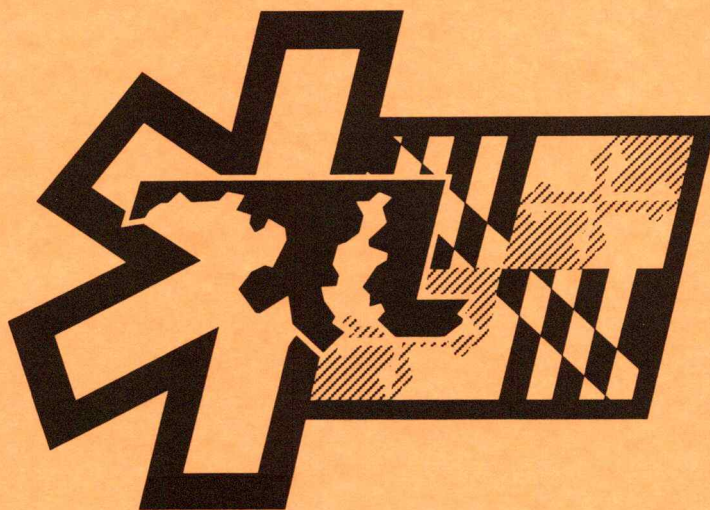


*Maryland Institute for
Emergency Medical Services Systems*



Press Report

November, 2005

TIMES-RECORD

DENTON, MD
WEEKLY 4,900
NOV 2 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Public safety improvements approved by commissioners

County purchases ambulance, receives LGIT grant

Clay Owens
Times-Record

547FB

DENTON - The county commissioners announced Oct. 25 that the county has taken delivery of a new ambulance and received a grant for training law enforcement officers.

The ambulance, a 2004 Med Tech with a GM diesel engine demonstration model, was purchased from Singer Associates Medical Equipment for \$120,000. Because it had 13,000 miles on it, the county was able to save \$32,000 on the price of a new

model costing \$152,000. It will replace a Caroline County EMS ambulance with almost 200,000 miles on it and will be stationed at the Greensboro fire department.

The commissioners also announced that the county has received a grant of \$3,000 from the Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) to be used for training of corrections officers at the Caroline County Detention Center.

Presented during the meeting by John Burrell, executive director of LGIT to Robert Longo, assistant superintendent of the detention center,

Burrell said the grant will be used to train officers in riot control and self-defense techniques.

Burrell said Caroline County, a member of LGIT since 1987, has received six grants totaling \$7,000 for various governmental projects.

Burrell said that of LGIT's 171 members, Caroline County has received more grants than any other county. He thanked the county commissioners, Longo and Bryan Ebling, director of CCEMS, for their work to receive officer safety training whenever possible.

MARYLAND INDEPENDENT

WALDORF, MD
WEDNESDAY 25,000
NOV 2 2005



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Medevac transports safe to land, hospital says

BY NANCY BROMLEY
MCCONATY
STAFF WRITER

A medical helicopter pilot's concern about the safety of landing the aircraft at Civista Medical Center on Sunday evening because of construction under way at the La Plata facility was unfounded, according to hospital officials.

"It is safe to land medical evacuation helicopters here," said Darlene Fairfax, Civista's public relations specialist. "The decision not to land was a pilot decision based on his perception of the landing zone for his crew and the aircraft. Patient care was not jeopardized or impeded."

Fairfax said the patient was taken to the Charles County

Courthouse parking lot by ambulance and the MedStar helicopter landed there. A few hours later, another MedStar pilot flew to Civista to evaluate the landing pad and landed safely, she said.

"Civista has been absolutely wonderful," said Joni King, director of operations for MedStar Transport at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. "The hospital is working with us to make the site a safe area. They've been great. They've gone out of their way to make sure everything's safe."

King said that whenever a helicopter pilot is unsure about the safety of a landing spot, he or she will attempt to find a place to land that they deem is safer.

The incident did not cause

any problems for emergency services personnel, although at first there was a misperception that medical helicopters could not land at the facility because of the expansion project, said Tony Rose, the county's chief of 911 communications.

The project includes the addition of a new same-day surgery unit, upgraded emergency room, more parking spaces and a relocated entrance that will front Garrett Avenue.

Another potential inconvenience has so far not caused any problems for emergency services personnel, Rose said. The installation of new railroad tracks on Charles Street this week has not hampered ambulance drivers from getting their patients to the hospital, he said.

"We haven't had any prob-

lems. We just have to make sure that the ambulance drivers are aware that they have to take alternate routes to the hospital," he said. "It just adds a little bit of time."

The railroad track project, headed by CSX Transportation, was moving ahead of schedule Tuesday, said Doug Miller, town manager. The portion of Charles Street near the railroad tracks was supposed to be closed until 10 tonight, but the project was moving so swiftly on Tuesday that railroad officials told the town the section of road would probably be opened by Wednesday afternoon.

E-mail Nancy Bromley McConaty at nmcconaty@somdnews.com.

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FREDERICK NEWS-POST

FREDERICK, MD
SUNDAY 41,707
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EMMITSBURG

County to resolve EMS dilemma

By KATY BRANDENBURG

News-Post Staff

brandenburg@fredericknews-post.com

EMMITSBURG -- The county's Division of Fire and Rescue Services will decide within the next few months if a county-owned ambulance and its six-person career EMT staff will stay at the Vigilant Hose Co. or move to the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co.

