fire

Chiefs Association to give an additional \$10,000 to each fire company during fiscal 2006 which begins July 1, said County Administrator Charles Massey. After that, the annual appropriations would revert back in fiscal 2007 to the amounts already set by the legislature.

The fire chiefs also have proposed raising the current \$15 for each ambulance call to \$25, and adding on a \$15 fee for each medical assist call, Massey said.

Whatever changes the commissioners decide to make will have to be introduced as a bill in the General Assembly because Somerset does not have home rule and cannot enact its own legislation.

Changes will also have to be decided quickly. "We've got to get this legislation in," Massey said. "Time's running out."

### Deputy state's attorney

Del. Page Elmore will also introduce a bill on behalf of Somerset County that will allow the state's attorney to appoint a deputy state's attorney.

Logan Widdowson, state's attorney for the last 28 years, is battling Parkinson's disease and frequently has been absent from the office during the past year.

Kristy Hickman, an assistant state's attorney, was recently appointed interim state's attorney by Circuit Court Judge Daniel M. Long and District Court Judge R. Patrick Hayman.

However, both judges thought legislation to allow the appointment of a deputy was a better option, Massey said.

Widdowson's term ends in

See BILLS, Page 2

## Current appropriations

The current appropriations approved for fiscal 2006 for Somerset County's eight volunteer fire companies are:

Crisfield	\$49,400
Princess Anne	49,400
Marion	31,500
Deal Island	27,350
Ewell	21,800
Mt. Vernon	21,800
Farmount	21,800
Tylerton	1,800
Total	\$229,850

## BILLS: County seeks legislation

amount to \$50,000 per store. Currently, the dispensary on Route 13 north of Pocomoke is allowed \$45,000, while the Crisfield and Princess Anne stores are allowed \$35,000 each.

Page 1  
2006

### Dispensary money

Another bill being introduced this session would increase the amount of money each of the



Capital Clipping Service

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# EMS to place defibrillators in county schools

Clay Owens  
Times Record

**DENTON** - Caroline County schools will soon have equipment on hand which might help save lives in the event of cardiac problems.

Kevin Gillespie of the Caroline County Department of Emergency Medical Services gave a presentation to the Caroline County Board of Education at their Jan. 4 meeting about EMS placing defibrillators at each of the county's schools, the Federalsburg Judy Center, the Family Support Center, Board of Education building and Support Services office.

"Due to the county being so rural, it is important there be one at each facility," Gillespie told the board. "When school is in session, about 10 percent of the county's population is at a school. We hope we never have to use them, but if we save one life, it's well worth the cost."

Gillespie said the defibrillators will not cost the county any money, as funding will be provided by federal and state grants. He added two different models will be purchased, both built by Medtronic, the CRT, which will be placed in each elementary school and school-affiliated building, and a heavier duty LP-500, which will be placed at each middle and high school. Both mod-

els can be used on victims of cardiac problems from ages 1 and up. He added that as more funding becomes available, additional units will be purchased for each location.

New units usually cost more than \$2,300 each, but since remanufactured units are being bought, EMS will save almost \$1,000 with each unit. Gillespie said once a defibrillator has been remanufactured, they are as good as new.

"Since we save so much money doing this, we can buy even more of them," he said, adding EMS has spent over \$100,000 on remanufactured units and not had a problem with any of them.

At first, three to five people per location will be trained to use the defibrillators, as well as in CPR. The school system itself will eventually be able to teach people how to use the equipment.

Superintendent Dr. Edward Shirley, who is certified to use one, said they are easy to operate.

"These things (defibrillators) are very easy to use," Gillespie said. "They're idiot proof. If I can use one, anybody can."

Board member C. Tolbert Rowe applauded the plan, but said if given a choice between Gillespie and Shirley using a defibrillator on him in event of an emergency, he would choose Gillespie, which drew laughter from those at the meeting.

Rowe was serious, however, when he

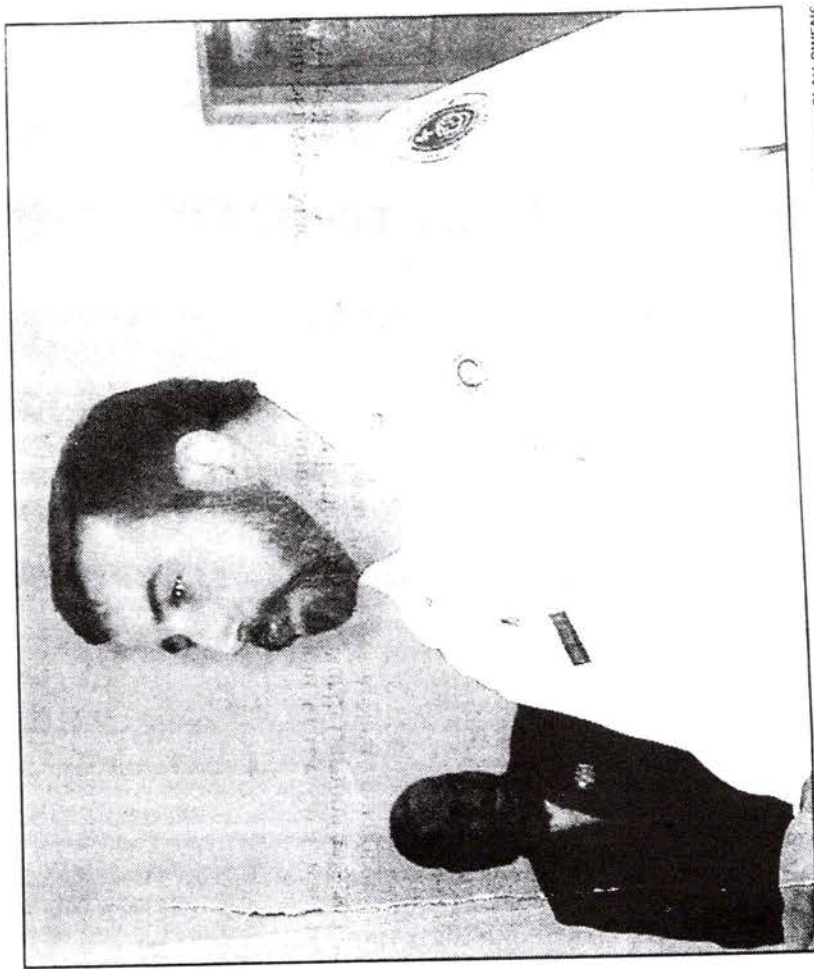


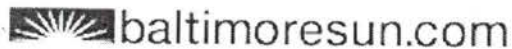
PHOTO BY CLAY OWENS

Kevin Gillespie of Caroline County EMS describes the plan to put defibrillators at each education facility in Caroline County.

users are grossly negligent, the state's "Good Samaritan" law will protect them from liability.

Gillespie responded that unless the





<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-copter0112,1,3508991.story?coll=bal-local-headlines>

# Helicopter pilot's body recovered from Potomac

## NTSB begins to inspect cranes as possible cause of crash

By Brett Zongker  
The Associated Press

January 12, 2005, 3:36 PM EST

OXON HILL -- The body of the pilot whose helicopter crashed in the Potomac River was pulled from the water today, still strapped into his seat.

"The body was found about 40 yards from where the helicopter initially went in the water," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Rob Moroney. The front half of the helicopter and tail had been sheared off from the midsection.

Joseph Schaffer, a 30-year pilot, was the second person confirmed dead in Monday night's crash. The body of paramedic Nicole Kieler was recovered from the wreckage Tuesday. Flight nurse Jonathan Godfrey was the lone survivor and was expected to recover from broken bones and bruises. He was in fair condition today at Washington Hospital Center.

Emergency workers shifted from a rescue effort to a recovery mission today, bringing in more divers and cadaver dogs after a full day search Tuesday. The chopper went down near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge that carries Interstate 95 between Maryland and Virginia, just south of the nation's capital.

Coast Guard officers mapped the river tides to help crews locate the body while the National Transportation Safety Board began inspections of five cranes that line the Wilson Bridge. The massive cranes are being used to build a new span.

One theory is that the helicopter may have struck one of the cranes, causing it to lose altitude and break apart in the water.

"It's going to be very meticulous," said NTSB Investigator Jeff Guzzetti, adding that they will lower each crane to inspect it foot by foot. "We'll be looking for any telltale signs of a strike, including paint and debris."

The tallest cranes were being lowered horizontally over the river to give investigators a close look from boats. Possible evidence that explains the Eurocopter EC-135 crash could be very small, Guzzetti said.

Taller cranes must be illuminated with warning lights. Guzzetti said the NTSB is still investigating but believes the cranes were lit appropriately.

Wreckage from the crash was also being examined at the NTSB Academy in Ashburn, Va., as investigators searched for bird feathers or any clues as to why the chopper fell from the sky. A video from traffic cameras on the bridge that captured the helicopter was also being examined.

Investigators will spend about two weeks going through the wreckage and as much as a year analyzing evidence to provide a final report on the cause of the crash.

It was the second deadly accident in less than a week for LifeNet/Air Methods Corp., which had a crew based in Stafford, Va. The Englewood, Colo.-based company had a chopper go down in Mississippi on Jan. 5, killing the pilot.

- The NTSB is investigating 11 medical flight crashes in the past 12 months.

- "One of the jobs of our agency is to take a big picture look at these accidents," Guzzetti said.

More than a dozen local and federal agencies helped with the search.

On the Net:

Air Methods: <http://www.airmethods.com>

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January 12, 2005

## A High Level of Alert for the Inauguration

By DAVID JOHNSTON and MICHAEL JANOFFSKY

**W**ASHINGTON, Jan. 11 - Tom Ridge, the homeland security secretary, said Tuesday that even in the absence of any specific security threat to next week's presidential inauguration, civilian and military forces had been ordered to an extraordinarily high state of alert.

"You can well imagine that the security for this occasion will be unprecedented," Mr. Ridge said at a news conference. "Protective measures will be seen. There will be quite a few that are not seen. Our goal is that any attempt on the part of anyone or any group to disrupt the inaugural will be repelled by multiple layers of security."

In his first detailed outline of inauguration security planning, Mr. Ridge said that more than 6,000 civilian and military personnel trained in crisis response, crowd control and dignitary security would be in place, with thousands more available to respond if necessary.

At the heart of the plan are tightly controlled security zones that will restrict pedestrian and vehicle access to the streets around the Capitol, where Mr. Bush will be sworn in, and over the route of the traditional parade along Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

Before the inauguration events, security teams will sweep through hotels and office buildings along the parade route, in some cases barring office workers from sitting near windows overlooking the procession.

Even now, security teams are working to ensure the safety of food that will be served to President Bush and other guests at inaugural events. Caterers are being instructed to arrive for work at 7 p.m. the night before the inauguration.

For next Thursday's swearing-in ceremonies, sniper teams will be in position on rooftops. Specialists in chemical, biological and radiological terrorism will mingle with the crowds, carrying hand-held detection devices designed to pick up any sign of unconventional weapons. Squads of plainclothes agents, with federal prosecutors among them, will move along the parade route scouting for potential problems. Armed Coast Guard boats will patrol the Potomac River.

Security will be tighter than at recent high-profile events like last year's political conventions.

"Our system of government is rooted in the sovereign principle of democratic authority bestowed by the people," Mr. Ridge said. "And the people, both the inauguration participants and city residents, are resolved to go forward with an event that so deeply reflects that ideal."

Mr. Ridge said that the security for the inauguration would cost millions of dollars but that he did not know the total amount.

Costs have created at least one conflict between the federal government and the District of Columbia. The city is underwriting about \$17.3 million of the cost, and Washington officials are not happy about it.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams has asked Mr. Ridge and Joshua B. Bolten, director of the Office of Management and Budget, why the city should cover security costs out of federal grants that are otherwise used for everyday needs, like protecting buildings, bridges, subways and waterways, as well as for emergencies and events like the funeral of President Ronald Reagan last year.

City officials say this is the first time that the federal government has not promised to cover all of the district's inauguration expenses, leaving open the possibility that district taxpayers might have to pay.

"We're delighted to be part of this; it's a great honor," said Gregory McCarthy, Mr. Williams's deputy chief of staff. "But we shouldn't be raided for something as predictable as this."

Asked about the issue, Mr. Ridge said that city governments of Boston and New York had agreed to spend federal security money to cover costs associated with protecting last year's political conventions in their cities.

Even as Mr. Ridge emphasized the urgency of preventive steps, several senior security officials said in private that planning for security at inaugurations seemed to be growing beyond the precautions that could be justified based on the threat level.

They also said that security planning for the inauguration was a well-rehearsed responsibility involving agencies whose roles were well known from past inaugurations.

"There's not much about this that we haven't done before," a senior law enforcement official said.

In part, the officials said, the extraordinary security arrangements at this year's swearing-in, parade and related events represent a chance for the nearly 50 federal agencies involved to show newly bought exotic equipment, specially trained antiterror units and communications networks put into place after the September 2001 attacks.

The military will play a more visible role in this inauguration, with 2,500 troops involved in security, said Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, commander of the Joint Task Force-Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, which coordinates military operations for the inauguration.

"We believe we are ready to deter any type of attack," General Jackman said before Mr. Ridge's news conference.

The general wore camouflage gear as he spoke with reporters in front a group of battle-dressed soldiers who carried automatic weapons.

The security plan for the inauguration is based on a system of overlapping zones. Vehicular traffic will be restricted from an outer zone about six blocks from inauguration sites. Pedestrians will be screened at 22 checkpoints set up around an inner zone perimeter about two blocks from event locations. An even more restrictive area in the vicinity of the swearing-in and the parade bleachers will be closed to



anyone without a ticket or an invitation.

In a break with past inauguration parades, protest groups are being assigned specific areas for their demonstrations in a way that protest organizers say will enable law enforcement agencies to exert tighter control over them.

Access to the presidential entourage itself will be limited to people who have been subjected to fingerprinting and criminal background checks.

Security is under the control of the Secret Service, which will manage the event from a central command center, known as the Joint Field Office, in a Virginia suburb. A number of federal agencies will open operations centers in a network being coordinated through 13 subcommittees, each with responsibilities ranging from the processing of drunken revelers to a nuclear attack.

Not everything is working smoothly, officials said. At one training exercise this week intended to test the complex communications network that links federal, state and local agencies, personnel were handed a 10-page phone directory of agencies listed only by acronym. The directory was so confusing - even to emergency workers - that officials ordered a new phone book with the names of agencies written out in full.

Mr. Ridge said that the nation's color-coded alert level would not be raised for the inauguration. The alert level is at yellow, for a heightened but not imminent threat.

"This is the most visible manifestation of our democracy," Mr. Ridge said, adding, "So there's very little intelligence, but we're as vigilant as ever."

Mr. Ridge has said that several factors may help explain the absence of threats, among them efforts by the United States and its allies to disrupt terrorist networks overseas and initiatives by the government to reduce the nation's vulnerability to attack.

Some intelligence officials have offered other reasons for the fewer reports of threats, including the possibility that planning for an attack might be going on undetected or that extremists might be turning their attention to other objectives like interfering with Iraqi elections scheduled this month.

washingtonpost.com

## Fuel Slick Led Rescuers to Survivor

Victim Told Crew About Others Aboard Copter, Alexandria Firefighter Says

By Leef Smith and Michelle Boorstein  
Washington Post Staff Writers  
Wednesday, January 12, 2005; Page B04

It was cold and nearing midnight Monday as Alexandria firefighter Tom Wheatley stood in the bow of the rescue boat, scanning the Potomac River with a hand-held light, searching for signs of life.

What he detected was an odor of fuel that seemed to dissipate as the boat neared the Woodrow Wilson Bridge -- a clue that would help the department's Marine Operations team find the helicopter that was reported down.

Turning north, the team followed a fuel slick until it could make out the aircraft's shape. "Then we saw the EMS insignia," Wheatley recalled yesterday, "and we knew it was a medevac.

"Here these people are saving lives all the time," he said, his voice choked with emotion. "And now it's our turn to save theirs."

The fuselage was crushed. Panning the wreckage with their lights, they spotted a man -- later identified as flight nurse Jonathan Godfrey -- clinging to the helicopter's tail.

"We were going to throw him a lifeline, but he said not to, that he was hurt," Wheatley said. Team member Tina Earley, clad in a drysuit, jumped into the water -- as shallow as 1 1/2 feet near the wreckage -- and used a rescue ring to help Godfrey to the boat.

"The victim was hollering," Wheatley said. "He was . . . trying to tell us that there were other crew members on board."

Rescuers could not save Nicole Kielar, 29, the flight paramedic, and last night they had not yet found the pilot, Joseph E. Schaefer III of Sterling.

Wheatley said Godfrey told them that the helicopter had dropped off a patient at a D.C. hospital and was returning to Stafford when the crash occurred.

"He said they hit something," Wheatley said. "They didn't know what it was."

Godfrey was taken to Belle Haven Marina for transport to Washington Hospital Center. Wheatley said a crew member heard him quip, "Don't . . . put me on a helicopter."

Godfrey's injuries included a broken arm, leg and sternum.

Returning to the crash site, Wheatley said the scene was surreal as search helicopters churned the shallow water and dive teams worked to recover Kielar's body from beneath the wreckage.

Kielar, who grew up in Fairfax County and lived in Richmond, had climbed "amazingly high" in her four years as a flight paramedic, college friend Matt Payne said, getting her master's degree and teaching emergency workers across Virginia and Pennsylvania.



"She was wound up tight, like the Energizer Bunny. Just her coming into the room, you better have a coffee in hand to keep up," said Payne, who said they met as emergency room medics at the University of Virginia and worked as flight paramedics in Richmond before Payne took a job in Stafford a few months ago.

The helicopter's owner, Air Methods Corp., temporarily halted operations out of Stafford and Richmond -- its D.C. area sites -- for a "stress debriefing," Payne said. "It's hit us hard."

Close to 5:30 a.m. yesterday, Wheatley said, rescuers flipped the helicopter on a rising tide, hoping to find the pilot.

Schaefer's wife, Mary Cecelia, said he loved flying and had logged 4,000 hours piloting helicopters, including two tours in Vietnam.

"I want people to know he has all these medals from Vietnam. He was shot down there, rescued tons of people. "To us," she said of herself and their three sons, "he's a hero."

"I just don't know what happened here."

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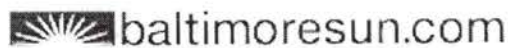
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<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.estimates12jan12,1,7749527.story>

## **City, nearby counties plan to form regional urban search, rescue team**

### **Board of Estimates to vote on accepting U.S. grant**

By Laura Vozzella  
Sun Staff

January 12, 2005

Baltimore and surrounding counties plan to form a regional urban search-and-rescue team with a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The city's Board of Estimates is expected to vote today to accept the grant money, to be shared by the city and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford and Howard counties.

"These grant dollars will allow us to access enhanced training and equipment and also further cooperation with our regional partners," said Raquel Guillory, a spokeswoman for Mayor Martin O'Malley.

The money will be used to set up the team, which will include private-sector experts such as structural engineers in addition to traditional emergency responders such as police and firefighters.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has traditionally maintained similar teams, one of them in Montgomery County, to respond to disasters around the country. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the agency has encouraged local jurisdictions to create teams of their own, city officials said.

The board will take up two other items related to terrorism and emergency preparedness. It will consider hiring The Uriah Group Inc. for \$50,000 to simulate a light rail "incident" at Camden Yards on baseball's Opening Day. The exercise is intended to demonstrate how the city and nearby businesses should respond to such a crisis.

The other item calls for paying \$26,000 for videos - developed by J.M. Dunn Astigmatism Media and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems Educational Support Services - that show how to set up and manage emergency health clinics.

Also today, the board will consider approving a \$75,000 severance payment to former police Commissioner Kevin P. Clark.

O'Malley fired Clark in November, saying that domestic abuse allegations against the commissioner, while unproven, had undermined his ability to lead the department.

The \$75,000 severance payment is what city officials contend Clark was entitled to under the terms of



his employment contract.

Clark is seeking \$120 million in damages from the city in a lawsuit that contends his firing was illegal. The \$75,000 payment does not change the status of the lawsuit, said Stuart O. Simms, an attorney for Clark.

"Nothing official has occurred," Simms said.

The board also will consider selling a small, triangular-shaped lot near Camden Yards to developers who plan to build a 126-room, limited-service hotel.

The city would sell the land, at the northeast corner of Washington Boulevard and Greene Street, for \$609,000 to Camden Square LLC, an entity created by Robert Meeks, an associate broker for Next Realty Mid-Atlantic LLC of Alexandria, Va., and Duane Taylor, a Baltimore developer.

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## Pilot's body found after Potomac crash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OXON HILL —The body of the pilot whose helicopter crashed into the Potomac River Monday night was pulled from the water yesterday, still strapped into his seat.

The body was found about 40 yards from where the LifeNet/Air Methods Corp. medical helicopter initially went into the water, said Maryland State Police Sgt. Rob Moroney. The front half of the helicopter and tail had been sheared off from the midsection.

Joseph Schaefer, a 30-year pilot, was the second person confirmed dead in the crash near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. The body of paramedic Nicole Kielar was recovered from the wreckage Tuesday. Flight nurse Jonathan Godfrey was the lone survivor. He was listed in fair condition at Washington Hospital Center.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board.

*The Sun 1/13/05*





Full Clipping Service

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# Emmitsburg emergency personnel not carrying out plan

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM

News Post Staff

emmitsburg@fredericknews-post.com

EMMITTSBURG — Chief Rick Sharer said Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. volunteers should be running some first due emergency calls.

But he was told to hold off after Vigilant Hose Co. leadership voiced concerns about what Frederick County Commissioner Mike Cody called "a gentlemen's

## County's action has not resolved issues with fire, ambulance units

considered ambulance company staff.

Both companies agreed to allow Emmitsburg Ambulance volunteers to respond first when able, instead of paid staff. They agreed emergency dispatchers would be notified and send vol-

unteers to the scene, when the station was adequately staffed with volunteers committed to working a shift.

County commissioners endorsed the plan, along with other compromises presented in writing.

Now, officials from both sides agree on one thing: That is not what is happening.

Former Vigilant Hose Co. president Frank Rauschenberg published a letter in the *Emmitsburg*

*Dispatch* recently stating station leadership is concerned about the agreement.

"Our two groups were pressed for action by the county commissioners, challenged to come to a resolution in two weeks (which included the Thanksgiving holiday) to a problem that has not been resolved in over 10 years of failed services," Mr. Rauschenberg wrote in the

(See EMMITSBURG A-14)

# Emmitsburg: Personnel not carrying out plan

(Continued from A-1)

letter.

Chief Bob Rosensteel Jr. said the Vigilant decision was misrepresented to county commissioners when the county took action.

Mr. Rauschenberg's letter said the ideas were presented without the "final approval of Vigilant Hose Co. and do not truly reflect the beliefs of the company."

The company wants 24-hour paid staff for Emmitsburg Ambulance and wants the county Division of Fire and Rescue to decide where they are stationed.

Mr. Cady said as far as commissioners knew, all parts of the agreement were being adhered to.

But Chief Sharer said that is not the case. They were told to "hold off" running first due calls until a new agreement is worked out.

"It is still being worked through," said Wayne Powell, Vigilant spokesman. "The issue has boiled down to whether the paid staff can function well when (Emmitsburg Ambulance) may or may not have people there."

Mr. Powell said taxes were raised in Emmitsburg to pay for around-the-clock staff, who could now sit idle while volunteers respond to a call.

"If we are paying taxes for career, salaried employees, that's who is expected to come when we call," he said. "What's the idea of having them sit around?"

Chip Jewell, county director of volunteer fire and rescue ser-

vices, said the decision to send volunteers on first due calls some of the time was met with public criticism. He said alternating who is dispatched from separate stations has never been done before.

Chief Sharer said deciding who responds has never been an issue in Frederick County, and he is surprised it has come up in Emmitsburg.

In the same station, it is common for volunteers to respond if they are there, instead of paid staff. But coordinating the effort between the two Emmitsburg stations would require more effort.

"It's something new," Mr. Jewell said. "They would have to work together."

Mr. Powell said Vigilant leadership expects control over any ambulance at their station. While housed there, the ambulance and paid staff are considered part of Emmitsburg Ambulance.

"We don't choose to be in the (emergency medical services) business," he said. "But we will do everything that comes with it, if asked. But don't give us the responsibility without the authority."

Chief Sharer said he is open to discussing another arrangement since the one proposed in November has now disintegrated.

"It seems like when we get two steps forward, we get knocked back four," he said.

Mr. Cady said if the two companies reach a new agreement, the Division of Fire and Rescue would come before commission-

## A Closer Look

*The following is a brief timeline for Vigilant Hose Co:*

**1884** Vigilant Hose Co. organized.

**1946** Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. formed and was housed at Vigilant Hose Co.

**1987** Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. became independent.

**2001-2003** At times, ambulance company volunteers failed as many as 38 percent of their calls, meaning they did not leave the station within eight minutes.

**2004** Their failure rate for 2004 was about 33 percent.

**May 2004** Emmitsburg Ambulance Co. requests daytime paid staff at a Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (FCVFRA) meeting.

**August 2004** Former ambulance company chief Jeanette McGuire advises FCVFRA of the failed calls and requests immediate paid staff.

**Sept. 2, 2004** Board of County Commissioners voted to support the FCVFRA recommendation to provide 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week ambulance coverage, housed at Vigilant Hose Co. Ambulance company volunteers were reduced to second-due calls.

**Nov. 9, 2004** Commissioners held a public hearing in Emmitsburg to discuss raising the fire tax to pay for around the clock paid staff to handle ambulance calls.

**Nov. 30, 2004** County commissioners vote to provide 24-hour paid staff, housed at Vigilant Hose Co. They endorsed an agreement to allow ambulance volunteers to run first due calls if they are able.

**January 2005** Former Vigilant Hose Co. president Frank Rauschenberg publishes a letter in the *Emmitsburg Dispatch* saying leadership is concerned about the agreement reached between the two companies at the Nov. 30 meeting.

ers again with a new proposal.

"They could recommend a change from the current situa-

tion," he said. "I don't think they want commissioners to impose a solution on them."



## OCEAN CITY DIGEST

OCEAN CITY, MD  
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# Fire/EMS Division receives collective bargaining rights

By Jennifer Lehman  
Staff Writer

(Jan. 7, 2005) Ocean City's paramedics received collective bargaining rights Monday evening, but will not begin the bargaining process until the fall because of legality issues.

The reason for the delay is that "it will take that long to get it all done," Council Secretary Jim Hall said on Thursday.

Many issues, including ordinance and charter changes, still need to be worked out before the bargaining can take place.

"We gave (collective bargaining) to them and it will actually develop into negotiations early in the fall," Hall said.

The decision was made during a closed

session on Monday that was held prior to the mayor and City Council's regularly scheduled public meeting.

"The mayor and council are currently working toward enacting a procedure or process to enable" collective bargaining, Mayor Jim Mathias said. He noted that over the next few months City Solicitor Guy Ayres will be working through these legality issues.

"Procedurally it's something that has to be done in a responsible time frame," Mathias said. "We are working toward that."

According to Mike Maykrantz, of the Department of Emergency Services, Fire and EMS Division, the group - which

consists of 34 firefighters and paramedics - is currently waiting to hear from the city in regards to what will happen next.

While collective bargaining will allow the division to negotiate their terms of employment, Maykrantz said, it will also open the lines of communication between the paramedics and the mayor and City Council.

"We were glad to receive the bargaining," Maykrantz said. "We feel it will open a lot of doors for us."

As mayor, Mathias said he is a supporter of collective bargaining rights for paramedics and said the council is moving responsibly to achieve this goal.

*Continued on page 4*

# Emergency workers get right to bargain

*Continued from page 1*

"The procedures that have to be enacted are yet to be worked out," he said.

For the last few months, members of the Fire and EMS Division had informally said they wanted to be included in collective bargaining, but the City Council asked them to wait because negotiations were under way with the police department.

ment.

After some time had passed, the City Council agreed to move forward with their collective bargaining request on Nov. 6.

At that time Maykrantz asked the City Council to support the group's request for collective bargaining.

"As evidenced by the work of the Ocean City Police Department, the collective

bargaining process has fostered better relationships between the police officers and city government officials," Maykrantz said in early November.

"Lines of communication have been opened and both sides have grown a new found respect for the jobs they perform. This is a win-win for the city, its employees and the citizen."



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WORCESTER COUNTY TIMES

# OP fire dept. to receive \$452,230

By Susan Canfora  
Staff Writer

OCEAN PINES — After extensive discussion, the OPA board unanimously approved \$452,230 in the FY 2005-06 budget for its share of the cost of items including a new pumper for the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department.

Fire department president Jackie Carey, who met with the board during budget talks last week, said members of the apparatus committee agreed a new tower truck and new pumper are needed and that they should be delivered during fiscal year 2005-06.

A tower truck is necessary to respond to incidents at high-rise condominiums in Ocean Pines and at some homes with large yards, to reach over the yard. It will also be necessary for a new three-story building planned at Catered Living, Carey said.

General Manager Dave Ferguson said \$34,800 was budgeted as the OPA's share for the pumper but payments were spread over five years. The amount could be reduced by spreading payments over more years, he said, and the board agreed to change the payment schedule, thereby reducing this year's budgeted amount to \$29,000.

Responding to a board question, Carey said a fire engine

lasts 15 years and an ambulance about seven years. Currently, the fire department has two ambulances that are about 4 years old. There are plans to add a third ambulance, she said.

There are also plans to add a paid employee as the fire department moves to an all-paid staff of ambulance drivers and technicians.

The new employee will be required to have a Class B commercial license and be trained as both a firefighter and EMT. Carey said, reminding board members that EMTs have basic skills but are not as highly trained as paramedics.

The unanimous vote to approve the fire department's budget followed another heated exchange about the possibility of starting to charge for ambulance service, which is now free for Pines residents.

Board member Mark Venit again suggested that charging should be investigated, to increase revenue for the fire department. At a board meeting late last year, a motion by Venit, to authorize the OPA administration to research the idea of charging for the service, was defeated.

During budget discussions last week, Venit asked Carey why fire department paid employees received an 8 percent raise last year and another 8 percent raise is planned again this year.

She said the plan is, for a few years, to make increases until paid employees' salaries are 95 percent equal to Ocean City employees. The decision was made to keep Pines employees from leaving for jobs in the resort.

Venit said a 16-percent increase over two years sounds high. Carey said it was done after researching the pay range based on information from Ocean City's human resources department.

Venit said, as he did at a previous meeting, that research he completed shows fire departments in the area charge for ambulance service and that, despite differing opinions among board members, billing insurance companies for ambulance service wouldn't necessarily affect grants to the fire department.

It would be possible for payments to be waived for those who can't pay, he said, although in the Pines 60 percent of the population is retired and the number of uninsured is small.

She said there are also serious concerns that some people who know they will be billed if their insurance doesn't pay for an ambulance call won't seek medical help even in an emergency.

Reach Susan Canfora  
at 410-213-9442, Ext. 11 or scan-  
fora@smgpo.gannett.com



# AEGIS

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## 911 call honored Daughter dialed when mom cut herself

By Jessica Alden

A Bel Air Elementary School student was honored Thursday morning for her quick actions in December when she called after her mother cut herself and bleeding badly.

Miranda Bessaw, 9, and her mother, who works in the advertising department at The Aegis, were at their Bel Air home on Dec. 13.

Miranda was in the shower around 9 p.m. when her mother was wrapping Christmas gifts. Her mother heard her cry out at the shower and quickly put the towel over her. As she was putting the towel over her, she accidentally cut her finger on a piece of broken glass she didn't see. Her mother screamed when she cut her finger. The cut on the bottom of the finger required stitches. Miranda ran to the kitchen and saw blood everywhere. Her mother had put her finger in her mouth, trying to stop the blood. When Miranda saw what was going on, she immediately called her mother, who is a nurse, but she was too busy to answer. Miranda called her mother and said, "I didn't know what was going to happen to my mother."

to dispatcher Noelle Adams of the Harford County Emergency Operations Center, Adams said. Miranda was calm and answered all her questions.

During a short assembly in the Bel Air Elementary School gym Thursday morning, fourth graders and teachers honored Miranda Polk, another EOC dispatcher, and Adams played the tape of Miranda's call.

"She stayed on the phone with me until the ambulance got there and told me things to do, like keeping pets away from my mom and unlocking the door for the ambulance," Miranda said.

Polk presented Miranda with a 911 pin, a certificate from Harford County Executive Jim Harkins, which was read by Harford County Emergency Operations Manager Ernie Crist, and a certificate from the Emergency Operations Center.

"My parents and my teachers taught me what to do when there is an emergency," Miranda said.

Jessica Bessaw was very grateful her daughter listened to what she had told her.

"I'm very proud of Miranda," Jessica Bessaw said. "I'm glad she was there for me."



Rhonda Polk, right, from the Harford County Emergency Operations Center, presents Bel Air Elementary School fourth grader Miranda Bessaw with a special proclamation. The day morning for her quick action in calling 911 for her mother's injury, made her a hero in the school.

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Thomas L. "Chip" Riddleberger Jr. will work part-time to assist with the everyday functions of the foundation. He will manage the office on a daily basis, working on communications, fund-raising and research to further the goals and objectives of the foundation.

A news release from the foundation said Riddi Berger is eager to assist the foundation's fund-raising efforts. The foundation is in the third and final phase of generating

The foundation's Annapolis office is located at 17 State Circle. The phone number is 410-974-2222. The address is P.O. Box 706, Annapolis, Md. 21401.



**The New York Times**

NOW PLAYING IN THEATERS

January 14, 2005

## A Push in States to Curb Malpractice Costs

By JAMES DAO

**A**NNAPOLIS, Md., Jan. 13 - As state legislative sessions open across the country this week, Republican governors and lawmakers in many states are mounting major campaigns to control medical malpractice insurance premiums by limiting civil litigation.

In Georgia, Missouri, Washington and more than a dozen other states, Republican legislators have made malpractice premiums a priority this year, groups that track such legislation said. In Kentucky, Maryland and Mississippi, Republican governors have already waded into the fray.

The impending battles over malpractice costs have in some states been wrapped in the broader cloak of "tort reform," intended to restrict the civil liability of many types of businesses. They also come at a time when President Bush has pledged to push for federal restrictions on medical malpractice lawsuits.

But in most of the states, soaring malpractice premiums have been the driving force for the campaigns - in part because compelling stories about doctors and their patients have put human faces on the larger issue. In some regions, soaring premiums have led doctors to strike, stop delivering vital services and even quit.

"Medical malpractice costs have driven tort reform across the country," said Gretchen Schaefer, spokeswoman for the American Tort Reform Association, a nonprofit group that advocates restrictions on a wide range of personal injury lawsuits. "When you get an issue like that, where people are feeling the impact, having to do things like drive across state lines to have babies, it opens the door to a broad discussion of our class action system."

The movement to restrict litigation is being propelled mainly by Republicans, led by a new generation of first-term governors. In Mississippi, Gov. Haley Barbour, the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, pushed restrictions on litigation through the Legislature last year then went on a "tort tour" to urge other governors to do the same.

In Kentucky, Gov. Ernie Fletcher, a doctor and former congressman, also made malpractice costs a priority after taking office last year, but failed to get legislation enacted. He has pledged to try again this year.

And in Maryland, Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr., who also came from the House Republican caucus, took a page from Mr. Barbour, calling the General Assembly into special session late last year to combat the high cost of malpractice insurance.

On Monday, Mr. Ehrlich vetoed a bill approved by the Democratic-controlled legislature that he considered too weak. The legislature overrode his veto on Tuesday.

Significant measures to restrict lawsuits are considered likely to pass in several states, including Georgia and Missouri, where Republicans now control the executive and legislative branches.

The issue is potent enough that Democrats in some states, like Illinois, Pennsylvania and Virginia, have begun to push lawsuit limits, even as the Democratic leadership in Congress resists such proposals.

The battles pit two of the nation's most powerful campaign contributors: trial lawyers and doctors.

In the 2004 campaign, the American Trial Lawyers Association political action committee gave \$2.1 million to federal candidates, almost all of them Democrats. The American Medical Association's political committee contributed nearly \$2 million, with 81 percent going to Republicans.

The American Medical Association said that nearly 20 states were facing malpractice crises, with premiums having risen by 50 percent or more in the last two years. The group cites skyrocketing litigation costs.

Julie Rochman, senior vice president for the American Insurance Association, a trade group, said malpractice litigation was costly not only because judgments could be very large, but also because many doctors practiced "defensive medicine" involving unnecessary but costly procedures to avoid lawsuits. Ms. Rochman also said that many insurance companies had stopped issuing policies, reducing competition and causing premiums to rise.

The medical association and insurance groups have called for measures that would cap awards, tighten standards for expert witnesses, allow judgments to be paid out over extended periods, partially shield emergency room doctors from liability and limit lawyers' fees.

Trial lawyers say that personal injury litigation represents a relatively small part of rising insurance costs, blaming profit-taking and declines in investment returns for soaring premiums.

Citing premiums that rose by more than 70 percent in the last two years and record payouts last year by the Maryland's largest malpractice carrier, Mr. Ehrlich called a special legislative session in December.

But the lawmakers approved legislation that rejected several of Mr. Ehrlich's plans for limiting litigation and that allowed higher caps on wrongful death payments. The Democratic plan also imposes a 2 percent tax on health maintenance organizations to pay for reducing malpractice premiums and increasing Medicaid reimbursements.

The Maryland Republican Party began running advertisements in several swing legislative districts calling the Democratic bill a "tax on patients." On Monday, Mr. Ehrlich, surrounded by doctors in white coats and a child wearing a bumper sticker that read, "Support a lawyer, become a doctor," announced he would veto the measure.

But despite last-minute arm twisting by Mr. Ehrlich, the legislature overrode his veto. The final bill sets a cap on wrongful death payments at \$812,500, half the current cap, and freezes for four years a limit on noneconomic payments at \$650,000.

MedChi, the Maryland state medical society, supported Mr. Ehrlich's plan, but opposed his veto on the grounds that the Democratic bill at least provided some relief for doctors. But Dr. Willarda Edwards, the society's president, said much more needed to be done.



A primary care physician in a low-income south Baltimore neighborhood, Dr. Edwards said her premiums had soared more than sixfold since 2002.

"Almost everyone I know who is an ob-gyn is now just gyn because of rising premiums, and I'm talking about colleagues who have been delivering babies for 20 years," she said, referring to obstetricians-gynecologists.

As the fight continues in Maryland, Georgia and Missouri are examples of how recent Republican victories are expected to lead to restrictions on personal injury lawsuits.

In Georgia, Republicans won control of the House last November for the first time in 140 years. House Democrats blocked malpractice bills twice in the last two years, but Republicans now predict that legislation restricting lawsuits will pass.

In Missouri, the Republican-controlled legislature twice passed bills restricting lawsuits in the past two years, only to have the Democratic governor, Bob Holden, veto them. But a Republican, Matt Blunt, was elected governor in November, and one of his first promises was to enact "meaningful litigation reform."

Though Mr. Blunt cited rising malpractice premiums as the reason for his pledge, trial lawyers say the measures are likely to restrict lawsuits against an array of businesses.

"This is about the business community using physicians as a battering ram, because they are the ones with the highest sympathy level," said Randy McConnell, spokesman for Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys.



<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/politics/bal-md.teens14jan14.1.4109512.story?coll=bal-home-headlines>

## Proposal targets young drivers

### Ehrlich plan would raise penalties, lengthen learner's permit period

By Ivan Penn  
Sun Staff

January 14, 2005

UPPER MARLBORO - Young drivers could face tougher penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and other infractions under a proposal unveiled yesterday by Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr.

At a news conference in the gymnasium of Prince George's County's Largo High School - with 1,500 cheering students as a backdrop - Ehrlich announced the first of his legislative initiatives for the General Assembly session that began this week.

Under his plan, drivers younger than age 21 convicted of operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs would have their licenses revoked for three years or until they turned 21, whichever was longer. Drivers with provisional licenses caught without seatbelts or at the wheel during curfew hours, between midnight and 5 a.m., could have their permits suspended for 90 days.

In addition to the increased penalties, Ehrlich wants to lengthen by two months the period of time that teenagers are required to hold their learner's permits, currently four months. The age at which the permit may be obtained would stay at 15 years, 9 months.

"The most irresponsible thing you can do is get behind the wheel of an automobile and drive negligently or drive drunk," Ehrlich said. "We ask respectfully for you to help us pass these bills."

The issue is of particular interest to first lady Kendel Ehrlich, who joined her husband at the news conference and spoke on behalf of the measures. She said she is keenly aware of the issue because she was a public defender and prosecutor handling drunken-driving cases.

"Drinking and driving is illegal," she told the crowd. "It is a privilege to drive, not a right."

House Speaker Michael E. Busch said he had not seen the legislation and declined to comment on the proposals.

Del. William A. Bronrott, a Montgomery County Democrat, seized the moment to push his legislation targeting young drivers, saying Ehrlich's proposals do not go far enough.

"The three measures that he has put forth are a very positive step forward," Bronrott said. "But unless we take some additional steps, I believe we will fall far short of where we need to go."



In addition to Ehrlich's plan, Bronrott wants to prohibit drivers with provisional licenses from carrying nonfamily passengers younger than age 18 during the first six months of the 18-month provisional period.

Bronrott also would ban the use of cell phones by drivers with learner's permits or provisional licenses, except in emergencies, and increase the supervised driving hours for those with learner's permits from 40 to 60, including night hours.

The legislation is the result of data showing motor vehicle crashes are the No. 1 killer of teenagers nationwide.

In Maryland, those younger than age 21 account for 1.6 percent of the driving population and 5.3 percent of the motor vehicle accidents. One in five teenage motorists is involved in a crash during the first year of driving, the governor said.

Largo students seemed supportive of the governor's initiatives, though some expressed dismay at the proposal to extend the length of time for holding a learner's permit.