In 2004, the Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co. was having trouble meeting the demand for its services, so it asked the Division of Fire and Rescue Services for assistance.

"They knew they needed help, so they came and asked us for help," said Clarence Jewell, director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services.

The six-person EMT crew was the answer, but it had to be stationed at the Vigilant Hose Co., primarily because of lack of accommodations, he said. The Vigilant Hose Co. is less than a mile from the Emmitsburg ambulance company and is the firefighting counterpart to the

(See DILEMMA A-14) A

Dilemma

(Continued from A-1) A

ambulance company's emergency medical services.

The ambulance company had fail rates as high as 30 percent at various points in the past decade and had seen an increase in the number of calls, making it difficult to answer all of them, Mr. Jewell said.

The Emmitsburg Volunteer Ambulance Co. recently spent nearly \$30,000 building a new bunkhouse, which can now house the career staff. The company believes the crew should be moved from the Vigilant Hose Co. If that happens, the county would decide where to put the ambulance.

"I think it should never have been put there in the first place," said Rick Sharer, chief of the Emmitsburg ambulance

company. "We did not have a bunker — that part I kind of agreed with — but we were the ones who asked for the help," he said.

The company's president, Joe Pelkey agreed.

"They should have been here over a year ago, because we are the EMS company in Emmitsburg," he said.

While the crew has been stationed at Vigilant Hose Co., it has been the first responder to EMS calls, with second due given to the Emmitsburg ambulance company.

Commissioner Jan Gardner said that 100 percent of the calls have been met on time, a much better rate than before.

"I don't want to move them out prematurely," she said. "My biggest factor (to consider) is providing quality service to the

community. I want to make sure they have all the outstanding concerns from a year ago addressed."

The Vigilant Hose Co. had considered in the past merging the two departments, but the ambulance company didn't want to do it, according to Frank Davis, spokesperson for the Vigilant Hose Co.

"So far, it's been working out very well," he said. "But we're not looking at what's only best for us. We want the best bang for the buck, for the community and the taxpayers. We really believe that... the best-case scenario would be to come together. It would make our organization stronger and help theirs."

The final decision has been left to Walter Murray, director of the Division of Fire and Rescue Services. Mr. Murray

declined to comment because he did not want to say anything that might make others draw conclusions.

"It's a tough decision. It's not a win-win situation," said Mr. Jewell. "We are dealing with honest differences of opinion."

The career staff first went to Emmitsburg as a result of its residents agreeing to pay additional fire taxes for 24-hour coverage, Ms. Gardner said. At that time, both companies presented the commissioners with a consensus agreement.

The agreement stated the career EMT staff would go back to the ambulance company at such time as they could meet calls and a new building was built. But within days, both companies said they had not agreed to it.

"Before the ink was dry, it

was rescinded," Ms. Gardner said.

Ms. Gardner said another meeting is scheduled this week with both companies, the Division of Fire and Rescue and the commissioners. She said they will hear the views of both companies again before Mr. Murray makes a decision.

"Meetings are getting old," said Mr. Pelkey. "They need to start acting."

Commissioner Gardner said the issue could be decided at the November meeting of the commissioners, or, since there is no December meeting, it could be postponed until January.

"We do not usually decide which people go where," she said. "It is not up to us so much how it's done, but that we do want quality service provided to the community."



Trauma centers ill-prepared to handle disaster

Emergency care providers stretched thin by soaring costs, demand

The Associated Press

Updated: 5:01 p.m. ET Nov. 6, 2005

ATLANTA - At this city's main trauma hospital, lines of waiting patients clog the hallways — even on slow days.

Doctors say they probably couldn't handle a major plane crash or any other incident with more than 20 or 30 severe injuries.

"It's a struggle to meet the nightly demand of 911 calls," said Dr. Arthur Kellermann, an ER physician at the hospital, Grady Memorial.

"But somehow we're supposed to deal with a ... terrorist bombing? Or a new strain of influenza?"

Trauma centers and emergency departments similarly are strained in many U.S. cities, experts say.

"Trauma systems are never more than a couple of minor incidents from being overwhelmed," said Larry Gage, president of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems.

Trauma care a costly endeavor

Hurricane Katrina destroyed New Orleans' only trauma center. A few years ago, funding problems nearly closed primary trauma centers in Detroit and Los Angeles, and more than a dozen other U.S. hospitals have phased-down or shuttered their trauma units since.

That trend, along with a growing U.S. population, is making it harder for many hospitals to quickly and adequately handle severe emergencies.

"Across the country, the level of crowding at emergency departments has reached levels that are unprecedented in America's history," said Dr. Kathleen Clem, chief of emergency medicine at Duke University Medical Center.

Trauma and emergency care is a money loser, serving many patients without health insurance. It's also expensive to maintain a round-the-clock staff of specialized surgeons and trauma-care medical workers.

In Atlanta, hospitals often pay subspecialists around \$1,000 per day to take calls for trauma care.

Issue of supply and demand

For those reasons, many hospitals have gotten out of trauma care, increasing the load on those that have stayed in that business, industry experts say.

Grady Memorial is Atlanta's primary emergency care center, with about 200,000 visits a year, and it's been getting busier.

Patient volumes have been increasing more than 5 percent a year at the 953-bed hospital, driven by a variety of factors including an expanding city population and the closing of trauma centers near Atlanta.

As at other hospitals, Grady's 100 intensive care unit beds are often completely filled, meaning dozens of

gurneyed patients at a time have to wait in the ER for a bed to open upstairs. That, along with a heavy flow of new cases, doesn't allow much room for dealing with a multi-trauma incident.