"I must admit, I'm kind of upset about that," said Ebonie West, a 15-year-old sophomore from Forestville.

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## CAPITAL

ANNAPOLIS, MD  
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# QA gets ambulance for rush calls

## Kent Island patients could see shorter waits for trips to hospital

By DANIEL VALENTINE  
Staff Writer

A paramedic to their door usually isn't a problem. Paid county medics on call in pickup trucks respond to 911 calls within seven minutes.

Getting to the hospital is another matter.

For the last few years, the limited numbers of qualified medical volunteers at the nine local fire departments have forced patients to wait as long as an hour for an ambulance to take them to Anne Arundel Medical Center in Parole or Memorial Hospital in Easton, the two closest emergency rooms.

"What people notice is how long it takes (us) to get there, not how long they're waiting for the ambulance," said Scott Haas, chief of the county's EMS division. "They haven't realized how long it's been."

But starting this week, thanks to an arrangement with the Queenstown

"Right now, it's taking us about two hours to get back in service," he said. "By any definition, that's unacceptable."

And in cases of major trauma, like a car accident or other major event, a paramedic on scene without an ambulance can only do so much. "In some cases, you have to get to a hospital," Mr. Chew said.

The county will refund costs for mileage and service when it uses Queenstown's vehicle. The county is also negotiating with several other volunteer fire companies to use their ambulances, Mr. Chew said.

But the program still has limitations. Every ambulance transporting a patient needs two people — a driver and a paramedic. Currently, the county is only funding the driver.

And while an ambulance will be able to arrive faster, the county paramedic will still need to travel to the hospital with the patient, then back to their pickups, also known as chase ve-

hicles, an hour or so later, said Kent Island Volunteer Fire Company Chief Tracy Schulz.

"They need a full crew," he said.

With the number of emergency calls growing in the county, ambulance service will require more enhancement, Mr. Chew said. Last year, the number of emergency medical calls in the county rose to nearly 6,000. Kent Island and Grasonville accounted for at least 40 percent of the calls.

Fully staffed ambulances have worked successfully in the county before.

Last summer, when most of the county volunteers went to the state firefighters' convention in Ocean City, paramedics ran fully-crewed ambulances for the week instead of their chase cars.

For that week, the amount of time paramedics were out of service was cut in half, Mr. Chew said.

dvalentine@capitalgazette.com

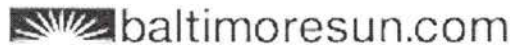
## KENT ISLAND

Volunteer Fire Department, Queen Anne's County paramedics now have a donated ambulance ready to answer when volunteers aren't available. It should reduce the waits during the daytime and the middle of the night, when few qualified volunteers are available.

"If the (volunteer paramedic) is there, they're going to get to us in time," Mr. Haas said. "And every department has at least one. The only problem is, mostly all they have is one, and they have to work."

It should also end the frustration for paramedics who have to wait at the home, hitch a ride with the dispatched ambulance, wait more time at the hospital and then get back to their truck, said John Chew, director of the county's Emergency Services Department.





<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/bal-ed.drivers17jan17.1.1945586.story>

## Cars and kids

January 17, 2005

GOV. ROBERT L. Ehrlich Jr. may have his faults, but cowardice is not among them. Last week, he walked into Largo High School's gymnasium to tell a packed audience of teenagers why he's cracking down on their driving privileges. And you know what? He wasn't even booed. Automobile accidents are the leading killer of teens, and many in the audience knew of at least one highway casualty. Mr. Ehrlich and first lady Kendel Ehrlich said they spoke as concerned parents. The students seemed to understand.

What Mr. Ehrlich has proposed are three modest, but not insignificant, changes to the state's restrictions on teen drivers. He would extend the learner's permit period from four to six months and toughen the 18-month provisional license restrictions. He would also mandate that any driver under the age of 21 convicted of a drunken or drugged driving offense have his or her license suspended for at least three years or until age 21, whichever is longer.

Experts say all three could help lower the teen accident and fatality rates. Under Mr. Ehrlich's proposal, a teen with a provisional license who gets caught driving without a seatbelt or violating the curfew restrictions would face a mandatory 90-day license suspension followed by a restart of his 18-month "clock." The Motor Vehicle Administration already has authority to suspend a license for these violations but typically doesn't, because under current law those 90 days eat into the restarted 18 months.

But the governor would be wise to go further. As he noted in his presentation in Largo, a leading cause of teen-involved accidents is driver distraction. Advocates have tried and failed to convince the General Assembly to approve two measures that could address this problem. One is to ban cell phone use by young drivers. The other would limit a provisional driver from carrying passengers under age 18 for a period of time. True, such a law might be inconvenient to some, but it's certain to save lives.

After all, it isn't just teen drivers who are more likely to be killed in accidents than others, it's teen passengers as well. Mr. Ehrlich's support should improve the chances for all these bills. In 2003, 106 people ages 13 to 20 died on Maryland roads. Reducing that number is a worthy goal for any governor - or parent.

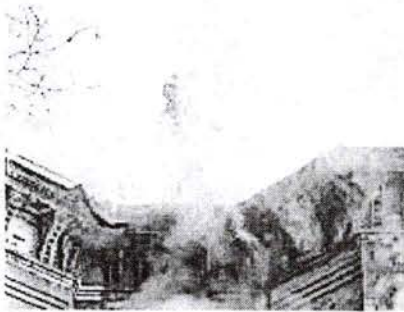
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# TheWBALChannel.com

## Off-Duty Firefighter Praised For Saving Woman

### ***Man Smoking In Bed, Clothing Caught Fire, Fire Investigators Say***

**WASHINGTON --** An off-duty firefighter from Baltimore County is being hailed as a hero after saving a woman from inside a burning building in the 900 block of T Street in Northwest D.C.



Alan Etter, DC Fire EMS

Lt. Stephen Weatherby was driving in the area Tuesday morning when he saw flames coming out of a rowhouse. He went inside and found a 79-year-old woman who was reluctant to leave because her ailing husband was still inside.

 **Images:** Firefighters Fight D.C. Blaze

D.C. Fire and rescue spokesman Alan Etter said Weatherby convinced the woman to get out of the house. She was treated for minor injuries and released.

The woman's husband was found dead on the second floor of the two-story row house. The couple's 55-year-old daughter managed to get out of the home herself.

Etter said fire investigators have determined Tuesday afternoon that the man who died was smoking in bed and apparently set his clothes on fire, causing the blaze.

The fire was first reported around 9 a.m. Etter said firefighters were able to respond quickly because the home is located only about a block from the Fire Department's headquarters in the 1900 block of Vermont Avenue.

The spokesman said that by the time the rest of the house caught fire, the gusty winds helped fan the flames. Damage to the home is estimated at \$125,000.

Firefighters plan to return to the neighborhood Wednesday to distribute smoke detectors.

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Capital Clipping Service

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# QVFD honors members

*Volunteerism alive,  
well in Queenstown*

By ANGELA PRICE  
Editor

**QUEENSTOWN** — Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department recognized the spirit of volunteerism, reflected on the highlights of 2004 and inducted two new honorary members at the department's installation and awards banquet at the Bay Country Moose Lodge in Queenstown Saturday night.

"For years, we've heard stories about how volunteerism is dead," said Queenstown VFD President J.C. Lewis. "In 2004, we had 12 members join, and in our only meeting of 2005, we've already seen one new applicant."

Lewis went on to recount the total man-hours volunteered in 2004 for everything from fire prevention and training to fund raising and responding to calls. In all, Queenstown volunteers gave 7,428.5 man-hours, or 309.5 days, in 2004.

"How did you spend your 56 days off?" Lewis asked the volunteers. "In Queenstown, maybe volunteerism is only on life support."

"I, like most of you, grew up knowing most of your neigh-

bors. We grew up with values, ethics and morals. Our greatest satisfaction was knowing that we made a difference in someone's life," Lewis continued.

"Today, people are growing up without these values. Their satisfaction comes from what they can get for their work. In other words, a paycheck. The young people here tonight are a rare breed. Their parents, who grew up with these values, instilled them in their children. We

need more like you, to take this department into the next generation," he said.

Lewis praised the length of service awards program approved by the county last year, but said the department has to do more to recruit and retain young volunteers to ensure the future of the department.

He gave a brief summary of highlights from 2004: January, purchased new rescue; February, spent over 540 man-hours getting the rescue

ready for service; March, annual chicken barbecue fundraiser; May, received H Award by R. Adams Cow Shock Trauma Center; June, traveled to the Fireman's Convention in Ocean City where the department's best appearing rescue and best appearing brush truck; September, new, grant-funded air packs placed in service; county approved LOSAP; October, new ambulance 30 received; and December, La-

**See AWARDS,**



Photo by ANGELA PRICE

**Lennie Anthony, center, presents honorary memberships to Nicole Pott Jordan, left, and John English, right, on behalf of Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department. The addition of Jordan and English brings the number Queenstown VFD's honorary members to 12. See related photos, p.12.**



# Awards

from page 1

Auxiliary held their annual cookie walk and Santa night.

He told all the volunteers they deserved a pat on the back but not to let up because each and every one is needed for a successful 2005.

In 2004, the Queenstown VFD responded to 452 calls for service, said statistician Jeff Lewis, a decrease of 37 calls from 2003.

"The most frequent type of call we responded to in 2004, as in previous years, were motor vehicle accidents, in which we had 100, followed by 83 medical assists calls," Lewis said.

The busiest day of the week was Thursday, with 75 calls, and the busiest month was July, with 55 calls.

The top five responders in 2004 were: Jeff Lewis with 262 calls; Tom Nelson with 240 calls; J.C. Lewis with 239

calls; Lonnie Anthony with 231 calls; and Lennie Anthony with 229 calls.

EMS Capt. Ronnie Harrison said Queenstown's EMS alerted over 834 times in the past year, up more than 100 calls over the previous year.

That number included mutual aid and first due area calls. Queenstown responded to more than 300 calls in just its first due area. Each call takes at least 90 minutes of a volunteer's time, he said.

"Every year the call volume has continued to increase while the availability of volunteers has fallen or remained the same," Harrison said. "This, in itself, shows the dedication of the volunteers we will acknowledge tonight."

Harrison spoke of the "valuable service" provided by the opening of station 300 and the placement of a county-staffed transport unit at the Queenstown fire house.

Highlights for Queenstown EMS in 2004 included placing a new ambulance into service and upgrading all the life pack 12 monitors to include capnography.

Harrison thanked the Queenstown Lions Club and Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 for donations that enabled the company to purchase a new stretcher and stair chair for the new ambulance, items that cost over \$5,000.

The top EMS responders in 2004 were: Jim Lewis with 326 calls; Ronnie Harrison with 230 calls; Larry Searce with 181 calls; Winfield Miller with 129 calls; and Michael Palmer with 86 calls.

on by members of the department, went to top responder Jim Lewis.

Harrison presented the Captain's Award to Michael Palmer, who he said "has shown a great interest in getting the ambulance out on the street, especially when no one is showing up for a call."

Queenstown Lions Club King Lion Dick Middleton presented the club's Firefighter of the Year award to Vinnie Palmer.

Firefighter of the Year awards, as voted on by members of the department, went to: Ray Slye, five years of service and under; Tom Nelson, five to 15 years; and Lonnie Anthony, over 15 years.

J.C. Lewis presented the President's Award to Vice President Bryan Callahan, who, he said, took care of a lot of behind the scenes details.

The S.E.W. Friel Memorial Award, now in its second year, went to the Queenstown VFD Ladies Auxiliary, whose members embody what volunteerism is all about, working tirelessly behind the scenes and never asking anything in return, Lewis said.

On behalf of the fire department, Lennie Anthony presented two honorary memberships to Nicole Potter Jordan of Queenstown and Jack English of Centreville, bringing the number of honorary members to just an even dozen for the 70-year-old department.

Honorary memberships are rare and special, Anthony said. "We do not hand them



Photo by ANGELA PRICE

**Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department President J.C. Lewis addresses the crowd during the department's installation and awards banquet on Jan. 15 at the Bay Country Moose Lodge in Queenstown.**

out on a regular basis."

In order to become an honorary member, "you must follow in our footsteps. You must put our organization ahead of your personal life," Anthony said.

Both Jordan and English have shown great dedication over the years to Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department, Anthony said.

Jordan is co-owner of Potter's Pantry. When the department needs some platters made or needs food for its fair, "we don't have to worry, we know she's going to take care of it," Anthony said. "If it wasn't for the local businesses that support us — they take time to do things we don't

have time to do."

English has been the department's mechanic for more than 25 years, Anthony said. All the equipment must be inspected on an annual basis, and there's accompanying paperwork that must be filed. English does all that.

Plus, anytime something breaks down, they call him and he drops whatever he's doing and comes right down to get them back in service, Anthony said.

The other 10 honorary memberships belong to the late Louis L. Goldstein; Dennis Lunstead, U.S. State Dept. representative when Queen

See AWARDS . p.13



Photo by ANGELA PRICE

Queenstown Volunteer

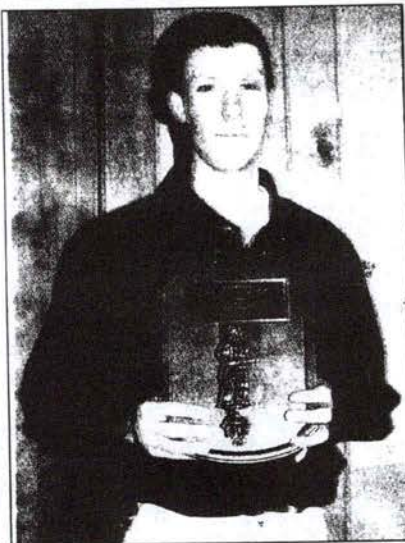


# Queenstown VFD Awards

Photos by ANGELA PRICE



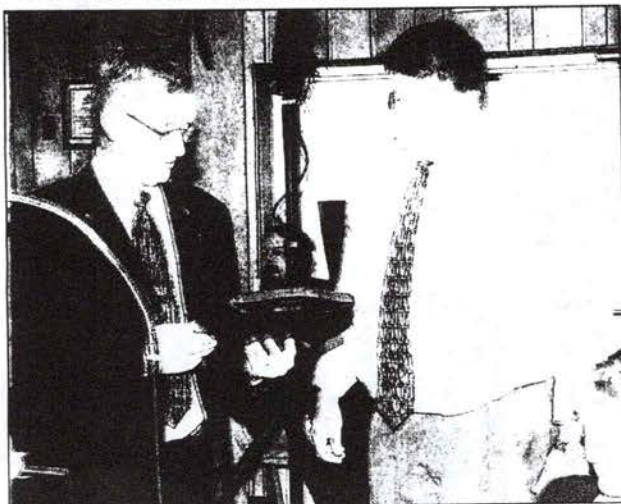
**LONNIE ANTHONY**  
Firefighter of the Year, over 15 years



**TOM NELSON**  
Firefighter of the Year, 5 to 15 years



**RAY SLYE**  
Firefighter of the Year, 5 years/under



Queenstown Lions Club King Lion Dick Middleton, left, presents Vinne Palmer with the club's Firefighter of the Year award.



Queenstown VFD Emergency Medical Services Capt. Ronnie Harrison, center, presented Dick Middleton, left, of the Queenstown Lions Club and Butch Stoops of Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 with special plaques in recognition of their group's donations that enabled the department to purchase a new stretcher and stair chair for the new ambulance.



Top emergency medical responders for 2004 included, from the left, Jim Lewis with 326 calls, Ronnie Harrison with 230 calls, and Winfield Miller with 129 calls. Not pictured, but rounding out the top five responders were Larry Searce with 181 calls and Mike Palmer with 86 calls.



Top fire responders of 2004 include, from the left, Jeff Lewis with 262 calls, Tom Nelson with 240 calls, J.C. Lewis with 239 calls, Lonnie Anthony with 231 calls and Lennie Anthony with 229 calls.



## Awards

from page 8

Anne's County hosted NATO in the '70s; Robert Seibel, from Maryland Fire Rescue Institute, who taught many of the volunteers fire school; Thomas [redacted] a mechanic who did a lot of work for QVFD; the late Miles Walk, QVFD's Santa for 30 years; the late William "Bill" Crouch, who made the trophy cabinets at the fire house; Dr. Ron Franks, who hosts a picnic for the volunteers at his house every summer; Dr. Harry Rhodes, a big fire department supporter; Jack Weston, owner of Ideal Lawn-mower Shop who donates to the fireman's fair every year and works on the department's small equipment; and the late Tony Harned, who owned Bob's Mini Mart and provided much support for QVFD.

On behalf of the fire department, Frank Russum presented Butch Stoops of Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 with a special award recognizing him for organizing the annual firefighter's day. Stoops' award drew a standing ovation from the crowd.

Representing the county's Fire Chiefs Association, Frannie Jester presented awards to Lonnie Anthony, who served a vice chair in 2004; Tom Nelson, who chaired the group's Stan-

dards Committee; and J.C. Lewis, who chaired the Budget Committee. He also commended the county commissioners for approving LOSAP for the volunteer firefighters.

QVFD received \$800 from the Queenstown Lions Club, \$1,500 from the Ladies Auxiliary, \$2,000 from Legion Post 296, and a donation of an undisclosed amount from the Jeff Davis American Legion Post.

Queenstown EMS received \$1,500 from the Ladies Auxiliary and \$1,000 from Legion Post 296.

Queenstown Ladies Auxiliary received a donation from Legion Post 296 Ladies Auxiliary.

County Commissioner Ben Cassell installed the new officers.

QVFD administrative officers for 2005 are President J.C. Lewis, Vice President Bryan Callahan, Secretary Suzanne Lane, Asst. Secretary Lisa Anthony, Treasurer Frank Russum and Directors Vincent Anthony, Lane Cole, Dan Jewell, Jim Lewis and Stu Tarrant.

QVFD fire line officers for 2005 are Chief Tom Nelson, 1st Asst. Chief Lonnie Anthony, 2nd Asst. Chief Frank Russum, Capt. J.C. Lewis, 1st Lt. Lennie Anthony, 2nd Lt. Bruce Faust, Sgt. Vinnie Palmer, Supervisor of Machinery Tye Dorrell, and Asst. Superintendent of Machinery Terry Pinder.

EMS officers for 2005 are Administrator Terry Pilkerton, Asst. Administrator Winfield Miller, Capt. Ronnie Harrison, Lt. Jim Lewis, Lt. Gerald Kellam, and Hose Twister Larry Searee.

Ladies Auxiliary officers for 2005 are President Laura Messer, Vice President Mary Lewis, Treasurer Lisa Guy, Secretary Jennifer Warner, and Executive Members Patricia Anthony and Brenda Jewell.



Fire Line Officers for Queenstown in 2005, from the left, include Chief Nelson, 1st Asst. Chief Lonnie Anthony, 2nd Asst. Chief Frank Russum, J.C. Lewis, 1st Lt. Lennie Anthony, 2nd Lt. Bruce Faust, and Sgt. V. Palmer. Not pictured: Supervisor of Machinery Tye Dorrell and Asst. Supervisor of Machinery Terry Pinder.



Rev. Charles Osberger makes a few remarks prior to the invocation at Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department's installation and awards banquet.



Photos by ANGELA PIPER

Ladies Auxiliary Officers for 2005 include, from the left, front row, Vice President Mary Lewis, Treasurer Lisa Guy, Secretary Jennifer Warner; back row, Executive Members Patricia Anthony and Brenda Jewell.





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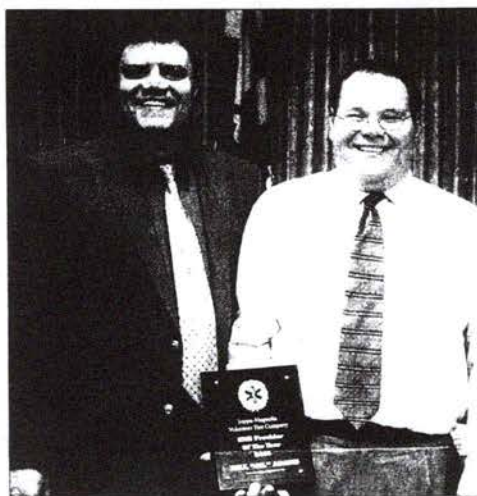
With a total of 468 calls answered, Leslie Baker is the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company's 2004 top EMS responder.



With a total of 1,006 calls answered, Firefighter Paul Lilley is named as the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company's top fire responder for 2004.



Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company President Ed Wimmer, left, and Chief Vince Hagley, right, stand with Firefighter of the Year for 2004 John Tripp, center, during Saturday night's banquet.



Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company Vice Chief Hagley, left, presents Bill "Junior" Adams with his company's 2004 EMS Division of the Year award during Saturday evening banquet.

## Joppa-Magnolia fete Volunteers surprise Del. Parrott

Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company has a new chief, at least an honorary one.

At the company's annual banquet Saturday night, Del. Joanne Parrott was named the company's honorary chief.

Parrott, a Republican representing northern Harford District 35 in the Maryland General Assembly, has been very helpful to the fire company over the years, Jim Lyons, a longtime member of the company, said Tuesday.