Grady is expecting a loss of between \$9 million and \$10 million this year, and would need more government funding to expand its ICU and emergency capabilities, said Dr. Leon Haley Jr., the hospital's chief of emergency medicine.

Katrina compounds problems

In New Orleans, the situation is unusual in that hurricane flooding — not scarce funding — closed the main trauma center. But some ER doctors say that, even before the floods, they expected problems getting the center reaccredited this fall.

Charity Hospital, once one of the nation's largest hospitals, was home to New Orleans' only top-level trauma center, with staffing and equipment to handle the most complex emergency injuries. The hospital was getting 160,000 emergency and trauma visits a year.

But 650-bed Charity was irreparably damaged by floodwaters after Hurricane Katrina. Since then, most of the city's trauma and emergency cases have been handled in U.S. Navy ships, temporary combat hospital tents, and in four civilian hospitals that have managed to restore at least some of their services.

But the ships left weeks ago. And the combat hospital tents, which are currently the city's main trauma center, are scheduled to pack up later this month.

"It's going to be a major problem," said Helen Ruiz, director of the emergency department at Touro Infirmary, the only downtown hospital ER currently open.

'A bus crash away from ... disaster'

Charity's parent organization, the Louisiana State University Health Care Services Division, is trying to lease a hospital and re-establish a trauma center. But it's also struggling to cover bills.

"We are a bus crash away from complete and total disaster," said Donald Smithburg, chief executive of the LSU hospital organization.

But the story is different in Detroit. Officials at Detroit Receiving Hospital, the Motor City's long-standing chief trauma center, said their center is on solid footing right now and has been able to handle multiple-trauma incidents pretty well.

But it's a turnaround, they say, from the situation two years ago, when budget shortfalls spurred rumors that the trauma center would have to close. An infusion of state money saved the day, said Dr. James Tyburski, the hospital's chief of surgery.

Searching for help in Washington

In September, emergency physicians from across the country gathered in Washington to rally for additional government support. More than 3,000 physicians attended and spoke in favor of a measure that would increase Medicare payments to emergency doctors and hospitals by 10 percent.

But the bill so far has only two sponsors. Emergency physicians say they are amazed that the Bush administration is willing to spend billions to stockpile Tamiflu for a possible super-flu outbreak — even though it's not clear the medicine would be effective — while showing disinterest in aiding emergency hospitals that would have to handle flu cases.

Emergency departments are the perfect cauldrons for a dangerous strain of flu to spread through large numbers of immune-compromised people, said Kellermann, the Grady physician. Emergency centers should be expanded to have respiratory isolation areas and other services, he argued.

"We're worried about a flu pandemic and we're parking patients cheek to cheek," he said. "That's just mind-bogglingly stupid."

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NEWS

Ocean City plans to join hazards network

Mid-Atlantic forum maps out multi-state strategies to deal with mass emergencies

By Jay Hodgkins
Staff Writer

The resort wants to learn from the lessons taught in the messy aftermath of Hurricane Katrina by joining the state next year in an effort between multiple levels of government who now fully understand how important it is they communicate and plan ahead with each other.

The necessity of communication was an emerging motto from the recent All Hazards Forum held Oct. 25-27 in

"We are interested, but this year came up fairly quickly and being the new guy on the block we didn't have time to participate with the scheduling," said Joe Theobald, the resort's emergency services director.

"I think it is something we certainly will evaluate because there are a lot of good things to look into," Theobald said. "I know we will consider it in the future."

John Contestabile, a Maryland Department of Transportation official who is now working with the consortium, said Ocean City could greatly benefit with the eventual inevitability of a large storm, flood or even an epidemic like the bird flu striking the area.

"This is an opportunity for Ocean City to network with its peers at the county and state level and an opportunity to learn the best practices of other states," Contestabile said. "North Carolina is a member and has learned how to handle storms very well recently."

Along with Maryland and North Carolina, the District of Columbia, Delaware,

Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia are members of the consortium, and Contestabile said dozens of local governments were in attendance at the second forum last week in Baltimore.

The forum included strategy sessions on topics that Ocean City and Worcester County have become intricately familiar with like evacuation planning, using the media in crisis, port security, staying open for business in times of hazards and critical infrastructure protection.

And while the onus will be on area local governments to participate in the forum or not, Maryland is ensuring that small, rural and suburban communities are ready to respond to Katrina-like disasters by issuing a step-by-step guide developed in part by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services this week to help them anticipate and plan for a potential mass casualty event.

"One thing we've learned from Katrina is that disasters go across jurisdictional boundaries," said Gov. Ehrlich's spokesman Jim Paffel.

"Incidents are bigger than just one state and it's important to know each other and have hopefully worked with each other before."

"Most aid processes are in state resources. Residents who are displaced still stay in state 99 percent of the time," Contestabile said.

"We saw after Katrina that the model might be a different way of dealing with displacement."

Essentially, local involvement in the All Hazards Forum could allow Ocean City or the county to make the networking connections to prepare and quickly move refugees to another area if a disaster were to occur.

Contestabile also said private participation from companies that provide helpful products and services in crisis situations are a huge part of the All Hazards effort as they converse with governments to learn how they can better help and expand their business to new markets.

He said Ocean City area businesses involved with disaster relief would have an opportunity to expand their operations as well.