As a council member, council president and delegate, she's kept an eye out for emergency services and kept the volunteer fire and ambulance service informed, he said. She's also helped out as a member of the fire police for the Fallston Volunteer Fire Company.

Last year, when one of Joppa-Magnolia's members died, Parrott stood outside and helped direct traffic in the Upper Cross Roads area. That struck a chord with some of the younger members as well as some of its old-timers she's been dealing with for years and years and years, Lyons said.

After the funeral last year, some of the younger members decided to make Parrott an honorary chief, and they managed to keep it secret for a while until Saturday night when Parrott was honored.

She was proud as punch, Lyons said Tuesday. "She didn't take the hat off the rest of the

volving emergency medical service.

John Tripp was named Firefighter of the Year and Bill "Junior" Adams was EMS person of the Year.

The company's top 10 fire responders for 2004 were Paul Lilley, 1,006 calls; Bob Willey, 867; Jason Freund, 811; Chris Morawski, 772; Erika Petersen, 715; Derrick Lloyd, 588; John Tripp, 571; Vernon Popp, 549; Dale Crouse, 530, and Ryan Barrow, 510.

The top 10 EMS responders for 2004 were Leslie Baker, 468 calls; Chris Morawski, 417; Jon Dickerson, 391; Robert Russell, 233; Bridget Richards, 176; Bernie Wesolowski, 167; Justin Wolfe, 156; Peggy Miller, 150; Kimberly Thomas, 145; and Chris Crossno, 135.

The administrative officers for 2005 are Edward Wimmer, president; Ben Lay, vice president; Melvin Wehrman, secretary; Gary Skillman, treasurer; Don Kummer, financial secretary; Margaret Bullock, chaplain; Anna Jonske, assistant chaplain; Johnny Byrne, sergeant-at-arms; and Renee Frank, William Lay and Charles Simms, executive board.

Fire line officers for 2005 are Vince Hagley, chief; Bob Willey, first assistant chief 8-1; Erik Petersen, second assistant chief 8-2; John Tripp, captain house 1; Derrick Lloyd, captain house 2; Ryan Barrow, captain house 3; Vernon Popp,

neck muscles the next morning, they're not used to that much weight."

Joppa-Magnolia honored all its members at Saturday's banquet, as they celebrated 50 years of fighting fires and pro-

Griffith, lieutenant house 2; Danny Remeikis, lieutenant house 3; Bill "Junior" Adams, ambulance assistant chief; Jennifer Dickerson, ambulance lieutenant house 1; Bridget Richards, ambulance lieutenant house 2; Robert Russell, ambulance lieutenant house 3; and John Tripp, chief engineer.

Ladies auxiliary officers for 2005 are Margaret Bullock, president; Myrna Sunderland, vice president; Cathy Causey, secretary; Christiane Roscoe, assistant secretary; Susan Derlunas, treasurer; Amber Wainwright, historian; Anna Jonske, chaplain; and Viola Thompson, Mildred Henning and Chris Cornes, trustee.

Volunteers responded in 2004 to 1,278 fire calls, down 108 calls from 2003, while they answered 3,574 ambulance calls in 2004, up 284 calls from the year before.



washingtonpost.com

## Copter Crew Honored and Mourned

Medevac Pilot and Paramedic Dedicated Lives to Helping Others

By Michelle Boorstein  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Wednesday, January 19, 2005; Page B01

It was a day when flight suits were the most appropriate thing to wear to church, when a dark joke about paramedics trying to drum up business broke up the crowd, when ambulances wore big black sashes.

A week after a medevac helicopter plunged from the night sky into the Potomac River near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, killing a young flight paramedic and a veteran pilot, hundreds of emergency workers in uniform filled a Spotsylvania church to honor Nicole Kielar, 29, of Henrico County and Joseph E. Schaefer III, 56, of Sterling.

Afterward, a bugler played taps in the parking lot in the biting cold as eight helicopters flew over Spotswood Baptist Church in a slow procession and more than 1,000 people shivered, saluted and cried.

In its size and pageantry, the memorial ceremony reflected the close-knit fraternity of emergency workers, people who sit in traffic in their ambulances alongside everyone else, but who view their work as more akin to a soldier's. Many do it without pay and describe it as a calling. The deaths of Kielar and Schaefer were considered in the line of duty, and police officers and firefighters attended alongside pilots and paramedics.

The cause of the crash has not been determined. The LifeEvac helicopter went down with a crew of three en route to its base, Stafford Regional Airport, after taking a cardiac patient to Washington Hospital Center. The only survivor, flight nurse Jonathan Godfrey, 36, of Chesapeake Beach, Va., who suffered several broken bones, was released from the hospital over the weekend and walked into the church unassisted.

The LifeEvac crew has not returned to work yet, and neither had Matt Payne, Kielar's best friend and a fellow paramedic who had worked with her in Charlottesville and Richmond. At the service, Payne, 26, said he would go back to work this week.

"We move on, because to slow down would really [tick] her off," he told the crowd.

Kielar, who was certified in underwater, under-ice and mountain rescue, laughed off not only the risk of her profession but worse dangers, such as being stalked last year and being held up at gunpoint three weeks ago.

Kielar had the nickname "10-minute Nicki," because of the fast rush of emotions that surrounded her. She was upset about things for about 10 minutes and could sit still for only as long.

"If you knew her for 10 minutes, you knew her for life. She just had that magic," recalled her father, Mike Kielar, 65, who said her death had inspired him to leave "the rat race" of running start-up businesses to raise scholarship money for young people interested in emergency medicine.

"I go a day at a time, but I'm not going to sit on my butt and do what I was doing before," Kielar said Monday night from his Fairfax County home. "I've learned more from her in the last seven days than I

did in a lifetime."

A photo montage of Kielar showed a young life arrested. Schaefer's display showed a man reaping the benefits of a life's work.

A picture of a skinny young soldier going off to Vietnam flipped past, then three little boys giggling on a couch, then three teenagers and finally Schaefer, still thin and bearded, with three adult sons. He had lost his father and a brother in the line of military duty -- both are buried at Arlington National Cemetery -- but he continued to serve. He was both a paid pilot for Air Methods Corp, which owns LifeEvac, the Virginia division of LifeNet, and a volunteer with the Sterling Rescue Squad, which meant sleeping at the firehouse every Monday night. Now he, too, is buried at Arlington.

Godfrey told National Transportation Safety Board investigators that the crash occurred after the helicopter seemed to "hit something." According to the National EMS Memorial Service, about 30 EMS workers are killed each year in the line of duty.

Jack Selby, customer service manager at Stafford Regional, hangs out with the LifeNet group at slow times. The small airport's crew has a triple-wide trailer with a television, while the flight crew has only a double-wide and no TV. The double-wide is full of flowers, he said yesterday.

"We always expect to see them coming over the hill, coming back," he said. "And this time they're not coming back."

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# FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD  
WEDNESDAY 41,707  
JAN 19 2005



*Capital Clipping Service*

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## Correction <sup>5-7-05</sup>

In the article, "Fail Safe," published Jan. 12, a Frederick County paramedic unit was incorrectly identified. The medic unit, with a 52-percent failure rate, is a Frederick County Advanced Life Support Unit stationed at Libertytown Volunteer Fire Co. It is operated by county paid medics from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Libertytown ambulance had a 6-percent failure rate in 2004.

**GAZETTE**  
**(SYKESVILLE/ELDERSBERG)**

**SYKESVILLE, MD**  
**WEEKLY**  
**JAN 20 2005**



*Capital Clipping Service*

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**Sykesville-Freedom Fire**  
**Department honors members**

The Sykesville-Freedom District Fire Department held its 71st annual awards banquet on Jan. 15. During the ceremony, **Rick Baker** of the Carroll County Volunteer Emergency Services Association installed the following officers: President **Robert Althoff, Jr.**, Vice President **Joseph McCauley**, Secretary **Donna Althoff** and Treasurer **Dennis Beard**. **Mary Bitzel**, **James Freeze**, **Dave Hoff**, **Matt Lynch** and **Les Paull** were installed on the board of directors.

Chief **Ed Ruch, Sr.**, Deputy Chief **Ed Ruch, Jr.**, Captain **Dave Barnes**, Fire Lieutenants **Brian Ruch**, **Kevin Shiloh**, **Corey Newton** and **Robbie Ruch**, Fire Prevention Lt. **Christine Flanagan**, Safety Officers **Gary McGinnis** and **Tom Nockoles**, Fire Sergeant **Ryan Dyson**, EMS Captain **Libby Lueberman**, EMS Lieutenants **Amy Riesner**, **Amy Carney**, **David Hull**, **Kerri Haynes** and **Jennifer Wilhide** were all recognized.

Members of the auxiliary board were also installed during the ceremony. **Susan Tarrant** was named auxiliary president, **Nancy Bowman** was named vice president, **Debbie Stockdale** was named secretary, **Jeffrey Tarrant** was named treasurer, **Nancy Clark** was named chaplain, and **Linda Shell** was named historian.

**Pat Whiteman**, **Eva Whiteman**, **Connie Strohecker** and **Emily Celly**

Several members of the department were recognized for length-of-service awards. **Robbie Ruch**, **Wendy Garver**, **Amy Carney**, **Chris Urban** and **Brian McDermott** were recognized for fulfilling five years of service; **Ed Ruch, Jr.**, **Kim Volkert** and **Nancy Bowman** were recognized for fulfilling 10 years of service; **William Wagner** was recognized for 15 years of service; **Donna Althoff**, **Patti Freeze**, **Kevin Shiloh**, and **Brian Bowman** were recognized for completing 20 years of service; **Charles Ferguson** was recognized for 25 years of service; **Rick Baum** for 30 years of service; **Anthony Dorsey** and **Bobby Cassel** for 35 years of service; and **Bill Lueberman**, **Dave Hoff** and **Leon Fleming** for 40 years of service.

**Charles "Tim" Ferguson**, with his 25 years of service, was honored with his life membership to the department.

**Marc Maczis** won the award for top Fire/Rescue responder with 416 calls and **Dave Hull** won the award for top EMS responder with 183 calls.

**Ralph Henson** put in the most administrative hours last year totaling 431.5 hours while **Nancy Bowman** received an award for putting in the most auxiliary hours last year with her total of 636 hours.

Officers of the Junior Department were also introduced at the ceremony. **Blaine Griffith** will serve as president, **Abby Caulk** as Vice President, **Max Boyd** as secretary, **Billy Flanagan** as treasurer, **Erik Althoff** as captain, and **Morgan Walter** as historian.



**GAZETTE**  
**(MIDDLETOWN/BRUNSWICK)**

**FREDERICK, MD**  
**WEEKLY 65,786**  
**JAN 20 2005**



*Capital Clipping Service*

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## Dinner honors Middletown firefighters

Congratulations to several Middletown firefighters who last month received awards of recognition at the Middletown Volunteer Fire Company's annual banquet.

Company 7 named **Paul Musser Jr.** as Firefighter of the Year. Musser has been with the company for two years.

Among the top fire responders who received plaques of recognition were **Brian Beaulieu**, **Jason Loveless** and **Rob Riley**.

**John Bernhard**, **Steve Nalborczyk Jr.** and **Pete Kefauver** received plaques that recognized the Top EMT Responders.

The **Everette Gaver** Award for community service was awarded to **June and David Beaulieu**, who were recognized for outstanding community service in the department, church and community.

Several firefighters received awards recognizing longtime membership in the company, including: **Ronnie Hugger**, **Steve Nalborczyk**, **Randy Leatherman**, **Wade Clem**, **Eddie Renner**, **Cyndi Doughty** and **John Neary**.

Three volunteers were named life members of Company 7: **Ronald Huffer**, **Jane Nalborczyk** and **Eddie Kesner**.

The "Call of the Year Presentation" award, presented by Deputy Chief **Brent Harne**, was awarded to volunteer firefighters **Kelli Pinto** and **Amanda Kefauver**, who assisted with a call for a cardiac arrest in May.



**ValleyVoice**

by Rebecca McClay

## GAZETTE (LAUREL)

GAITHERSBURG, MD  
WEEKLY  
JAN 20 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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# County, city fire department still negotiating on ambulance

by Guy Leonard

Staff Writer

Since July of last year, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department has been working actively to assign an ambulance at the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department Company 10. But so far no deal has been made.

"It's always been the fire/EMS department's vision to see every station in the county with an ambulance," said department Spokesman Mark Brady. "With all the leadership changes, we've been having, we haven't been able to negotiate with the volunteers like we want to. We don't want to come in there heavy handed."

Lawrence H. Sedgewick has just taken over as fire chief in November; he succeeded Darrell Odom who became acting chief after Ronald Blackwell resigned in the summer of 2004.

Brady admitted that with the current situation between the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad Company 49 and the volunteer firefighters, negotiations have to go slowly and carefully.

"It's politics. We want to negotiate and see that it's done right," Brady said. "Tensions have been high, and we want to be sensitive to that."

Volunteer firefighters in Laurel

were critical of the rescue squad's decision back in 2003 to purchase a rescue pumper to take over fire suppression duties in South Laurel, a traditional duty of company 10.

Company 49, however, had the support of then-Fire Chief Blackwell and were given a first-due response area for their new rescue pumper late last year.

Company 10 members have warned that putting an ambulance at the fire station would draw volunteers away from their traditional mission of fire fighting. Currently, a county ambulance is at the volunteer fire station but is staffed with career, county personnel.

Company 10 Newly elected Chief Tom Stanton and President Tim Thaxton both said the company's position not have an ambulance staffed by volunteers is firm.

"It is the decision of the membership of this company... that we did not take on the responsibility of an ambulance," Thaxton said. "That's the current position of the membership."

Stanton said that the division of service that currently exists between company 10 and 49 best serves the community and that both are highly qualified at their particular missions.

"You shouldn't tinker with something that's worked for 53

years," Stanton told The Gazette. "We average 3,300 incident calls a year, that's about 10 a day. That's a tremendous level of response."

Stanton said that despite some continuing bad feelings between members of company 10 and 49 over the pumper issue and the changing of first due responsibilities, the two organizations must move on and that the new leadership at company 10 would not base its decisions on those misgivings.

The primary concern, Stanton said, of company 10 is to provide the best service to the residents that it could.

Brady, however, reiterated that with the housing growth in the Laurel area "an ambulance at any fire or EMS station in the county would enhance services to residents," meaning that it was in the best interests of the community to have extra emergency coverage.

Joel Quillin, who lives in Cherrywood just across from the fire station, said he approved of having an ambulance there.

"Emergency medical services are a lot more important to me than fire services," Quillin said. "If someone's having a heart attack, they don't have the time. We need that ambulance up there."

E-mail Guy Leonard at [gleonard@gazette.net](mailto:gleonard@gazette.net).





Capital Clipping Service

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Photo by Charlie Campbell

Chestertown Mayor Margo Bailey swears in the 2005 Kent-Queen Anne's Rescue Squad board members during a ceremony at the squad's appreciation dinner in the Black-eyed Susan banquet room Jan. 15. From the left, are: Bailey, Eric Jackson, chief; Mary Grussing, captain; Bob Coleman, first lieutenant; Alex Dolgos, second lieutenant; Allan Schaubert, secretary; and James Johnson, treasurer. Not pictured are Carroll Younger, member at large, and Bill Lobley, past chief.

## Rescue squad honors top responders

By Craig O'Donnell  
Staff writer

CHESTERTOWN — Squad statistician Mary Grussing again took top responder honors at the Kent-Queen Anne's Rescue Squad Annual Appreciation Dinner Jan. 15.

A near-capacity crowd in the big back room of the Black-eyed Susan Restaurant followed social

hour with dinner and the recognition ceremony conducted by Chief Eric Jackson.

The long countdown to top responder began with Penny Buchanan, 35 calls. Six other responders answered up to 100 calls, while 11 answered up to 200.

Five answered between 200 and 300 calls.

Grussing, first with 1,143 calls, was followed by Larry Hastings in

second place with 514 calls. Carroll Younger took third with 396. Jackson and Bob Coleman both answered more than 300 calls.

Hastings, who belongs to the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company, was selected as Member of the Year.

Among the squad's Life Members, Jim Siemen answered 44 calls; Leonard Miller, 85 calls; Alex Dolgos, 101 calls; and John Dolgos, 137.

During the ceremony, County Commissioner Roy Crow presented Jackson with the county's check for more than \$41,000.

Then, Mayor Margo Bailey officiated at the officers' swearing-in. Jackson continues as chief. Grussing is Captain.

Other 2005 officers are: 1st Lieutenant, Bob Coleman; 2nd Lieutenant, Alex Dolgos; Secretary, Allan Schaubert; Treasurer, Jim Johnson.

Johnson is the squad's newest Life Member.

Five of the squad's 16 charter members attended: Donald Coleman, Louis Anthony, Willis Wells, Bob Glendenning and Barclay Bloomgarden.

The squad's 2004 total of 1,325 calls was down slightly from 1,361 calls in 2003.

The squad first answered more than 100 calls in a single month in 1997.



Photo by Charlie Campbell

Chief Eric Jackson congratulates top responder Capt. Mary Grussing for logging 1,143 calls in 2004.



Capital Clipping Service

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## PROPOSED ACTION ON REGULATIONS

## Title 30

# MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS (MIEMSS)

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

#### 30.08.12 Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Center Standards

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

#### Notice of Proposed Action [05-033-P]

The State Emergency Medical Services Board proposes to amend Regulation .02, repeal Regulations .03 — .16, and adopt new Regulations .03 — .15 under **COMAR 30.08.12 Perinatal and Neonatal Referral Center Standards**. This action was considered and approved by the State Emergency Medical Services Board at its regular meeting on December 14, 2004.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to make the standards for the designation of perinatal and neonatal referral centers

consistent with the standards developed by the Perinatal Clinical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene in its most recent document: Maryland Perinatal System Standards, Revised 2004.

#### Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

#### Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

#### Economic Impact on Small Businesses

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

#### Impact on Individuals With Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

#### Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Carla Bailey, at MIEMSS, 653 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1536, or call (410) 706-3931, or fax to (410) 706-0853 or email to cbailey@miemss.org. Comments will be received through February 28, 2005. A public hearing will not be held.

#### .02 Types of Perinatal Referral Centers.

- A. (text unchanged)  
B. "III[+]B" is a Level III[+]B perinatal referral center.  
C. "[IV]IIC" is a Level [IV]IIC perinatal referral center.

#### .03 Organization.

A. The hospital's board of directors, administration, and medical and nursing staffs shall demonstrate commitment to its specific level of perinatal center designation and to the care of perinatal patients. This commitment shall be demonstrated by:

- (1) A Board resolution that the hospital agrees to meet the standards of this chapter for its specific level of designation;
- (2) Participation in the Maryland Perinatal System, as described by this document, including submission of patient care data to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), as appropriate, for system and quality management;
- (3) Assurance that all perinatal patients will receive medical care commensurate with the level of the hospital's designation; and
- (4) A Board resolution, bylaws, contracts, budgets, all specific to the perinatal program, indicating the hospital's commitment to the financial, human, and physical resources and to the infrastructure that are necessary to support the hospital's level of perinatal center designation.

B. The hospital shall be licensed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) as an acute care hospital.

C. The hospital shall be accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

D. The hospital shall have a certificate of need (CON) issued by the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) for its neonatal intensive care unit or approval from the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) for a neonatal intensive care unit cost center, or both.

E. The hospital shall obtain and maintain current equipment and technology, as described in this chapter, to support optimal perinatal care for the level of the hospital's perinatal center designation.

F. If maternal or neonatal air transports are accepted, then the hospital shall have a heliport, helipad, or access to a helicopter landing site near the hospital.

G. The hospital shall provide readily available specialized maternal and neonatal transport capability and have extensive Statewide perinatal educational outreach programs in both specialties.