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John Latimer named as new emergency services director

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners named John A. Latimer, IV of Hagerstown as Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services on Tuesday, November 1.

He will replace the current director, Joe Kroboth.

Latimer, a City of Hagerstown Firefighter and Chief of the Longmeadow Volunteer Fire Company, has more than 15 years of service in Washington County's Fire and Rescue community at all levels of responsibility.

Latimer was chosen from more than 30 applicants for the position due to his outstanding record of public service and what has been termed a "passion" for emergency services.

He serves as Field and Special Programs Instructor with the University of Maryland's Fire and Rescue Institute and is accredited in the areas of fire, rescue, hazardous materials, incident management and rapid intervention.

Latimer first volunteered as a firefighter at the age of 16. He has served the Longmeadow Company in the positions of Firefighter, Driver/Operator, Lieutenant, Assistant Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and became Chief of the Company in 2000. At Longmeadow he oversees the operations of the 40-volunteer company and supervises six part-time paid employees. He develops and administers budgets, conducts purchasing, and writes grants. He is Longmeadow's representative to the Washington County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

County Administrator Rod Shoop said the commissioners were impressed by Latimer's

future vision for fire and emergency services in the county, his understanding of all facets of the emergency services system, and his demonstrated leadership skills.

Salary for the position is \$68,000.

"We are looking forward to John becoming a member of the County Senior Staff and we are confident he will serve the citizens well as Director of the Division of Fire and Emergency Services," Shoop said.

Latimer has underscored the need to continue efforts to relocate the emergency operations to the proposed Elkhorn Parkway location, to continue development of the new radio communications system for fire, emergency and public safety, to move forward with the Emergency Medical Services Master Plan, to pursue Presidential Directive Five in training all fire and emergency services personnel in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) criteria, and, to take part in recommendations for improvement of fire and rescue services as new commercial and residential development occurs in the county.

"I am confident that my knowledge of the industry, leadership experience, and integrity qualify me to serve in this most important position. I am committed to giving 110% to the county and to passionately lead Fire and Emergency Services through the challenging times ahead."

A Hagerstown native, he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College.

Latimer and his wife Cassandra have one child and live in Hagerstown.



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School board considers buying defibrillators; approves contract to build Matapeake Middle

Konrad Surowiec
Staff Writer

547FB

CENTREVILLE - An emergency medical technician briefed the Queen Anne's County Board of Education on the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs), which the school board is considering buying for Kent Island and Queen Anne's County high schools.

An AED is an electronic device that applies an electric shock to restore a normal heartbeat to a person in sudden cardiac arrest. Chuck Welsh, a math teacher at Kent Island High School, explained how the device operates to school board members Nov. 2. Welsh is also an EMT with 20 years' experience and an emergency medical services volunteer with the Church Hill Volunteer Fire Company.

"As the board of education, you're going to look at this (device) and ask, is this going to help our student population? The answer is yes," said Welsh.

Welsh recommended school nurses, athletic trainers and coaches be trained to use an AED. He said the device would serve as an important backup in a medical emergency, such as if a student is severely injured in an athletic event. Welsh said it might take seven minutes for a volunteer ambulance crew to reach an emergency scene, and it might take three to five minutes for the Queen Anne's County EMS (the county's paid paramedics) to reach the scene. A person using an AED could provide the first stage of emergency treatment until EMTs and paramedics arrive, said Welsh.

School Board President Joan Hozik said board members are concerned about school staff being qualified to use the machines. School board member Mark Cascia asked if uniform procedures would be established for all schools to make sure the AEDs are calibrated and working properly. He also asked how often people are trained on using the machines.

Welsh said there should be a tier of people in each school trained to use an AED, starting with the school nurse. He suggested people be trained every six months. Welsh used a Philips HeartStart defibrillator in his demonstration. Three buttons on the device give voice instructions. The battery in the AED should be replaced every three years or every 50 times the device is used. Welsh said if the machine is mistakenly placed on a person who has a heartbeat, the machine won't deliver a shock.

Each AED can cost from \$1,200 on up, said Welsh. He said the county's health department and department of aging have AEDs. Cascia said he wanted to make sure proper procedures are in place if the school board decides to buy the AEDs. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Bernard Sadusky suggested school board members might want to see a "hands on" demonstration of the device.

"It's beneficial, and this county is getting bigger, and athletics (in the school system) is getting stronger," said Welsh.

Also on Nov. 2, the school board approved a \$24.7 million contract to build the Matapeake Middle School. Approval had been on hold because the Queen Anne's County Commissioners first had to approve additional funding for the project, which they did Oct. 11. The new school had an approved project budget of about \$22.5 million in county and state funds, but the revised cost has increased to \$28.3 million. No more state funding was available, so the school board asked for more county funds.

The school board voted to approve the base bid and eight alternative bids from Cam Construction for a total contract of \$24,733,200. The new building will have two schools: a middle school (6th, 7th and 8th grades) with a capacity for 400 students, and a 9th-grade school with a capacity for 400 students. The 9th-grade school will serve as an off-site annex to Kent Island High School.

The school board also voted to approve the \$98,500 bid from Top Construction Co. Inc. to replace part of the roof at the board of education's central office building in Centreville (the former Centreville High School).

BALTIMORE JEWISH TIMES

BALTIMORE, MD
WEEKLY 20,000
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Volunteer In Emergencies

The Maryland Defense Force-Baltimore County-Emergency Medical Volunteers is looking for medical, allied health and non-medical paraprofessionals to join their growing medical corps. Duly registered with the Office of the Surgeon General as a Medical Reserve Corps, this unit assists first responders during times of natural or man-made disasters. Medical and allied health professionals, as well as non-medical paraprofessionals, can assist. For more information call 410-704-4545.