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B. A physician board-certified in pediatrics who is a member of the medical staff, has privileges for neonatal care, and has responsibility for neonatal unit services;	E	E	E
C. One or more physicians board-certified in neonatal-perinatal medicine who is a member of the medical staff and has full-time responsibility for neonatal special care or intensive care unit services;	E	E	E
D. If a hospital without a physician board-certified in neonatal-perinatal medicine on staff, a written arrangement with a program to provide a consultant who is board-certified in neonatal-perinatal medicine available 24 hours a day;	NA	NA	NA
E. One or more Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) trained professionals with experience in acute care of the depressed newborn and skilled in neonatal endotracheal intubation and resuscitation immediately available to the delivery and neonatal units;	E	E	E
F. A physician with pediatric training beyond post-graduate year two, a nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant with privileges for neonatal care immediately available when an infant requires Level II neonatal services such as assisted ventilation, $FiO_2 > 40\%$ , or cardiovascular support;	NA	NA	NA
G. A physician with pediatric training beyond post-graduate year two, a nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant with privileges for neonatal care readily available 24 hours a day;	E	NA	NA
H. Personnel in-house qualified to manage a neonatal emergency at all times;	O NA	E NA	E NA
I. A physician with pediatric training beyond post-graduate year two, a nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant with privileges for neonatal care present in-house 24 hours a day and assigned to the delivery area and neonatal units and not shared with other units in the hospital;	E	E	E
J. A physician board-certified or an active candidate for board certification in neonatal-perinatal medicine available to be present in-house within 30 minutes;	NA	NA	NA
K. Written pediatric cardiology and pediatric surgery consultation and referral agreements in place;	E	E	NA
L. An ophthalmologist on staff with experience in neonatal retinal examination and a written consulting relationship with one or more pediatric cardiologists and pediatric surgeons;	O	E	E
M. The following pediatric specialists on staff, in active practice and, if needed, in-house urgently: (1) Cardiology; (2) Neurology; and (3) Genetics;	O	O	E
N. One or more pediatric general surgeons;	O	O	E
O. The following pediatric specialists on staff, in active practice and, if needed, in-house urgently: (1) Hematology; (2) Endocrinology; (3) Pulmonary; (4) Gastrointestinal; and (5) Renal; and	O	O	E
P. The following pediatric surgical subspecialists on staff, in active practice and, if needed, in-house urgently: (1) Neurosurgery; (2) Cardiothoracic surgery; (3) Orthopedic surgery; (4) Plastic surgery; and (5) Ophthalmology.	O	O	E
<b>.08 Other Personnel.</b> A hospital shall have:			
A. An anesthesiologist or nurse-anesthetist available so that cesarean delivery may be initiated within 30 minutes of the decision to deliver;	E	E	E
B. A physician board-certified or an active candidate for board-certification in anesthesiology or a nurse-anesthetist working under the supervision of a physician board-certified or an active candidate for board certification in anesthesiology readily available to the delivery area when a patient is in active labor;	E	NA	NA
C. A physician board-certified or an active candidate for board-certification in anesthesiology present in-house 24 hours a day, readily available to the delivery area;	O	E	E
D. If the hospital performs neonatal surgery, a board-certified anesthesiologist with experience in neonatal anesthesia present for the surgery;	E	E	E



	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC
E. A physician on the medical staff with privileges for providing critical interventional radiology services for:	E	E	E
(1) Obstetrical patients;	NA	O	E
(2) Neonatal patients;	E	E	E
F. Obstetric and neonatal diagnostic imaging available 24 hours a day, with interpretation by physicians with experience in maternal or neonatal, or both, disease and its complications;	E	E	E
G. A registered dietician or other health care professional with knowledge of and experience in adult and neonatal parenteral/enteral high-risk management on staff;	E	E	E
H. Personnel with demonstrated competencies and protocols for lactation support;	E	E	E
I. On staff of the hospital's perinatal program, a medical social worker with a master's degree and experience in perinatal services;			
J. Respiratory therapists skilled in neonatal ventilator management:	NA	NA	NA
(1) Available when an infant is receiving assisted ventilation;	E	E	NA
(2) Present in-house 24 hours a day; or	O	O	E
(3) Assigned to the NICU and not shared with other units 24 hours a day;	E	E	E
K. Genetic diagnostic and counseling services or written consultation and referral agreements in place;	E	E	E
L. A pediatric neurodevelopmental follow-up program or written referral arrangements for neurodevelopmental follow-up;	E	E	E
M. Registered nurses with knowledge and experience in obstetrical and neonatal nursing available to the obstetrical unit and neonatal units 24 hours a day;	E	E	E
N. Within the hospital perinatal program nurses with special expertise in obstetrical and neonatal nursing identified for staff education;	E	E	E
O. If a hospital perinatal program performs neonatal surgery, nurses on staff with special expertise in perioperative management of neonates;	E	E	E
P. On the hospital perinatal program administrative staff, a registered nurse with a master's or higher degree in nursing or a health-related field and experience in high-risk obstetric and neonatal nursing on staff; and	E	E	E
Q. A written plan for assuring nurse/patient ratios as per current Guidelines For Perinatal Care.			
<b>.09 Laboratory.</b>			
A hospital shall have:	E	E	E
A. A laboratory capable of reporting:			
(1) Hematocrit, serum glucose, and blood gas within 15 minutes;			
(2) Complete blood count, micro-blood chemistries, liver functions tests, blood type and match, Coombs test, bacterial smear results, and coagulation studies (prothrombin time or PT, partial thromboplastin time or PTT, fibrinogen) within 1 hour;			
(3) Bacterial culture results within 48 hours, with sensitivities to follow;			
(4) Fetal scalp blood pH within 5 minutes (if fetal scalp blood pH testing is being utilized at the hospital);			
(5) Serum magnesium within 1 hour;			
(6) Urine electrolytes within 6 hours;			
(7) Special amniotic fluid tests (for example, lecithin-sphingomyelin or L/S ratio, phosphatidylglycerol or PG) within 6 hours; and			
(8) Group B streptococcus, hepatitis B surface antigen, RPR/VDRL, HIV, gonorrhea and Chlamydia maternal test results available before patient discharge;	E	E	E
B. Blood bank technicians present in-house 24 hours a day;	NA	NA	NA
C. If a hospitals without blood bank technicians in-house 24 hours a day, technicians present in the hospital within 30 minutes;	NA	NA	NA
D. Emergency transfusion capability for mothers and babies available 24 hours a day; and	O	E	E
E. For molecular, cytogenetic, and biochemical genetic testing either:			
(1) Referral arrangements; or			
(2) Onsite capability.			
<b>.10 Diagnostic Imaging Capabilities.</b>			
A hospital shall have:			
A. Portable obstetric ultrasound equipment present in the delivery area;	E	E	E
B. If portable obstetric ultrasound equipment is not present in the delivery area, the equipment available to the delivery area;	NA	NA	NA
C. Portable x-ray equipment available to the neonatal units;	E	E	E
D. Portable head ultrasound for newborns available to the neonatal units;	E	E	E
E. Computerized tomography (CT) capability available on campus;	O	E	E

	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC
F. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) capability, with the services of appropriate support staff, available on campus;	O	E	E
G. Neonatal echocardiography equipment and an experienced technician available on campus as needed with interpretation by pediatric cardiologist;	E	E	E
H. A pediatric cardiac catheterization laboratory and appropriate staff;	O	O	E
I. Equipment for performing interventional radiology services for:			
(a) Obstetrical patients;	E	E	E
(b) Neonatal patients.	NA	O	E
<b>.11 Equipment.</b>			
A hospital shall have:			
A. The following equipment and supplies immediately available for existing patients and for the next potential patient:	E	E	E
(1) O2 analyzer, stethoscope, intravenous infusion pumps;			
(2) Radiant heated bed in delivery room and available in the neonatal units;			
(3) Oxygen hood with humidity;			
(4) Bag and masks capable of delivering up to 100 percent oxygen to the infant;			
(5) Orotracheal tubes;			
(6) Aspiration equipment;			
(7) Laryngoscope;			
(8) Umbilical vessel catheters and insertion tray;			
(9) Cardiac monitor;			
(10) Pulse oximeter;			
(11) Phototherapy unit;			
(12) Doppler blood pressure for neonates;			
(13) Cardioversion/defibrillation capability for mothers and neonates;			
(14) Resuscitation equipment for mothers and neonates;			
(15) Individual oxygen, air, and suction outlets for mothers and neonates; and			
(16) Emergency call system;			
B. A neonatal intensive care unit bed set up and equipment available at all times for an emergency admission;	E	E	E
C. Fetal diagnostic testing and monitoring equipment for:	E	E	E
(1) Non-stress and stress testing;			
(2) Ultrasound examinations; and			
(3) Amniocentesis;			
D. Neonatal intravascular blood pressure monitors;	E	E	E
E. Laser coagulation capability for retinopathy of prematurity;	O	E	E
F. A full range of invasive maternal monitoring available to the delivery area, including equipment for central venous pressure and arterial pressure monitoring;	E	E	E
G. Appropriate equipment, including back-up equipment, for neonatal respiratory care as well as protocols for the use and maintenance of the equipment as required by its defined level status; and	E	E	E
H. The capability of providing advanced ventilatory support for neonates of all birth weights.	NA	O	E
<b>.12 Medications.</b>			
A hospital shall have:	E	E	E
A. Emergency medications, as listed in the Neonatal Resuscitation Program of the American Academy of Pediatrics/American Heart Association (AAP/AHA), present in the delivery area and neonatal units;			
B. Antibiotics, anticonvulsants, surfactant, prostaglandin E1, and other emergency cardiovascular drugs immediately available to the neonatal units;			
C. All emergency resuscitation medications to initiate and maintain resuscitation, in accordance with Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) guidelines, present in the delivery area; and			
D. The following medications in the delivery area or immediately available to the delivery area:			
(1) Oxytocin;			
(2) Methergine; and			
(3) Prostin / 15M.			
<b>.13 Education Programs.</b>			
A hospital shall:	E	E	E
A. Have identified minimum competencies for perinatal clinical staff, not otherwise credentialed, that are assessed before independent practice and on a regular basis thereafter;			



IIIA IIIB IIIC

B. Provide continuing education programs for physicians, nurses, and allied health personnel on staff concerning the treatment and care of obstetrical and neonatal patients; and

C. If it accepts maternal or neonatal primary transports, provide continuing education programs for referring hospitals.

**.14 Performance Improvement.**

E E E

A hospital shall:

A. Have a multi-disciplinary continuous quality improvement program for improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes;

B. Conduct internal perinatal case reviews which include all maternal, fetal, and neonatal deaths, as well as all maternal and neonatal transports;

C. At an appropriate multi-disciplinary forum, periodically review the performance of the perinatal program, including trends, all deaths, all transfers, all very low birth weight infants, problem identification and solution, issues identified from the quality management process, and systems issues;

D. Participate with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and local health department fetal and infant mortality review and maternal mortality review programs; and

E. Participate in the collaborative collection and assessment of data with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems for the purpose of improving perinatal health outcomes.

**.15 Policies and Protocols.**

E E E

A hospital shall have:

A. Written policies and protocols for the initial stabilization and continuing care of all obstetrical and neonatal patients appropriate to the level of care rendered at its facility;

B. Maternal and neonatal resuscitation protocols;

C. Written guidelines for accepting or transferring mothers or neonates as "back transports" including criteria for accepting the patient and patient information on required care;

D. A licensed neonatal transport service or written agreement with a licensed neonatal transport service; and

E. A hospital medical staff credentialing process that includes documentation of competency to perform obstetrical and neonatal invasive procedures appropriate to its designated level of care.

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

# Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department honors members

Angela Price  
Special from the Bay Times

**QUEENSTOWN** – Queenstown Volunteer Fire Department recognized the spirit of volunteerism reflected on the high heels of 2004 and inducted two new honorary members at the department's installation and awards banquet at the Bay Country Moose Lodge in Queenstown Saturday night.

"For years, we've heard stories about how volunteerism is dead," said Queenstown VFD President L.C. Lewis. "In 2004, we had 12 members join, and in one only meeting of 2005, we've already seen one new applicant."

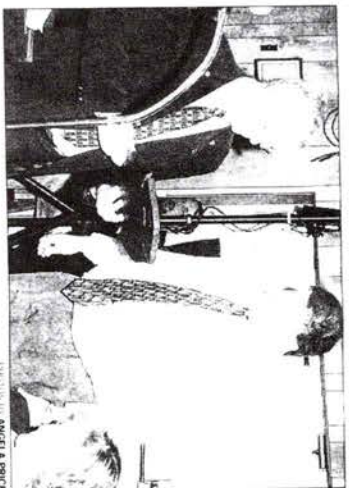
Lewis went on to recount the total man hours volunteered in 2004 for everything from the prevention and training to fund raising and responding to calls. In all, Queenstown volunteers gave 1,285 man hours, or 309.5 days, in 2004.

"How did you spend your 30 days off?" Lewis asked the volunteers. "In Queenstown, maybe volunteerism is only on the support."

"I, like most of you, grew up knowing most of your neighbors. We grew up with values, ethics and morals. Our greatest satisfaction was knowing that we made a difference in someone's life," Lewis continued.

"Today, people are growing up without these values. Their satisfaction comes from what they can get for their work. In other words, a paycheck. The young people here tonight are a rare breed. Their parents, who grew up with these values, instilled them in their children. We need more like you, to take this department into the next generation," he said.

Lewis praised the length of service awards program approved by the county last year, but said the department has to do more to recruit and retain young volunteers. To



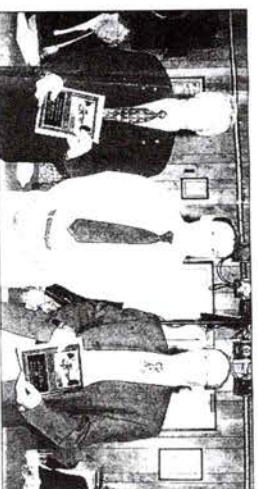
Queenstown Lions Club King Lion Dick Middleton, left, presents VFD President L.C. Lewis with the Firefighter of the Year award.



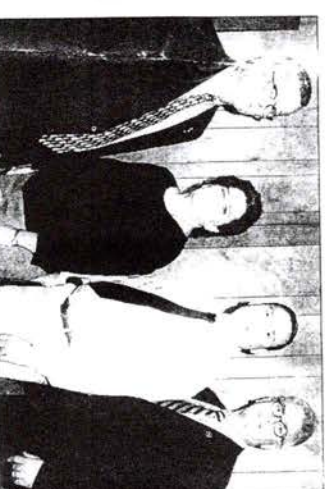
Ladies Auxiliary Officers for 2005 include, from the left, front row, Mary Lewis, Treasurer Lisa Guy, Secretary Jennifer W., back row, Executive Members Patricia Anthony and Brandy J. Zell, and President Laura Messer.



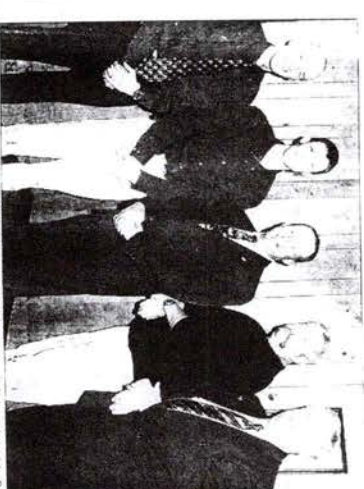
Top emergency medical responders for 2004 include, from the left, Ronnie Harrison with 230 calls, and Jim Lewis with 326 calls.



Queenstown VFD Emergency Medical Services Captain Ronnie Harrison, center, presents Dick Middleton, left, of the Queenstown Lions Club and Butch Stoops of Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 with special plaques in recognition of their groups' donations that enabled the department to purchase a new stretcher and shift chair for the new ambulance.



Emergency Medical Services Officers for 2005 include, from the left, Terry Pilketon, Captain Ronnie Harrison, Lt. Jim Lewis, Administrator Winfield Miller, and Asst. Admin. and Hose Twister Larry Seacore.



Top responders of 2004 include, from the left, Jeff Lewis with 262 calls, and other members.

many of the volunteers fire school. Thomas Todd, a mechanic who did a lot of work for QVFD, the late Alvin Walk, QVFD's Santa for 30 years, the late William "Bill" Crouch, who made the happy cabinets at the fire house, Dr. Ron Franks, who hosts a picnic for the volunteers at his house every summer, Dr. Harry Rhodes, a big fire department supporter, Jack Weston, owner of Ideal Lawnmower Shop who donates to the fireman's bar every year and works on the department's small equipment, and the late Tony Hancock, who owned Bob's Man Mart and provided much support for QVFD.

On behalf of the fire department, Frank Kessum presented Butch Stoops of Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 with a special award recognizing him for organizing the annual firefighter's day Stoops award draw, a standing ovation from the crowd.

Representing the county Fire Chiefs Association, Frank Foster presented awards to Louie Anthony who served a vice chair in 2004, Tom Nelson, who chaired the group's standards committee, and L.C. Lewis, who chaired the Firefighter committee. He also nominated the county committees for approving FOSM for the volunteer firefighters.

QVFD received \$800 from the Queenstown Lions Club, \$1,500 from the Ladies Auxiliary, \$2,000 from Legion Post 296, and a donation of an undisclosed amount from the 401 Davis American Legion Post.

Queenstown TABs received \$1,500 from the Ladies Auxiliary and \$1,000 from Legion Post 296. Queenstown Ladies Auxiliary received a donation from Legion Post 296. L.C. Lewis, County Commissioner Ben Cassell installed the new with

FD administrative staff



ensure the future of the department.

He gave a brief summary of highlights from 2004: January, purchased new rescue; February, spent more than 540 man-hours getting the rescue ready for service; March, annual chicken barbecue fund-raiser; May, received Hero Award by R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center; June, traveled to the Fireman's Convention in Ocean City, where the department won best appearing rescue and best appearing brush truck; September, new grant-funded air packs placed in service, county approved LOSAP; October, new ambulance received; and December, Ladies Auxiliary held their annual cookie walk and Santa night.

He told all the volunteers they deserved a pat on the back but not to let up because each and every one is needed for a successful 2005.

In 2004, the Queensstown VFD responded to 452 calls for service, said statistician Jeff Lewis, a decrease of 37 calls from 2003.

"The most frequent type of call we responded to in 2004, as in previous years, were motor vehicle accidents, in which we had 100, followed by 83 medical assists calls," Lewis said.

The busiest day of the week was Thursday, with 75 calls, and the busiest month was July, with 55 calls.

The top five responders in 2004 were: Jeff Lewis with 262 calls; Tom Nelson with 240 calls; J.C. Lewis with 231 calls; Lonnie Anthony with 231 calls; and Lennie Anthony with 229 calls.

EMS Capt. Ronnie Harrison said Queensstown's EMS alerted over 834 times in the past year, up more than 100 calls over the previous year. That number included mutual aid and first due area calls. Queensstown responded to more than 300 calls in just its first due area. Each call takes at least 90 minutes of volunteer's time, he said.

"Every year the call volume has continued to increase while the availability of volunteers has fallen or remained the same," Harrison said. "This, in itself, shows the need

Winfield Miller with 129 calls. Not pictured, but rounding out the top five responders were Larry Searce with 181 calls and Mike Palmer with 86 calls.

Harrison spoke of the "valuable service" provided by the opening of station 300 and the placement of a county-staffed transport unit at the Queensstown fire house.

Highlights for Queensstown EMS in 2004 included placing a new ambulance into service and upgrading all the life pack 12 monitors to include capnography.

Harrison thanked the Queensstown Lions Club and Benedict A. Andrew American Legion Post 296 for donations that enabled the company to purchase a new stretcher and star chair for the new ambulance. Items that cost over \$5,000.

The top EMS responders in 2004 were: Jim Lewis with 326 calls; Ronnie Harrison with 230 calls; Larry Searce with 181 calls; Winfield Miller with 129 calls; and Michael Palmer with 86 calls.

Harrison also recognized Larry Searce and Winfield Miller for volunteering as divers. "Without them, we wouldn't have a driver to get the unit on the street," he said.

Queensstown's EMS Provider of the Year, as voted on by members of the department, went to top responder Jim Lewis.

Harrison presented the Captain's Award to Michael Palmer, who he said "has shown a great interest in getting the ambulance out on the street, especially when no one is showing up for a call."

Queensstown Lions Club King Lion Dick Middleton presented the club's Firefighter of the Year award to Vinnie Palmer.

vice and under. Tom Nelson, five to 15 years, and Lonnie Anthony, over 15 years.

J.C. Lewis presented the President's Award to Vice President Bryan Callahan, who, he said, took care of a lot of behind the scenes details.

The S.E.W. Friel Memorial Award, now in its second year, went to the Queensstown VFD Ladies Auxiliary, whose members embody what volunteerism is all about, working tirelessly behind the scenes and never asking anything in return, Lewis said.

On behalf of the fire department, Lennie Anthony presented two honorary memberships to Nicole Potter Jordan and Jack English of Centerville, bringing the number of honorary members to just an even dozen for the 70-year-old department.

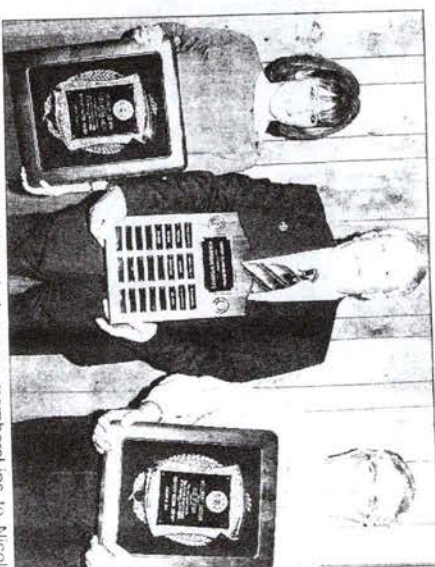
Honorary memberships are rare and special, Anthony said. "We do not hand them out on a regular basis."

In order to become an honorary member, "you must follow in our footsteps. You must put our organization ahead of your personal life," Anthony said.

Both Jordan and English have shown great dedication over the years to Queensstown Volunteer Fire Department, Anthony said.