BALTIMORE JEWISH TIMES

BALTIMORE, MD
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Capital Clipping Service

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Getting The Word Out

Student produces health care info brochure for Russian-only speakers.

Rochelle C. Eisenberg
Staff Report

Nineteen-year old Igor Kukelyansky felt there was a need to provide low-cost health care information to Northwest Baltimore County residents. Particularly to residents who spoke and read only Russian.

This University of Maryland, Baltimore County sophomore also had an idea as to the format that this should take. He just wasn't quite sure how to execute it.

Enter his orthodontist — Dr. Steven Siegel. A conversation one day at the gym between the two led to a suggestion

by Dr. Siegel to contact Del. Dan K. Morhaim, M.D. It was just the impetus to get the ball rolling.

What resulted was a collaboration between Del. Morhaim and Mr. Kukelyansky that produced a medical resources and awareness pamphlet in English and Russian. The pamphlet features a listing of services and hotlines that provide health care for free or at a reduced fee. It is available at a number of locations, including the volunteer fire stations in Owings Mills, Pikesville and Reisterstown, the Jewish Community Center, and stores such as Everfresh in Reisterstown.

Developing the pamphlet took

Read it in Russian: Igor Kukelyansky, pictured, teamed up with Del. Dr. Dan Morhaim on a pamphlet to explain to Russian immigrants their health care options.

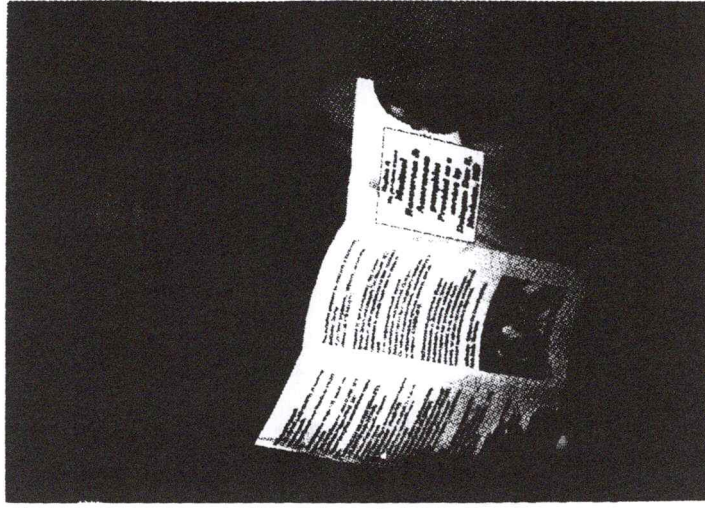
approximately three months, beginning in June 2005. After speaking with Dr. Siegel, Mr. Kukelyansky decided to take a look at Del. Morhaim's web site and read his forum.

"I liked what he had to say. Health care is not just medical, but is also global, social and political. Someone who doesn't have money to seek treatment only gets worse," he said.

Recognizing that they shared similar values, Mr. Kukelyansky e-mailed Del. Morhaim. "I told him I wanted to represent the underprivileged. I got a swift response."

Approximately 2-3 days later, Del. Morhaim contacted Mr. Kukelyansky and spoke about the project. "I liked the idea. It gives people access to health care services and it wasn't something already out there," said Del. Morhaim.

"There is a huge Russian population



and a lot don't know where to turn for health care," Mr. Kukelyansky added.

The two then met and began developing a list of private, government and non-profit health organizations that provided services. Then, Mr. Kukelyansky's charge was to determine if the programs were still in existence, as well as confirm phone numbers and addresses.

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see *Getting The Word Out* on page 34

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Getting The Word Out from page 33

After the list was fine-tuned and organized by sections, Mr. Kukelyansky designed the pamphlet on his computer. Although Mr. Kukelyansky can speak Russian, he cannot read or write it, so the information was sent to Sinai Hospital, where it was translated.

The next challenge for Mr. Kukelyansky was finding a printer who had the capabilities to set the type in Russian, which he accomplished with the assistance of Del. Morhaim's staff.

In keeping with his mission to use campaign funds towards public outreach, Del. Morhaim provided the money to help print the pamphlet.

"I always wanted to do something like this. I didn't think I could turn it into a reality. I didn't quite have the confidence," Mr. Kukelyansky said.

He credited Del. Morhaim for helping him translate an idea into a reality. "He was really practical and saved a lot of time and money," he added.

"I really appreciate when a young person has a lot of enthusiasm. It's important to encourage them," said Del. Morhaim.

"I've always been fascinated by medicine," said Mr. Kukelyansky, who graduated from Franklin High School in 2004. "I want to make a complete difference in someone's life, and I want a job that gives me a reason to get out of bed."

To that end, this ambitious young man became certified as an emergency medical technical through a course at UMBC. He currently volunteers as an EMT with the Owings Mills Volunteer Fire Company.

And Del. Morhaim's involvement with Mr. Kukelyansky has not stopped now that the pamphlet is complete. Recently, when Mr. Kukelyansky mentioned that he was interested in pursuing a career as a trauma surgeon, Del. Morhaim helped him get an internship at The University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center during January.

Also, during January, if he has time, Mr. Kukelyansky hopes to have the pamphlet translated into Spanish. He believes that this information provides a valuable service to the community.

"It might not be 1,000 (individuals), but if 5-10, just a handful, get treatment it is all worth it," he said. □

WJZ Baltimore, Maryland News Weather: Maryland Wire

Maryland Wire

Md. developing evacuating plans for hurricanes, terrorist attacks

Thursday November 17, 2005

By TOM STUCKEY

Associated Press Writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) Four years after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and three months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast state emergency officials are trying to figure out how to move hundreds of thousands of Marylanders out of harm's way in a hurry.

The plans are incomplete, John Droneburg, director of the Maryland Emergency Management Administration, told lawmakers Wednesday.

Local governments develop their own evacuation plans, Droneburg said, and the state is in various stages of putting together coordinated regional plans for the Eastern Shore, the Baltimore area and the national capital region that runs from Chesapeake County to Frederick County, members of the House Environmental Matters Committee were told.

The committee had asked for an update on state plans to handle catastrophic emergencies and whether Maryland would be subject to the degree of devastation experienced by the Gulf Coast.

The hurricane evacuation plan for the Eastern Shore is the most advanced, Droneburg said. State officials are wrapping up the second phase of a Washington, D.C. suburban evacuation plan, and the initial plan for the Baltimore area has been completed, he said.

Droneburg said 30 hours to 50 hours would be needed to evacuate Ocean City during peak vacation periods such as this weekend.

Delegate Joan Stern, D-Montgomery, asked Droneburg about possible flooding that could close the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

No flooding would be expected for a storm up to a Category 1 hurricane, but approach roads, especially on Kent Island, could flood with a more severe storm, Droneburg said.

Maryland has suffered substantial damage from winds and flooding from hurricanes that had been downgraded to tropical storms by the time they reached the state, but it has not been hit as hard as Atlantic Coast states to the south and the west.

Maryland is lucky that it doesn't have a huge population of people living below sea level, like in the New Orleans area, where that people do not have to travel so far to reach safe areas, Droneburg said.

He said the state did not give a lot of thought until after the terrorist attacks to developing plans to evacuate large numbers of people where there is no warning as there is with hurricanes.

Delegate Maggie McIntosh, chairwoman of the committee, said Baltimore officials told her about one-third of city residents more than 200,000 people, do not have cars and are dependent on public transportation.

``That's astounding to me," she said.

John Contestabile, director of engineering and procurement for the state Department of Transportation, said providing transportation for people without access to cars is part of evacuation plans.

Associations representing owners of school buses and charter buses approached the state about being part of an evacuation plan, and ``we met last week to discuss how they can help," he said.

Droneburg said the state is trying to learn from the problems that developed with evacuating huge numbers of people during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the terrorist attacks.

``We are in the process of constantly updating plans," he said.

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In the interest of timeliness, this story is fed directly from the Associated Press newswire and may contain occasional typographical errors.

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TheWBALChannel.com

November 17, 2005: Emergency Rooms

WBAL-TV Editorial Board

From the rural suburbia of Carroll County, to the bustle of Baltimore city, few hospitals seem to be immune from the problem of dangerously and potentially deadly long wait times in the emergency room.

To find out what's going on inside area hospitals, the I-Team analyzed 32 days of data provided by the Maryland institute for emergency medical service systems. This state agency tracks when hospital emergency rooms go on alert.

A yellow alert means the ER is overwhelmed with patients and is only accepting critical cases. Discovering that hospitals on alert anywhere from twenty two to forty one percent of the time, we asked, why?

State health officials will tell you the ER pile up is the consequence of a full, poorly managed hospital.

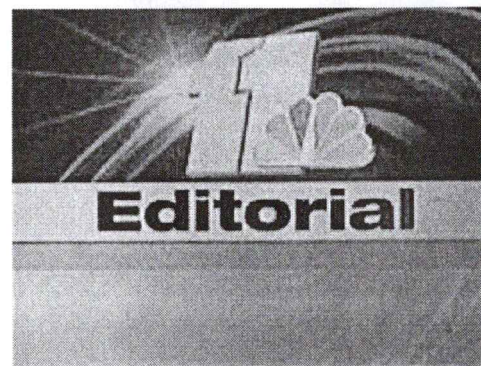
Others would argue the issues surrounding health insurance contribute to many using the ER as a doctor's office. With all of that in mind, the Maryland Hospital Association will, at the request of ER doctors, put together a statewide forum next year to explore solutions.

A forum is not the answer. Discussion is no longer necessary. The problem has been qualified and quantified. If the state legislature can take up the malpractice debate, the critical wait times in our ER's deserves action as well.

We would ask our delegates and senators to put their weight behind a problem that can no longer wait for action.

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Related To Story



 **Video: Editorial: Emergency Rooms**



Capital Clipping Service

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Responding when Dentsville calls

EMS squad enjoying its new quarters

BY NANCY BROMLEY
MCCONATY
STAFF WRITER

Volunteers with the Dentsville Emergency Medical Services and Auxiliary are celebrating their seventh year of serving the community — an accomplishment that was hard to imagine when the fledgling rescue squad was first established in 1998, according to the chief.

Last year, the squad moved into its new quarters on Charles Street near the intersection of Penns Hill Road and Wheatley Road in Dentsville — a significant improvement over their old "station" in a barn on the property or hanging out at Cooksey's Store when the unit was first established, said Chief Charlie Arcadipane.