Jordan is co-owner of Potter's Pantry. When the department needs some platters made or needs food for its fair, "we don't have to worry, we know she's going to take care of it," Anthony said. "If it wasn't for the local businesses that support us — they take time to do things we don't have time to do."

English has been the department's mechanic for more than 25 years, Anthony



Top five responders in 2004 include, from left, Jeff Lewis with 262 calls, Tom Nelson with 240 calls, J.C. Lewis with 239 calls, Lonnie Anthony with 231 calls and Lennie Anthony with 229 calls.

Volunteer Fire Department.

said. All the equipment must be inspected on an annual basis, and there's accompanying paperwork that must be filed — English does all that.

Plus, anytime something breaks down, they call him and he drops whatever he's doing and comes right down to get them back in service.

Anthony said.

The other 19 honorary memberships belong to the late Louis L. Goldstein; Dennis Lunstead, U.S. State Dept representative when Queen Anne's County hosted NATO in the '70s; Robert Schell, from Maryland Fire-Rescue Institute, who taught

QVFD administrative officers for 2005 are President J.C. Lewis, Vice President Bryan Callahan, Secretary Suzanne Lane, Asst. Secretary Lisa Anthony, Treasurer Frank Kossman and Director Vincent Anthony. Lane, Callahan, Powell, Jim Lewis and Sue Taram.

QVFD fire line officers for 2005 are Chief Tom Nelson, 1st Asst. Chief Tom Nelson, 2nd Asst. Chief Frank Kossman, Capt. 1st Lewis, 1st Lt. Lennie Anthony, 2nd Lt. Lennie Anthony, Vinnie Palmer, Supervisor Machinery Lee Powell, Asst. Superintendent Machinery Jerry Fowler.

EMS officers for 2005 are Administrator J.C. Potter, Asst. Administrator Winfield Miller, Capt. Ronnie Harrison, Lt. Jim Lewis, J. Gerald Blum, and the twister Larry Searce. Ladies Auxiliary officers for 2005 are President Lennie Anthony, Vice President Lisa Anthony, Treasurer Lisa Anthony, Secretary Lennie Anthony and Executive Manager Patricia Anthony and Pamela Howell.

## OCEAN CITY TODAY

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# County begins Community Emergency Response Training

(Jan. 21, 2005) Imagine a catastrophic disaster here on the shore not unlike recent disasters. In such an emergency, the need for emergency assistance could quickly reach far beyond that of available resources. Community assistance would be vital in such situations, and Worcester County is offering Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) to all interested residents. "If there were to be a catastrophic event here on the shore, such as the flooding, tsunamis and other natural catastrophes seen on the news recently, the need for trained volunteers would be tremendous," said Cyndy Howell, Worcester County Volunteer Services manager. "This training equips private citizens to offer critically needed help at times when the demand for assistance is greater than the number of available emergency service personnel."

CERT equips everyday citizens with the skills and knowledge to help their families as well as others in the midst of both natural and man-made disasters. CERT was developed for the express purpose of extending helping hands to those in crisis during disaster situations through assistance by trained volunteers.

CERT is free to all interested participants. Program costs are paid for through the cooperative efforts of Worcester County Emergency Services, Red Cross and Worcester County Volunteer Services. The first class of this six-week certification course will take place Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ocean Pines Volunteer Fire Department. The registration deadline is Feb. 2.

For more information or to register for CERT, contact the Red Cross at 410-749-5331.



## AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD  
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JAN 21 2005



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# Aberdeen celebrates Volunteers honored

By Brian Goodman

Aegis staff

547FB

Members, friends and family of Aberdeen Fire Department gathered Saturday to celebrate another successful year of service.

While the annual banquet honored the service of all the department's volunteers, the spotlight was on D.B. Smith Jr., who was named the department's Top Fire Responder of the Year, and Dale Budnick, who was named the department's Top EMS Responder of the Year.

John O'Neill, the county's director of administration, gave Budnick a Harford County utility knife and thanked all the volunteers for their service.

"We couldn't run the county without you," he said.

The top fire call responders for 2004 were D.B. Smith Jr. with 690 calls, Dale Budnick with 400, Eldon Budnick with 389, and Mike Wager with 370.

Keith Budnick with 364, Travis Hollars with 328, L. Keith Ford with 304, D.B. Smith Sr. with 283, Judy Hinch with 271 and Curtis Diering with 269.

The top emergency medical service responders for 2004 were Dale Budnick with 573, Gordon Biscomb with 441, Travis Hollars with 343, Judy Hinch with 315, John Loucks with 218, Bill Thompson with 213, Jacob Weeks with 196, Shannon Budnick with 168, Monti Arrington with 137 and Charles Cox with 136.

"Volunteerism is still going strong in Harford County and this is a prime example of that," said Sen. J. Robert Hooper, a Republican representing northern Harford District 35.



Aberdeen Fire Department honored its top emergency responders at the annual banquet. From left: Bill Thompson, John Loucks, Dale Budnick, and Curtis Diering.

AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD  
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# Pay time for EMS Volunteers offer jobs

By Jessica Aldon

Aegis staff

5-7766

Help wanted: Long-time volunteer group seeking paid employees.

In another sign of how much the times have changed in Harford County, the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company is looking to hire paid, part-time emergency medical technicians.

In a county, whose fire and ambulance companies are proud of the generations of volunteer service they've given to their communities, this is a big step, one that jeopardizes the use of the term volunteer.

The Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company - with as many as 5,000 calls for ambulance ser-

EMS, A9



# Fire company offers pay

## *Bel Air squad advertising for part-time EMS staff*

EMS, from A1

vice per year in recent years — is one of the three busiest in Harford County.

At least two other volunteer fire companies in Harford County — Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company and the volunteer Aberdeen Fire Department — have been offering what have been characterized as “incentives” for a year or more.

This move, however, marks the first time Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company would be paying some of the people who go out on calls for service.

Officials in the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company have been reviewing for several months the option of hiring supplemental paid medical staff members, according to Rich Gardiner, spokesperson for Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company.

Bel Air will remain a volunteer organization, Gardiner said, because it will continue to have volunteer EMT staff working side-by-side with paid staff and none of the firefighters will be paid.

“The intent of this is to provide the best emergency medical service possible to the citizens we serve,” Gardiner said.

The fire company is advertising for applicants for the paid positions in this newspaper as well as on the fire company's web site, [baujc.org](http://baujc.org), and

in other publications, Gardiner said.

The fire company is looking for people with the EMT-B, or basic life support, level of training, Gardiner said. Those who are hired for the position will be paid \$10 an hour.

Also being sought for paid positions with the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company are people with advanced life support or EMT-P certification as well as those with EMT-I, or intermediate medical technician, certification. People hired to fill positions at these higher training levels will be paid \$15 per hour.

Gardiner said the fire company has created a committee that is reviewing resumes and interviewing prospective paid staff members. Those hired will not have to become members of the fire company.

Although the positions are paid, those hired will not receive benefits and will be scheduled to work fewer than 40 hours a week so the positions will be classified part-time.

The volunteer fire company plans, however, to hire enough part-time ambulance crew members so paid staffers will be on hand to respond to calls 24 hours a day.

Bel Air has been looking into paying some of its workers for several months. Gardiner said the reason for paying some ambulance staff is it is

seen as a recruiting method to get more people to join the fire company, even though the paid staff members wouldn't be required to join the fire company, which is classified as a not-for-profit private organization.

“We're trying to recruit more people to come into the fire company,” Gardiner said.

He said fire company numbers have been declining recently because people are so busy they don't have the time to join the fire service.

He said the training required for EMT personnel and firefighters involves a lot of time and requires several nights per week from those who choose to volunteer.

Gardiner said it's hard to get people to commit to coming into the fire service because they believe they lack the time to give the hours required to be part of a fire company.

“People have other commitments and it's hard to get them to commit not just to training, but also to being available when an emergency happens,” Gardiner said.

Another problem the fire

company faces is many volunteers work outside the county. This means when an emergency occurs and volunteers have to be called in, it often takes a long time for them to drive from where they work — if they can take leave to go to a call during work hours.

“In most cases, the first few minutes of an emergency are the most crucial, and if we can't get people to a scene, we won't be effective,” Gardiner said.

In addition to paying some ambulance workers, Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company is looking into offering other incentives to its firefighters and volunteer ambulance crew members.

Those incentives would include such things as giving firefighters or EMT gift certificates to restaurants or other places based on how many calls for service they answer.

The fire company has also entertained the idea of giving volunteers American Express gift cards, which can be used anywhere American Express cards are accepted.

## AEGIS

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# Storm deadly for some

By Jessica Aldon

*Aegis staff*

547FB

The first big snow to hit Harford County ~~this year~~ turned out to be dangerous for some and deadly for others, including an eight-year-old boy from Street who died after coming home from playing outside.

The eight inches of snow drew many people outside Saturday and Sunday to shovel their driveways and sidewalks. As doctors have warned, but too many have ignored, pushing, shoveling, sweeping or otherwise moving snow is strenuous activity many people should avoid.

As goes with the aftermath of big snowstorms, Harford County emergency medical personnel responded to numerous cardiac arrest calls Saturday and Sunday.

At least three of the weekend's cardiac arrest calls were fatalities.

An 8-year-old boy who lived on Flintville Road in Street died Saturday after coming in from playing in the snow. Police said the boy had a pre-existing heart condition, and medical personnel are not sure if playing outside caused the condition to worsen.

A 75-year-old man who lived in the 500 block of Green Ridge Road in Bel Air died Saturday evening after going into cardiac arrest. The man, whose name was not released, was outside when he was stricken. EMS personnel from Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company were not sure why the man was outside, but said he had been working.

Volunteers from Susquehanna Hose Company in Havre de Grace and Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps responded to a car-

CARDIAC, A6 F



# Heart attack risk of digging out

## Harford ambulance crews kept busy as people overexert themselves in snow

**CARDIAC**, from A1  
 L  
 A cardiac arrest call on Lapidum Road near the city, where a man collapsed and died after shoveling snow in front of his home.

Volunteers from Joppa-Magnolia also responded to a cardiac arrest call. When they arrived in the 12000 block of Valley Leaf Court, volunteers found a 41-year-old man lying in the street. Joppa-Magnolia Chief Jim Lyons said Monday.

EMS personnel were able to revive the man, getting his heartbeat back, but were not sure of his condition after they treated him and transported him to a local hospital.

Lyons said he's not sure what the man was doing outside, but he may have been shoveling snow.

"Sometimes because they're shoveling snow, extra exertion and working outside in cold temperatures" can cause someone to go into cardiac arrest, said Larry Mabe of the Harford County 911 Center. "We don't know if there's a direct correlation to the incidents this weekend, but it is possible."

Officials at Upper Chesapeake Health reported no weather-related incidents at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air and one at Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace, where a patient suffered a minor injury and was treated and released.

Typical calls for a snowstorm like this weekend's include falls, chest pain, back pain and respiratory dis-

tress.

"People overexert themselves without taking a break," said Rich Gardiner, spokesman for Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company. "People need to remember to pace themselves when working in conditions like this. When they start to feel ill or not right, they should go inside. If the situation doesn't resolve itself, they need to call 911."

Bel Air handled 29 ambulance calls and 10 fire calls Saturday and Sunday, a number Gardiner said he thinks is relatively low for the type of storm that hit the county.

Only six of Joppa-Magnolia's calls Saturday and Sunday were related to the snow. All but one, the man in cardiac arrest, were minor.

### Treacherous roads

In Havre de Grace, the snow emergency plan went into effect at 11 a.m., but cars began piling up well before the emergency was officially under way.

Chapel Road was one of the early problem areas for the city with a disabled vehicle followed shortly thereafter with a single-vehicle accident.

Police on Junata Street had to find the owners of six vehicles that were parked along the emergency route and needed to be moved.

Elsewhere in the city, a tractor-trailer got stuck on Route 155, a car was disabled on Old Post Road and a tractor-trailer on Old Bay Lane and another tractor-trailer ran off the road along I-95.

Police also fielded a number of snow-related calls, including reports to juveniles tossing snowballs and plow pushing snow up against parked cars.

Much like the snow earlier in the week, the winter weather set off a series of minor accidents along road in Aberdeen as well.

Maryland State Police at the J.F. Barrack reported a number of snow-related accidents along I-95, but it is serious incidents.

The havoc on the highway was caused primarily because the snow was falling faster than the plows could push it out of the way or traffic. Not an unusual occurrence when motorists refuse to give in to winter weather.

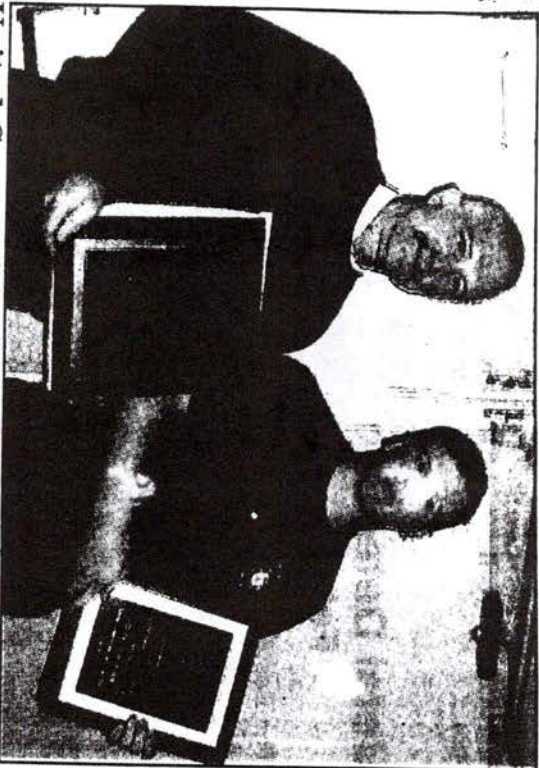
KENT ISLAND BAY TIMES

STEVENSVILLE, MD  
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United Communities Volunteer Fire Department President's Awards for 2004 went to Mike Parks and Chris Bucevius.

# UCVFD holds awards banquet

By JACK SHALUM  
Staff Writer

**ROMANCOKE** — An estimated 150 members of the United Communities Volunteer Fire Department and their guests braved the season's first significant snowstorm Saturday night to attend the department's annual banquet and witness the installation of a new president and fire chief and the distribution of awards to the year's top responders.

"Actually it worked out, because the storm kind of fit-

zled there," said Ron Siarnicki, master of ceremonies for the evening's events at the Stevensville Elks Lodge. "We were worried about everybody getting there in the storm, but by then the roads weren't too bad." The turnout compared favorably to last year's banquet when 170 people attended without interference from Mother Nature.

A familiar face has returned as department president. Dave Olds, who stepped down a year ago after four years as president, succeeds John Roberts who held the post for

the past year. Vice President Lori Parks and treasurer Buck Perrin remain in their posts, and Rose Clark takes over as department secretary. The board members for the coming year are John Roberts, John Bossert, and Bob Pryor.

"I'm really excited about this year. There are lots of good ideas floating around," said Olds. "Things are looking good here."

One of the things he said he is looking forward to is the department's new Strategic

See UCVFD, p.12





United Communities Volunteer Fire Department's top fire responders for 2004 included, from the left, Nina Totaro, Tome Clark, Dave Olds, Brad Childress, and Josh Reece.



Top EMS responders for 2004 were Bob Pryor and Lori Parks

## UCVFD

from page 1



Volunteers Don Giebler and Kent Whalen received service pins.

Plan which he hopes will be completed this year. He said the members are being polled about every aspect of the department and its operations, and then the community will also be asked for its input on operations.

"I'm really looking forward to the community's participation," Olds said.

Richard Jordan, who was deputy chief in 2004, is fire chief for the coming year, taking over from Chris Tona, who becomes a deputy chief. Jim Graham, who was a deputy chief last year, returns in that position. Jeff Hahn remains as captain, and is joined by Kevin Henderson. New lieutenants for 2005 are Ron Siarnicki and Rob Rickly.

"I'm really pleased with the way the department is going," said Jordan. "We'll continue to work hard and do our drills and go from there."

On the EMS side, Mary Alice Vanhoy continues as chief, Lisa Tona returns as captain

and is joined by Don Giebler: Lori Parks remains in her post of lieutenant, and is joined by John Roberts.

County Commissioner Ben Cassell administered the oath of office to the administrative and line officers.

Olds said there were about 200 fire calls in 2004 and 350 ambulance calls. Awards were handed out to the top responders on both the suppression side and the EMS side as part of the evening's festivities.

The top EMS responders were Bob Pryor and Lori Parks, each with 191 calls, and Sean Brinkley and Mary Alice Vanhoy, with 127 calls each. On the suppression side, eleven people were cited as top responders. First was Tom Clark with 99 calls, Dave Olds with 94, Chris Tona with 91, Nina Totaro with 81, Michael Jordan and Brad Childress with 66 each, Richard Jordan and Josh Reese each with 65, Mike Parks with 61, and Chris

Bucevicius and Mike Shelton each with 58.

"We had a good year," said Siarnicki. "We finished the building construction, we've bought a new ambulance, and we're working toward buying a new pumper. We formed a ladies' auxiliary and we formed a cadet program."

He was referring to a major addition to the Romancoke firehouse that was completed in 2004, and the new ambulance that is expected within the next several months.

Eight members of the cadet program attended the banquet and were presented with certificates of participation.

One of them — Matt Graham — was presented with his certificate of graduation from the program. Cadets unable to attend the banquet also get certificates of participation.

"It was a nice evening. I was a nice crowd," Siarnicki said.



United Communities Volunteer Fire Department Cadets include, from the left, Jake Bossart, Vinny Totaro, Michael Vanhoy (behind flag), adult volunteer John Kirby (at podium), Bradley Killian, Tom Clark, Kim Finlay, Jay Parks, Billy Finlay, and Chuck Totaro.



Officers and committees for United Communities Volunteer Fire Department include: John Bossart, Buck Ferrin, Ron Siarnicki, Art Lohman, Mary Ann Ferrin, Charlie Totaro, Dave Olds, Nina Totaro, John Roberts, Lynn Hahn, Lori Parks, John Kirby, Bonnie Roberts, Bob Pryor, Mary Alice Vanhoy, Chris Bucevicius, Lindsay Graham, Mike Parks, and Kirk Falk.





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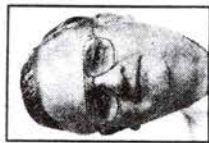
# Fire/rescue plan called anti-volunteer

By SUSAN C. NICHOL  
News-Post Staff  
susan@fredericknews-post.com

FREDERICK A regulation that would prohibit county fire and rescue personnel from holding key positions in volunteer departments has sparked controversy, including an outcry that the move is anti-volunteer.

Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) Division Director Walter Murray said he is seeking public reaction to his directive that would prevent career personnel from being the chief or president of a volunteer company.

Mr. Murray said the regulation is still a draft, but that's not the way it's being perceived. In a Jan. 24 memo to chiefs and presidents, he outlined the details of "this upcoming regulation," formulated to prevent a possible conflict of interest.



Murray

The head of the county volunteer fire and rescue association said he's disappointed the mandate was issued without input

from his group. "Here we are again," said the association president Jim May. "We're left to comment about something that's already done. That's not acceptable."

He said there are ways to avoid possible conflicts without prohibiting career people from holding the offices. A deputy chief, a vice president or board member could be assigned to be the company representative.

"We should have worked on this jointly, but that didn't happen," Mr. May said.

He said he and others in his organization are concerned about

"The action doesn't surprise me, considering the uncooperative interaction with senior DFRS management I've experienced in the past year or so."

Chris Kunkle  
President, Independent Hose Co

the possible fallout involved. "You have to be very careful when you restrict or set out what a person can do on their own time."

Mr. Murray said the order as now written would only involve

(See FIRE A-10)

## Fire

(Continued from A-5)

in 2003.

There is a memo out there," he said. "It is not a regulation. Before it's final, it will have to go before our legal people."

He also said people should not read more into it than is there. Those affected include all employees entitled to county retirement, which now excludes those in the emergency communications center and in logistics.

Mr. Murray didn't say if the regulation would be modified if he received numerous negative comments. He set a Feb. 21 deadline for feedback.

Susan Thompson, a volunteer in Walkersville, said in an e-mail to county officials including her husband, County Commissioners President John L. Thompson Jr.: "The idea that this level of volunteerism would be discouraged by our county government while at the same time touting the 'Volunteer Frederick' theme would seem like hypocrisy."

During a telephone interview Tuesday night, Ms. Thompson said the county should take the election of a career person to be a chief or president as a compliment rather than try to prevent it. "What could be better than having your own people in key positions?"

If there are conflicts, she said they should be addressed some way other than the issuance of a blanket regulation. "The individuals I know are volunteering for the love of community and a chance to make a difference, not to sabotage the DFRS chain of command."

Walkersville Rescue Co. Chief Topper Cramer says the regulation would hurt his company, and it could discourage career personnel from volunteering on their time off.

"It is truly a travesty that people who love doing what they do for free, will be forced to do something else in their free time," Chief Topper said.

Chief Cramer said the entire

volunteer system should not suffer because of the actions of a few career staff. Although he said he's never taken a public stance on issues in the past, he vowed "to be vocal about a policy that will be detrimental to the community..."