"We operated out of a barn,"

he said, laughing. "There was no heat or restrooms."

The squad has come a long way in a short time. In the beginning, it was difficult to entice people to volunteer to run with the squad, but today Dentsville has 23 active emergency medical technicians, including two paramedics who are certified to perform advanced life support, and 10 drivers, the chief said.

New volunteers are always in demand, however, Arcadipane said.

"People come and go," he said. "Just because they want to volunteer with the emergency medical services doesn't necessarily mean they see it as a life-time commitment. We lose people almost as fast as we get them."

Dentsville volunteers had a chance to really sharpen their skills following the April 2002 tornado that struck La Plata. The squad was the second unit due to respond to the devastat-

How to help
To volunteer with Dentsville Emergency Medical Services and Auxiliary or to make a donation, call the rescue squad at 301-392-0050.

be a minor motor vehicle accident at Trinity Church Road and Charles Street. Volunteers were on the scene for about 25 minutes, but it took them almost two hours to enter the report into the system.

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians with Dentsville, Nanjemo and Ironides are the only stations in Charles County that do not have high-speed Internet access because their remote geographical locations prevent them from receiving it, the chief said.

"I'm going to make it my business to get it done this year one way or another," he said. "That's my biggest goal for this year, and it's going to take some effort."

Because the chief is often away from the area, Dentsville's assistant chief, Sherry Williams, has been called many times to stand in his stead. A chemist at the Naval Air Systems Command at Patuxent River in St. Mary's County, she has been a volunteer with emergency medical services for eight years



STAFF PHOTO BY GARY SMITH
Sherry Williams, assistant chief for the Dentsville Emergency Medical Services and Auxiliary, and her brother, Ed Williams, simulate responding to an emergency call with volunteer Greg Thompson, seated. The rescue squad, established in 1998 to fill a need in the Dentsville area for emergency medical services, responded to 605 calls last year.

and a paramedic for the last five years.

Williams' extraordinary dedication to Dentsville earned her the Chief's Award this year, Arcadipane said.

"She's done so much to help," he said. "She's a cut above everyone else."

Williams said she was surprised that she was selected for the award.

"We have a really good group of people, so I was very honored that he chose me," she said, adding that being a volunteer EMT and paramedic is very rewarding.

"I like to help people, and I often run across patients that I've worked with, and I know that I made a difference. It makes me feel good."

Dentsville is a small community and there are people who are chronically sick," she

E-mail: Nancy Bromley
McConaty at nmcconaty@somidnews.com

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND, MD
FRIDAY 30,396
NOV 18 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Garrett rescue squads short on manpower

JENNIFER RILEY

STAFF WRITER

57FB

NICHENRY — When responding to the scene of a vehicle accident or any other medical emergency, time is of the essence — it is a matter of life and death. That is why Garrett County rescue squads are highly concerned about their continual shortage of volunteers.

"The impact is that if there's not enough people to get the ambulance out, it delays the response to the patient," said Northern Garrett Rescue Squad member Lester Lewis.

The squad's volunteer shortage has worsened over the past 10 years due to the increasing number of two-income households, said Pat Bower, president of Northern

Garrett Rescue Squad.

"We don't have the available in the daytime we used to," she said.

Having volunteers available to cover daytime calls is a major problem, and times, the squad has had to rely on mutual aid from neighboring squads, it said.

SEE GARRETT

Garrett: Squads in need of volunteers

CONTINUED FROM 1B

the Frostburg and Morgan towns, said Bowser.

Southern Garrett Rescue Squad also has a volunteer shortage, said President David Moon.

"The biggest problem is just getting out on calls," said Moon.

Moon and Lewis said the problem is a combination of a lack of volunteers and a lack of volunteers who are available to respond to calls at certain times due to other commitments.

"It's a constant need for more people — we lose people all the time for various reasons," said Lewis, who became a volunteer after reading about the squad's

shortage in the Times-News.

"I've been a volunteer for 2 1/2 years, and I'm glad I did it," said Lewis. "I like helping the community — I get a lot of personal satisfaction knowing I helped save a life."

While the squads are experiencing a shortage of volunteers, they have seen an increase in the number of calls.

"Over the years, the number of calls constantly increases — it has to do with the population increase and the amount of tourism," said Bowser.

To ensure that people are available to respond to calls at all times, both squads are considering employing paid personnel.

"Both squads are trying to

figure out which way to go to get better care for the citizens of the county," said Moon.

"We hope to have someone in place by the first of the year," said Bowser.

To become a Southern Rescue Squad volunteer, fill out an application at the new station on state Route 135 in Mountain Lake Park. To become a Northern Rescue Squad volunteer, call the McHenry station at (301) 387-2545, the Grantsville station at (301) 895-5520 or the Friendsburg station at (301) 745-3577.

No prior training is necessary to become a volunteer. Training is provided to all at no charge to the volunteers, said Lewis.

Journal Staff can be reached at info@times-news.com.

CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND, MD
SUNDAY 32,563
NOV 20 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Maryland government establishes disease information Web site

STF-B

THE CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

CUMBERLAND — A new Web site is dedicated to providing information to Maryland citizens about the flu. Gov. Robert Ehrlich announced the Maryland Flu Preparedness site, <http://flu.maryland.gov>, which answers questions such as "What is hard flu and why should I worry about it? Is it different from regular flu? And why is the news full of references to a flu pandemic?"