Kiona Black, another volunteer, called the measure "just one more blow to the volunteers."

Ms. Black said her main concern is that this rule is just the tip of the iceberg, and worries about what may follow. "In the spirit of the together in service initiative, we should be dealing with this jointly."

The president of the Independent Hose Co., Chris Kunkle said. "The action doesn't surprise me, considering the uncooperative interaction with senior DFRS management I've experienced in the past year or so."

Mr. Kunkle said it appears the county is out to get the volunteers, and not simply writing a policy that addresses how to avoid potential conflicts of interest.





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# Gamber & Community greets 2005 with awards, installation of officers

The Gamber & Community Fire Company recently installed its new officers for 2005 and distributed annual awards for response and fire milestones.

The company's Gerald F. Lindner Memorial Firefighter of the Year Award went to Joel Caple, EMS Provider of the Year. Caple and Woolfson, Woolfson also earned the company's Herman Hall Memorial Award.

Administrative Member of the Year award was given to Robert Kuchel.

The Junior Firefighters of the Year were George Sylfert and Adam Thompson, and a Community Award went to Sharon Bellomy.

For terms of service, Richard Brown earned the designation of responding to the most fire calls, 267, while Laura Woolfson responded to the most EMS calls, 240.

Michael Green recorded the highest total fire training hours, 175, while Stanley Mertz had the most EMS training hours, 140. The new fund raising hours were recorded by Charles Arnold with

Administrative officers for the Gamber fire company for the new year are: Calym Brothers, president; Robert Kuchel, first vice president; Dale Bollinger, second vice president; Clayton Myers, treasurer; Christine Green, recording secretary; Jennie Green, corresponding secretary; W. Chad Hastings, sergeant-at-arms; and directors Bruce Bouch, Thomas Flater III, Charles D. Green Jr., Duane Ludwig and John Warner.

Fire and rescue officers are:

Dennis W. Brothers, chief; Richard A. Green Sr., first assistant chief; Duane Ludwig, second assistant chief; J. Ronald Green, captain; Richard A. Green Jr., first lieutenant; Charles D. Green Jr., second lieutenant; Nick Thompson, third lieutenant; Ian Runkles, fourth lieutenant; and Joe Joyave, fifth lieutenant.

Other officers are Bruce Bouch, dive team coordinator; Charles Doyle, chief engineer; David Barnes and Dale Bollinger, engineers; and Clayton Meyers and Thomas Flater III, public information officers.

For the Emergency Medical Services division officers are Robin

Chenoweth, EMS Captain; Shawn Chenoweth, EMS first lieutenant; Charles Green Sr., EMS second lieutenant; and Michael Jordan, EMS foreman.

New auxiliary officers are: Susan Sullivan, president; Virginia Brothers, vice president; Cheryl Hill, corresponding secretary; Christopher Kelly, treasurer; Bridget Weishaar,

financial secretary; Charlotte Knox, chaplain; Colleen Kelly, historian; and purchasing agents Jack and Letha Palmer.

Officers for the Junior Fire Company are: Adam Thompson, president; George Sylfert, vice president; and Tyler Joyave, lieutenant.

The following members were cited according to the length of

service noted: Life Active Membership: Arthur Brauning, Denis Leppert, Michael Sullivan and Nancy Zepp.

40-Year Service Pins: Charles Arnold, William Bollinger Jr., Robert Brothers, John Funk Sr., Charles E. Green Jr., Wesley "Buddy" Lindsay, Kenneth Linton, Maurice Mitten and Clarence Souders.

FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD  
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JAN 26 2005



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# County forms panel on emergency preparation

By JAMES RADA

News Post Staff  
in staff@fredericknews-post.com

FREDERICK Taking a page from the Boy Scouts handbook, Frederick County wants to "be prepared" in case of emergency.

County commissioners voted unanimously last week to form an Emergency Management Policy Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to the commissioners on the structure and execution of the county's emergency management program.

In recent years, officials and emergency personnel in the

county have publicly quarreled over roles and responsibilities. The new plan "is our attempt to put all of the resources together to develop the plans jointly and not separately," said County Manager Doug Browning, who will chair the new committee.

"We can gather all the resources at the county's disposal to deal with emergencies," he said.

Commissioner Mike Cady agreed.

"We would all admit that since 9-11, we need to take a proactive approach to weapons of mass destruction incidents, to keep them from occurring, and how we should respond in those

situations," he said.

State law requires a local organization for emergency management, but the county has gone one step further by forming the committee.

"We're doing this on our own initiative, but we're following the model both the feds and state put out there for this," Mr. Browning said. "We anticipate that down the road this will be required to receive Homeland Security funds. We're trying to get a jump on it."

Besides Mr. Browning, the other members of the committee include the sheriff, county attorney, director of public works,

director of finance, director of fire and rescue services, director of health services, director of interagency information technologies, director of management services, director of emergency management, director of social services, director of utilities and solid waste and director of volunteer fire and rescue services.

The executive committee consists of Mr. Browning, Sheriff Jim Hagy and Jack Markey, director of emergency management. They are expected to meet this week. The full committee is expected to meet next week.

Mr. Cady said the public

"won't really know how effective we've been until a situation has occurred, but I hope they can rest easier knowing we are preparing for all contingencies."

The meetings to form the committee were held in closed session, which is allowed for emergency planning, according to Mr. Browning.

"One of the problems with the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) was that we had no means by which to meet in closed session," said Mr. Cady. "This ensures the integrity of the plan."

The plans won't be published, but they will be available for those who need to know when an



# DAILY TIMES

SALISBURY, MD  
WEDNESDAY 27, 994  
JAN 26 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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SOMERSET

## Bill would increase funds fire companies receive

By Liz Holland  
Somerset Herald

PRINCESS ANNE — A bill that will increase the amount of money the county gives to eight volunteer fire companies will be introduced this week in the Maryland General Assembly.

The largest of the increases will go to Fairmount and Mount Vernon, which will each get an additional \$8,100 in fiscal 2006.

Both are small, rural companies that are having a hard time making ends meet, and County Commissioners agreed to give them an extra boost, said County Administrator Charles Massey.

Appropriations for the other six companies will jump to the amounts they were originally scheduled to receive in 2009.

That's a right good increase, moving it from '09 to '06, Massey said.

Crisfield and Princess Anne — the largest fire companies in the county — will each get \$4,950 increases, followed by Marion Station with \$3,100, Deal Island with \$2,700, Ewell with \$2,150 and Tylerton with \$650.

The legislation will also set appropriations through 2010, with 2.5 percent increases each year for all the companies, Massey said.

The plan was agreed upon during a meeting with the county Fire Chiefs Association, he said.

An earlier proposal to give an additional \$10,000 to each fire company during fiscal 2006 was dropped, as was a proposal to add a 5 percent charge on residents' property tax bills.

The fire chiefs have also proposed raising the current \$15 for each ambulance call to \$25 and adding on a \$15 fee for each medical assist call, Massey said.

■ Reach Liz Holland  
at 410-651-1600 or  
somerseetherald@verizon.net.

## AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD  
WEDNESDAY 29, 917  
JAN 26 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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# What price?

547FB

Not that many years ago, it was blasphemous to say paid in the same breath with the Harford County volunteer fire and ambulance service.

Demands on the volunteer system, especially the ambulance side, however, have made it increasingly difficult for the county's ambulance service to operate effectively.

Consider a volunteer who has two or three hours to give and responds to a call for service early one evening. Two hours later, that call is complete and the ambulance is leaving the hospital.

Another call comes in and that ambulance is the only one in the area that isn't busy. The crew takes the new call. That scenario is repeated for the next several hours. By the time the volunteer, who had a few hours to give, gets home, it's time to go to work. Without sleep.

So busy are some of the ambulance operations in Harford County that such things happen fairly regularly. In Bel Air, ambulance volunteers sign up to work shifts, rather than responding to individual calls.

Even the volunteer shift solution hasn't been working well enough in Bel Air, so that volunteer company is advertising to hire paid ambulance staff. As medical personnel go, the pay will be relatively low, in the \$10 to \$15 an hour range. A level of dedication disproportionate with the compensation will be required.

Still, it's a major shift from all-volunteer to some paid, a trend that began about a year ago with similar moves on the part of the formerly all-volunteer Aberdeen Fire Department and Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company.

While there's good reason to do something to meet the ever-growing demand on the ambulance service provided by volunteers, a piecemeal approach of allowing individual companies to decide how to enact this priceless public policy is cause for concern.

No one doubts the volunteers are well-intentioned, but it takes more than good intentions to run a good emergency medical service.

The individual fire companies are organized a lot more like private clubs than public agencies. Though they receive a substantial amount of money from the county government to pay for upkeep and equipment, the level of oversight by the county is, at best, arm's length.

Training and service call demands on the volunteers make them increasingly dependent on government funding because they just don't have the time to raise money on top of everything else they do.

While the volunteers who ride the ambulances are required to have the same training as their colleagues in paid companies elsewhere, the same cannot be said for the managers of the various fire companies.

While it's obvious people in government are far from perfect, at least public officials can be held accountable to the people they serve.

The same is not true of the volunteer fire and ambulance service in Harford County. The leadership is beholden neither to market forces nor to government regulation, but merely to the whims of the voting members of the various companies.

This disconnect, coupled with the addition of a limited number of paid positions that may or may not end up being given to voting fire company members, are all the reasons needed to question the wisdom of having a supplemental paid ambulance service implemented by those whose public accountability is so limited.

We're not big believers in the notion government is the answer, but in this case, we think Harford County would be better served if its government were hands-on from the get-go of this fledgling venture. As fire and EMS service evolves, the county will be paying more and more for it, so it should have the biggest say. If nothing else, it might preempt the internecine bickering that so often afflicts our volunteer outfits.

After all, this isn't just a matter of bruising the pride of the parochial volunteers who have given of themselves generations, it's a matter of life and death for all of us.





Capital Clipping Service

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# OC-Parnu partnership moving slowly, but still alive

Nancy Powell  
Associate Editor

(Jan. 21, 2005) Ocean City's partnership with Parnu, Estonia, is not flourishing, but is expected to improve.

"We will make this work," Mayor Jim Mathias said last Wednesday.

The resort was paired with Parnu, a seaside resort town, by the National Guard State Partnerships Program in 2003. Mathias, businessman Shawn Harman and Clay Stamp, who was then the director of Emergency Services, went to Parnu in November 2003 to establish an exchange based on cultural and economic similarities between the two cities.

During that trip, Mathias and Estonian officials signed a friendship pact and in Estonia, Nov. 20 was named Day of Ocean City.

After returning from that trip, Mathias said the pledge was to make the friendship agreement work and to be productive. It was Ocean City's opportunity to work toward world peace.

Mathias said he wanted to form a committee to work on the Partner City program in three areas. Those included a possible exchange program involving Wor-Wic Community College so Estonian students who come to Ocean City to work could receive college credit toward their hospitality degree at an Estonian university.

Another project was to have an annex of Baltimore's Estonia House in Ocean City and the third project was to have an exchange of paramedics between the two cities.

Neither project came to fruition, but Mathias said Wednesday that there is a continuing dialogue and he is hopeful that some programs would work out. After returning to Ocean City, Mathias said, other issues came to the forefront.

"When we returned, we had ideas and there was an intention to form a committee," Mathias said. "It never really came together."

There are goals the committee could pursue and "hopefully, we'll put a committee together," Mathias said.

The student project was still hoped for in July 2004 when a delegation of

three Estonians visited Ocean City. Eha Ristimets, Parnu's adviser on foreign affairs, Imbi Lepik, Parnu's special projects coordinator, and Parnu City Councilman Meeme Veisson, were in the resort to further cement the relationship between Parnu and Ocean City.

During their stay, they toured the resort and had dinner at Fish Tales with representatives of the Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association, the Downtown Association, International Student Services and others. On another evening, they had dinner at the Carousel with the Worcester County Commissioners.

When the three Estonians were in the resort last July, the educational program had already been delayed. At one time, it was hoped that it would start in August 2004. Then it was thought that it would be delayed until this year. Now it is questionable whether it will ever begin.

"It's not moving anywhere," Susan Jones, executive director of the Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant Association said. "Logistically, I don't know that it is possible."

Jones had been asked to work on the student project and she did. She sought employers and found some in the hospitality industry who were interested. The jobs they offered, however, did not match the expectations of the Estonians, who had sent detailed information about what they would require of employers.

The Estonians wanted management level positions and considerable educational opportunities to go with the job so the students could earn credit at the University of Tartu for their work here. The time that would be required of the employer would be considerable.

Although some resort establishments have intern programs, those openings are usually filled with students studying the hospitality industry at University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Jones said.

Another problem, Harman said, was that the Estonians wanted to send a large group of students with a faculty advisor, which was more than anyone

had planned or expected. Yet another obstacle was the government. Harman said the federal government had put so many restrictions on who could enter the country that it made the project difficult.

A major obstacle for the student program was the lack of money. Harman said he thinks the Estonians thought a federal grant would pay for the project, but "the feds don't have the money," he said. Also, immigration issues have changed and so the program stalled.

"They wanted more than we could give," Harman said. "But we'd still love to have them."

As for the annex of Baltimore's Estonian House, Mathias did not seem to recall having that as one of the three goals. A woman affiliated with the Estonia House said Tuesday that she had never heard anything about a possible annex in the resort.

As for the exchange of paramedics, Chuck Barton of Ocean City's Emergency Medical Services division said there were no plans.

"I vaguely remember Clay having a conversation about it," Barton said.

Mathias said the idea of the paramedic exchange went by the wayside when Stamp retired and took a state job. "I really wasn't sure it was a good time about the paramedics," Mathias said. "It just wasn't timely."

The paramedic exchange was apparently dropped and was replaced by a possible lifeguard exchange. Butch Arbin, long time captain of the Ocean City Beach Patrol, went to Parnu in September with Rex Hailey, who was then mayor of Berlin.

Arbin is working on some plans. Mathias said, for lifeguards to come to Ocean City, while Ristimets is working in Parnu to have students come here. The trip, Mathias said, is proposed to be about two weeks long and would include two or three lifeguards and perhaps two or three students who would come to Ocean City to work.

The Estonians would be disappointed, but not surprised, if the projects do not work out. When she was here last summer, Ristimets said Parnu had more

## OC's Partner City devastated by fierce storm, flooding

By Nancy Powell  
Associate Editor

(Jan. 21, 2005) Parnu, Estonia, Ocean City's Partner City, was devastated by floods last week.

The shore side streets in Parnu, which has a population of 43,000, had water that was chest-deep on Saturday, Jan. 8, wrote Eha Ristimets, Parnu's advisor on foreign affairs, to Ocean City Today. The next day, the water covering the streets rose to a height of 2 meters and 95 centimeters.

The Parnu city government declared parts of the city disaster areas, enabling people to get all kinds of assistance, Ristimets wrote.

"Parnu is about to restore normal situation in town for now," Ristimets wrote. "But I think it will take some time for citizens from coastal area to get through this."

Ristimets said this storm was the worst natural disaster to hit Parnu since 1967.

A world weather news site on the Internet said Parnu was the hardest hit city in Estonia.

The Baltic News Service reported that the severe rainstorm paralyzed life in coastal areas of the country and caused power cuts at about one-fourth of the power substations of the national electric company.

than a dozen agreements with other cities and none had been very successful. She said she hoped the agreement with Ocean City would be different.

Mathias does expect something productive from the agreement. "When we came back, we had and we still have good intentions," There has been continuing correspondence and the point, the mayor said, is "to be positive. We're making some strides."

## AEGIS

BEL AIR, MD  
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Capital Clipping Service

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# EMS pay to go countywide

## Harford fire and ambulance service to coordinate new system

By Jessica Aldon

What began some time ago as a piecemeal, company by company way to keep up with increasing demand for emergency medical services with fewer volunteer responders, is about to become Harford County's first coordinated, organized, countywide paid EMS service.

By early fall, a partially-paid EMS service, run by the local EMS and fire association out of the existing volunteer

companies facilities, is expected to be operating in Harford County.

Firefighters will still be volunteer. EMS workers will be part-time employees hired by a new EMS foundation about to be formed by the Harford County Fire and EMS Association, which is finalizing its plans.

As the county grows and each fire company's calls for service increase, it will get more and more difficult to get available volunteers, said John O'Neill, the Harford County's Director of

Administration.

The pool of volunteers is dwindling, O'Neill said, because people have less time to dedicate to the fire company. He said many of the volunteers have families they need to spend time with, jobs they work 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and spouses who work.

When the plan is implemented, it will supplement the volunteer service.

Under the plan, fire companies that need certified medical personnel to staff various shifts because volunteers

won't be available will contract with the foundation, said Rich Gardiner, spokesperson for the association and the Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company.

Advertisements will be placed and prospective providers will apply to the foundation. They will undergo background checks, physicals and skills assessments before they are hired. The hourly rates will be \$10 per hour for those who are qualified for basic life-saving training and \$15 per hour for

Please see **VOLUNTEERS, A6**



# Volunteers ready for pay

## Countywide EMS program is expected by the fall

**VOLUNTEERS**, from A1  
those qualified for advanced lifesaving training. No benefits will be paid. Once hired, potential employees will be placed in a pool from which they will be drawn on an as-needed basis.

As an example, Gardiner said, if Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company needs a paramedic from 8 a.m. to noon on Monday and Thursday, Bel Air would call the foundation's scheduling person, who would plug an appropriate provider into the schedule for Bel Air on those days.

"This is a unique concept that was born from numerous hours of study and discussions with other jurisdictions spanning over the past few years," Gardiner said. "All Harford County companies have agreed to support this program, to alleviate any competition among companies."

Gardiner said the EMS foundation and the process for implementing the paid EMS service should be ready by early fall. He said the paid providers will be used to supplement the volunteer force. "Harford County has one of the strongest volunteer bases in the state, but there reaches a point where a plan to supplement the volunteers has to be implemented," Gardiner said.

Money to pay the new providers will come from the individual companies. The

foundation will bill the fire company for the employees' hours, the fire company will pay the foundation, which will then pay the employee.

Though the association is moving toward a payment plan for EMS workers, the county has no plans to have a fully paid system anytime soon, O'Neill said.

"We have a pretty active volunteer fire service," O'Neill said. "The fire and EMS association is working with the county to come up with a partially paid plan, but it's several months off."

Several fire companies already have some paid personnel. Aberdeen pays its EMTs \$12 per hour and they work 32 hours a week.

Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company has advertised for EMT workers. Depending on training, EMTs will be paid \$10 to \$15 per hour. They will have shifts throughout the day and will not receive benefits from the fire department.

EMTs hired by Bel Air's fire company do not have to be members of the fire company. They are there to help volunteers deal with the heavy volume of calls. Bel Air answered 5,245 EMS calls and 1,951 fire calls in 2004, for a total of 7,196 calls, which averages almost 20 per day.

Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company pays some part-time members

as EMT workers, who are available from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. pending on training. EMTs will get paid between \$10 and \$12 an hour; they will not get benefits and will not work more than 30 hours per week.

Unlike Bel Air, paid staff at Joppa-Magnolia must become members of the company and meet volunteer minimums.

Jim Lyons, chief of Joppa-Magnolia, said the county needs to have at least supplemental payment because of the increased volume of calls and volunteers who, during the day, work out of the county and can't get back quickly enough to go on calls. He also said there is competition from commercial ambulance services who pay their employees. Joppa-Magnolia handled more than 3,000 EMS calls in 2004, Lyons said.

"There are kids coming out of the high school EMS programs and can go to these commercial companies and make good money," Lyons said.

When the paid workers are not on call from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., Joppa-Magnolia EMS service will be strictly volunteer.

When the EMS foundation goes into effect in the fall, individual fire companies that have payment programs will have to eliminate them and contract with the foundation.

# OCEAN CITY TODAY

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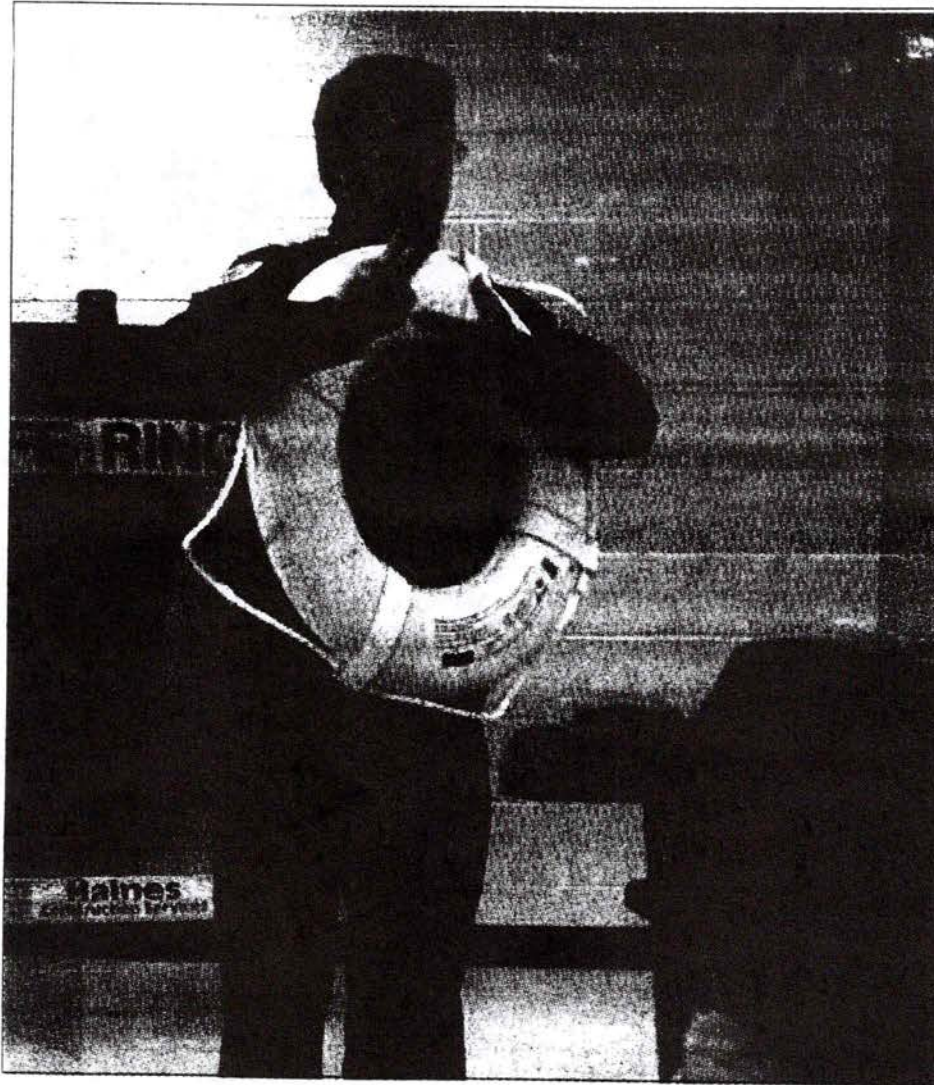
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OCEAN CITY TODAY/LISA CAPITELLI

Hugh Hommel, a career firefighter/paramedic and member of the Ocean City Dive Rescue Unit, teaches Wolf Cub Pack 480 Den 1 about SamBox and water safety at Northside Park.

## Cub Scouts learn about SamBox and water safety



**By Lisa Capitelli**

Staff Writer

(Jan. 19, 2005) "Reach, throw and go, never swim alone and never go out on the ice" were some of the important water safety lessons Wolf Cub Pack 480 Den 1 learned last Wednesday at Northside Park.

Larry Sackadorf, career firefighter and paramedic with Ocean City Emergency Services Fire/EMS Division, member of the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Co., and also a Cub Scout leader, along with members of the Ocean City Dive Rescue Unit, put on a presentation to teach the scouts about equipment, water safety and explaining the use of the SamBox.

The date of the presentation fell on the two-year anniversary when Sam Wilkinson, an 8-year-old from Ocean Pines, died after falling through the icy lagoon at Northside Park. When Sackadorf realized their scout meeting date fell on the anniversary of the tragedy, he wanted to do something to remember Wilkinson by teaching the scouts about water safety and how to use the SamBox.

As a result of the accident Sackadorf created the SamBox, a stainless steel weatherproof box that is home to a life ring and a 100-foot float rope that could be used in an emergency rescue situation.

The SamBox is also connected by radio to the Ocean City 911 center at the Public Safety Building on 65th Street. When a SamBox is opened, an alarm is sounded and a flashing strobe light is activated.

The SamBox, named after Sam Wilkinson, is also an acronym for Save-A-Minute, Save A Life. The cost of the first two SamBoxes was covered by donations from the Ocean City Paramedics Foundation and were installed at



OCEAN CITY TODAY/LISA CAPITELLI

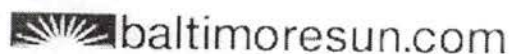
Mitchell Cooper, Jack Hammond and Evan Heim of Wolf Cub Pack 480 Den 1 at the water safety presentation.

Northside Park on June 27, 2003.

The Ocean City Dive Rescue Unit spoke to the young scouts – who are around the same age as Wilkinson was when he died – about several water safety tips to remember and understanding the hazards and risks of playing near water and ice.

They included: to be responsible and never swim alone, never go out on the ice because you don't know how thick it is; from land or on shore – "reach, throw and go" – reach for someone that has fallen in the water, throw a life ring, preserver, floatation device or anything you can find, and go for help.

The Dive Rescue Unit also showed their dive suit and gear and demonstrated how it is used.



<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-te.md.hospitals28jan28.1.4308385.story>

## **Report card shows hospitals in Md. improve**

### **Online assessment also points out disturbing shortcomings**

By Julie Bell  
Sun Staff

January 28, 2005

Nearly two years after its debut, Maryland's online report card on hospital performance appears to be fulfilling a key mission: driving hospitals to improve.

The hospitals, for example, are getting better overall at taking commonsense steps to help patients with heart failure and pneumonia. Evidence includes higher rates of pneumococcal vaccinations, according to the state agency that compiles what is formally called the Maryland Hospital Performance Evaluation Guide.

But as the updated report card showed yesterday, individual hospitals still have lots of room for improvement.

New data collected on care provided to heart attack patients reveal that the state's 47 hospitals don't always administer aspirin - which can reduce the incidence of death - when victims arrive in the emergency room.

Bon Secours Hospital in Baltimore gave aspirin 72 percent of the time, below the state average of 93.6 percent, according to the report card, while Fort Washington Medical Center in Prince George's County did so every time.

"These are the types of things that you would expect a hospital would be doing," said Frank Chase, a consumer representative on the Maryland Health Care Commission committee overseeing the development of the report card, which is available free at <http://hospitalguide.mhcc.state.md.us>.

The report card now compares hospitals based on how often they complete 15 simple steps: six for heart-attack patients, five for pneumonia patients and four for patients with congestive heart failure.

Also, for the first time, consumers can use the report card to check not only how hospitals stack up against each other in each of the categories, but how much they have improved over time.

Among the most improved is Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore, which had been giving congestive heart failure patients full discharge instructions just 14 percent of the time in the second half of 2002. By the first half of 2004, it was doing so 80 percent of the time.

### **Expansion planned**

Maryland's hospital guide includes other information to help consumers evaluate hospitals, including



how often they cared for patients with particular diagnoses - such as heart failure and shock - and how often patients were readmitted after they were treated.

And it continues to evolve: Officials plan next to add patient satisfaction measures late this year and, later still, information showing rates of infections acquired by patients because of their hospitalization.

But even if a hospital had a perfect record, which none does, it's unclear what consumers could conclude about the overall quality of care at a hospital based on the 15 measures alone, experts said.

"This gives me a little more confidence that hospitals are doing some basic things right," said Joseph Antos, a health policy scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington think tank. "But the answer to the question I want to know is, 'When the surgical team meets over my chest, is it going to go well?' I suspect none of the measures are really going to answer that."

Consumers, the target audience of the report card, haven't fully embraced it yet. It's viewed by about 5,000 people a month, a fraction of the 664,000 patients admitted annually to hospitals in the state.

### **Incentive to improve**

Despite that, state officials and experts said the report card is achieving the goal of prodding hospitals to improve - if only to avoid the embarrassment of a poor public score.

"One of the benefits of that is it does give each of the hospitals in the state a sense of where they are vs. their competitors, and [that's] incentive for hospital and board leadership to improve," said Carol Cronin, an independent consultant. "That wouldn't happen unless it's public information."

Good Samaritan, for example, raised its scores for discharge instructions by taking four steps. It began requiring everyone involved in heart-patient care - physicians, nutritionists, social workers, nurses - to meet daily to discuss each patient and document care instructions.

It also hired a nurse coordinator to oversee the care of congestive heart failure patients and give them information about their medicines, exercise and care. And it began using two software packages, one of which spits out customized discharge instructions for each patient, and another that contains a checklist that care givers use when discharging a patient.

"It's like a discharge police that makes sure that you have everything going on," said Matthias Goldstein, a physician's assistant who is Good Samaritan's director of cardiovascular services. With the changes in place, he said, "I wouldn't be surprised if we got 100 percent in the future."

Among other hospitals, Bon Secours said it has increased rounds focused on ensuring that patients are getting the proper care, after scoring poorly in numerous categories. Greater Baltimore Medical Center said it has renewed a focus on ensuring that congestive heart failure patients get full discharge instructions, after the latest report card showed the hospital was doing so just 12 percent of the time.

And at LifeBridge Health, which operates Sinai and Northwest hospitals in Baltimore, officials are concentrating on doing a better job of counseling heart failure patients to quit smoking. The report card shows Sinai did so 73 percent of the time during the first half of last year, below the state average of 79 percent.

"The good news is hospitals in Maryland have improved in these measures," said Jean Moody-Williams, the commission's chief of facility quality and performance. But, she said, "They're process measures. So

theoretically everyone should perform at 100 percent."

## **Mortality data**

There are now at least 45 Web sites analyzing U.S. hospital performance, with the majority of them focusing on a single state or a region of a state, according to the report Cronin co-authored. While officials involved in Maryland's health-care report card call it among the nation's best, it excludes quality measures such as mortality data.

Hospitals often contend that it's nearly impossible to fairly compare death rates among institutions with varying numbers of extremely ill patients. And smaller hospitals say they often don't have enough deaths in certain categories to make the information useful to disclose.

But the state of Pennsylvania, which has been requiring hospitals to disclose mortality data since the inception of its report card in 1988, has seen hospital mortality rates drop from above the national average to below it as a result, said Joe Martin, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, which publishes that state's report.

"Our council members believe for the most part that what they want to know is the result of treatment," Martin said. But, he said, "We're not negative about process measures. There are many different ways to come at the issue of quality."

As Maryland, Pennsylvania and others improve their health-care quality sites, consumers are using them more.

The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that, in a nationally representative survey taken late last summer, 37 percent of people said they were "very likely" to go online to find health-quality information, up from 28 percent in 2000.

Dr. Albert Wu, a Johns Hopkins internist who studies health-care quality and is on the committee overseeing development of Maryland's report card, said he believes such measures eventually will be used to assess not only hospitals, but also physicians' practices and perhaps individual physicians.

Still, Dr. John R. Saunders Jr., GBMC's chief of staff, suggests patients might want to continue to use other means as well, including checking to see whether doctors are board-certified and asking the opinions of doctors and friends.

"I think that all of us who deal with health-care delivery and trying to measure and assess quality realize it's a very difficult thing to measure," Saunders said. "Some of these statistical items ... probably never will be the entire answer. But they're a help."

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# RECORD

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## Aberdeen volunteers important then, now

What came before the incorporation of the town of Aberdeen? One of the most important services the community has ever been blessed with is the all-volunteer Aberdeen Fire Department which, according to remaining records, is determined to have been established in 1889, three years before the incorporation of Aberdeen in 1892 and eight years before the installation of the "water works" in 1897.

It's even older than the Maryland State Firemen's Association, which was established in 1893. Over the years, those volunteers have seen Aberdeen through the three big fires of 1907, 1918 and 1976. Especially in the two earlier fires, the devastation changed the face of Aberdeen, but even more buildings would have been lost without the heroism of these firefighters.

It began through the efforts of J.H. Swingley and William B. Richardson as its chief. It was in a two-story frame building that stood at the corner of Bel Air Avenue and Parke Street, with accommodations for two pieces of equipment and made its fire calls in a combination hand-horse drawn pump and ladder truck. As Aberdeen grew, a second

### Many Things...



### THE CRONINS

firehouse was built in 1941 on Chesapeake Road east of the Amtrak lines. An ambulance service was started in a combined effort with the American Legion and was later taken over completely by Aberdeen Fire Department in 1948. That was the year that two old buildings, the first AFD and the former town office — that one time or another housed a carpenter's shop, a butcher shop operated by Frank Williams and the Aberdeen library and shoe repair shop — were razed to make way for a new stone and brick fire department on the corner of Bel Air Avenue and Parke Street. That building served until March 12, 1973, when the move was made to the structure on North Rogers Street. In mid-1955, Aberdeen had expanded enough to warrant

building another firehouse on Route 22 in the western area of Aberdeen.

Names of some of the first chiefs include William Richardson, H. Mitchell, John Tarring, Albert Thomas, Raymond Budnick, Buck Thomas, T. Neville Cunningham, Daniel B. Smith Sr., Quinton Mouldsade, William Benjamin Jr. and D.B. Smith Jr.

With the help of donated memorabilia at the Aberdeen Room Archives and Museum, some of the early history and interesting bits of social news of the energetic AFD has been made available.

According to the State Firemen's Association, in the publication of its 14th annual convention in Westminster in 1906, listed were Charles H. Jacobs, T.R. Riley and W.B. Richardson as delegates; and W.O. Grafton, G.W. Brock, G.E. Pritchard, C.H. Kriele and C. Martin as representatives for Aberdeen.

Back in 1934, two years before early records of AFD were lost to a fire in 1936, the program for the annual dinner dance listed Frank Baker as president, John Smith as vice president, William Silver as secretary-treasurer. Albert

Thomas as chief and Raymond Budnick as assistant chief.

Members and guests ate cream of celery soup, roast turkey, sauerkraut, early June peas, mashed potatoes, Waldorf salad, rolls, ice cream and cake. As for entertainment, music was by the Collegiate Suncopators with a tap specialty, an acrobatic dance, Rhythm Girls, a harmony and dance song and Miss Helen Ey, the Personality Girl, with songs and imitations.

In 1953, another important arm was added to the AFD when the ladies auxiliary was formed at an organizational meeting at House 1, with president Viola Cunningham, first vice president Sara Smith, second vice president Peggy Hause, secretary Angelene Pender, treasurer Hattie Wittic and chaplain Shirley Juchnicewicz. Other charter members were Bessie Cummings, Judy Creggar, Sue Schantz, Evelyn McFadden, Mary Francis and Janet Burkett.

Beginning in 1890, the fire department band was an important part of the AFD and it was the earliest band in Maryland. At the time of the 1973 dedication, Roy Williams was director and Charles

Baker was assistant band director.

On Jan. 15, 2005, Aberdeen Fire Department celebrated another outstanding year with a banquet and dance. And what a year the department did have! With 694 fire and rescue calls and 2,613 EMS responses, the estimated saved property values totaled \$1,865,753,100.

The outstanding services of D.B. Smith Jr., the department's top fire responder of the year, and Dale Budnick, who was named the department's top EMS responder, earned the most awards.

The top fire call responders for 2004 were D.B. Smith Jr. with 690 calls, Dale Budnick with 400, Eldon Budnick with 389, Craig Walker with 370, Keith Budnick with 364, Travis Hollars with 328, L. Keith Ford with 304, D.B. Smith Sr. with 283, Judy Hinch with 271 and Curtis Dierning with 269.

The top emergency medical service responders for 2004 were Dale Budnick with 573, Gordon Biscomb with 441, Travis Hollars with 343, Judy Hinch with 315, John Loucks with 218, Bill Thompson with 213, Jacob Weeds with 196, Shannon Budnick with 168,

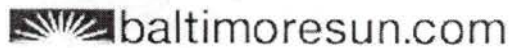
Monti Arrington with 137 and Charles Cox with 136.

Serving in Aberdeen Fire Department are elected officers: President Russell Pippert; Vice President John Landbeck Jr.; Secretary Judith Hinch, who organized the banquet; Treasurer Richard Kosko, director for three years; Al Severn Jr., director for two years; Fred Morlok; and three-year Fred Morlok; and three-year Fred Morlok.

On the fire line are Chief Steven Hinch, Assistant Chief Dale Budnick Sr. and Battalion Chief House 1 Keith Budnick.

Appointed officers on the fire line are Capt. Chad Rizzuto, Lt. Monty Arrington, Lt. Donald Crites and Lt. Craig Walker. Ambulance officers include Lt. Judy Hinch, Lt. John Loucks, Safety Officer John Bender and Fire Prevention Officer Gordon Biscomb.

Aberdeen Volunteer Fire Department continues to be a leader, since 1889, as it protects and preserves life and property from and during fires and emergencies that arise in the rapidly expanding city of Aberdeen and vicinity. Names of the volunteers involved also seem to span generations as they work together for the safety of the entire community.



<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-brf-declared-dead,1.7378321.story>

## N.C. Paramedics in False Death Punished

By Associated Press

January 31, 2005, 11:37 PM EST

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Two paramedics who mistakenly declared an accident victim dead had their credentials suspended Monday.

Paramedics Wade Kearney II and Paul Kilmer had their credentials suspended for rules violations, according to the state Office of Emergency Medical Service. They are among four paramedics who have been suspended with pay.

Larry Green, 29, was struck by a car Jan. 24 and pronounced dead at the scene. Two hours later, a medical examiner at the morgue saw Green take a shallow breath and realized he was alive. Green remained in critical condition Monday.

State law requires emergency workers to start resuscitation immediately if there is doubt over whether a victim is dead. Neither Kilmer nor Kearney did so, the agency found.

Officials have said none of the paramedics attached Green to an electrocardiogram monitor, which gives an electric reading of the heart.

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## SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SEVERNA PARK, MD  
MONTHLY

JANUARY 2005



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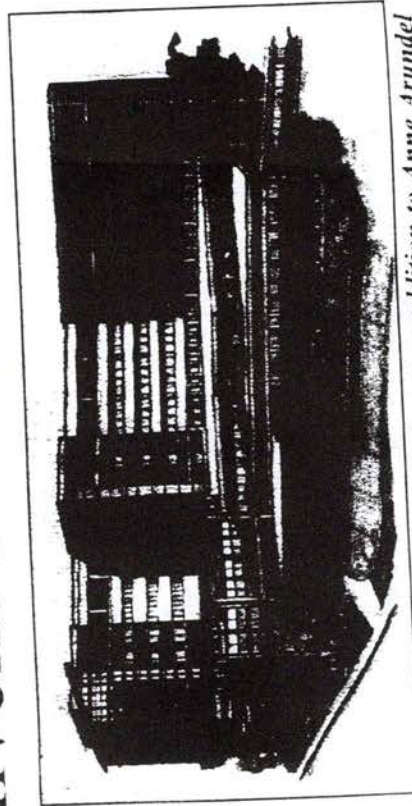
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# AAMC Unveils Future Vision

This time last year, Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) knew a problem was looming. Just two years after moving into the new medical park, AAMC leaders watched as beds filled up, outpatient parking spaces disappeared, and new staff members joined their ranks.

These concerns prompted the leadership of Anne Arundel Health System to launch a year of "strategic thinking." This past year more than 100 medical staff members, employees and board members developed an expansion plan the hospital now calls "Vision 2010."

"Not since we planned the new hospital in the mid-1990s have we focused on such a strategic



*A rendering of a proposed nine-story addition to Anne Arundel Medical Center highlights the hospital's future expansion plans.*

vision," said Martin L. Doordan, president of Anne Arundel Health System. "We knew when we moved here there would be a need for expansion in the future - how-

ever, the future is now." Since the hospital's move from downtown Annapolis, the Emergency Department has seen

*(Continued on page 48)*

## AAMC Vision

*(Continued from page 47)*

its patient volume increase from 59,000 to 70,000. Inpatient admissions have increased from 19,000 to 23,000. In addition, the hospital is now ranked second in the state in newborn births with nearly 5,200 babies born there last year.

"Vision 2010 seeks to address the needs of the people around us by expanding the hospital's services and facilities," continued Mr. Doordan.

Among the services the hospital intends to expand are its well-known women's and children's services and its cancer services.

"The pace of healthcare is accelerating," said Linda Ferris, Ph.D., the health system's vice president of strategic planning. "With the growing population, particularly the baby boomers, we need to be ready to meet the community's needs."

To make room for expanded services and increased inpatient demands, the hospital is planning future construction of an addition to the Acute Care Pavilion, which in conjunction with the adjacent Clatanoff Pavilion, currently houses all acute-care inpatient services. The proposed nine-story addition will provide space for a total of 69 new, private-patient rooms including 51 medical and surgical beds and 18 critical care beds. It also will provide space for expansion of the surgery, emer-

gency and radiology departments as well as a new clinical services floor. The project will increase the total number of operating rooms from 18 to 26 and will add space for support and outpatient services.

AAMC's proposed expansion also will enable the hospital to provide additional space to be responsive to homeland security and bio-terrorism concerns.

Because the project includes new bed capacity, the hospital is required to submit a certificate of need application to the Maryland Health Care Commission, which has already projected Anne Arundel County will need between 99 and 149 new hospital beds by 2010. In late December, AAMC submitted a certificate of need application for 69 of those beds in order to meet a state-required deadline.

Construction on the addition, which also will include additional parking facilities, could begin as early as fall 2007. The total cost for the project is estimated at approximately \$200 million. The hospital plans to pay for the expansion through bond financing, charitable contributions, and the earnings of AAMC.

"We've always prided ourselves on being available when people need us," Mr. Doordan said. "Vision 2010 will ensure people have access to healthcare when they need it most."