"Newspapers, television, radio — they have all been covering the flu this fall," said Ehrlich. "This Web site represents a Maryland-based resource to ensure that the citizens of Maryland have day or night access to get their flu-related questions answered."

The Web site includes a list of frequently asked questions, information of where to get a flu shot, tips to help you stay

SEE MARYLAND — 23

Maryland: Health update offered online

CONTINUED FROM 1C

healthy, and links to the latest news and other helpful resources.

Dr. Michelle Gourdine, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene deputy secretary for public health services, is a prominent authority on

the site. She is overseeing Maryland's pandemic flu preparations and authored most of the 28-question FAQs that appears on the site.

This site is the result of months of collaboration among a cross-section of Maryland government.

DHMH, along with the

Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems have all contributed information to the initiative and will work together in updating the site as necessary.



Capital Clipping Service

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V2

Public schools have AEDs

By Pete Macinta 547FB
Daily Banner

CAMBRIDGE — Local and state emergency medical personnel gathered Tuesday at Mace's Lane Middle School to learn that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been placed in all Dorchester County Public Schools.

A prepared statement from Cambridge Emergency Medical Services (CEMS) said, "This was made possible through grant money from the Maryland Rural Access Grant and the Federal Homeland Security Grant. Dorchester County School System is only the second in the state to have placed AEDs in all public schools," it said.

"An AED is a small, portable,

"I can't tell you enough how meaningful it is to be able to come back home to Maryland and see what is being done in Dorchester County."

- Rachel Moyer

simple, automatic device that is capable of delivering a shock to the heart in order to restore normal heart activity. AEDs offer the best and often the only chance of survival in the event of sudden cardiac arrest," it said.

CEMS Public Relations and Education Coordinator Paramedic Ryan Killough said though AEDs had been placed Sept. 1 in Dorchester in areas selected by the Maryland Institute for Emer-

gency Medical Services System (MIEMSS), "It has been my goal for more than three years to insert placement in schools and offer students, staff and community members the best chance of survival in the event of sudden cardiac arrest."

He said 154 school staff members and adults have been trained in child CPR and AED use. "It is my hope that all school systems in Maryland, and in the

United States follow the lead of Dorchester County," he said.

He said there were a minimum of six staff members trained at each school. Some schools had 25 or more trained.

Mr. Killough said he has encouraged that someone who is trained always be present when school doors open.

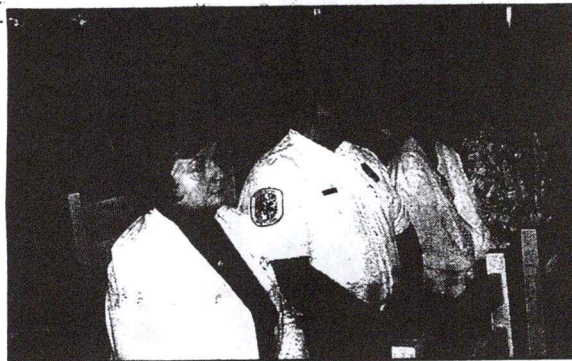
Some schools may eventually have more than one AED after other county needs are met.

About the general placement of AEDs, Dorchester County EMS Director Jason Shorter said, "It is a great partnership between the city of Cambridge and Dorchester County EMS."

He also outlined the following:

- More than 600 individuals have been trained in CPR and AED usage.
- There are 20 AEDs in businesses, eight in public buildings, and 12 in government buildings.
- 26 police vehicles have AEDs.
- Every police officer in Dorchester has been trained to use the device.
- Every fire department ambulance and paramedic unit has AEDs. Some other emergency vehicles have AEDs.
- There are more to come. "Through MIEMSS involvement, we've been awarded a new grant just recently to purchase additional AEDs," he said.

Superintendent of Dorchester
See Emergency Page 2



Daily Banner/Pete Macinta

It was announced Tuesday at Mace's Lane Middle School (MLMS) that Automated External Defibrillators have been placed in all county schools. Joining others for the announcement, from the left in front are Family Nurse Probationer Jackie Smith, Dorchester County EMS Director Jason Shorter, Manager of Emergency Services Cathy Weber and MLMS nurse Paula Hochheimer.

Emergency

Continued From Page 1

County Public Schools Dr. Fred Hildenbrand thanked Paramedic Killough for his persistence in placing AEDs in schools and training individuals. "I'm proud of the schools and staff at the schools who volunteered to be trained," he said.

MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass referred to cardiac arrest as a huge problem nationwide, but one which can be alleviated by the devices. "AEDs, themselves, don't save lives. It's the system. It's the people," he said.

"Not many jurisdictions are as progressive as you folks here," he said.

He said MIEMSS will continue assisting in locating grants to purchase AEDs.

Rachel Moyer, mother of Greg Moyer who died December 2000 in a Pennsylvania school because an AED was not immediately

available said, "I can't tell you enough how meaningful it is to be to come back home to Maryland and see what is being done in Dorchester County. You've already picked up that ball, that momentum, to say let the beat go on," she said.

She said an emergency room nurse at the hospital that attempted to revive Greg said her son may not have died if an AED had been available.

Since that time, the Moyers have made an effort to have AEDs placed in all public schools, and say a tombstone will not be erected at their son's grave site until there is an AED in every public school.

The full story of Greg Moyer, information on AEDs and their placement in schools systems may be acquired at www.gre-gaed.org.

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

Staff writer Pete Macinta can be reached at (410) 228-3132 ext. 15 or petemacinta@yahoo.com

CARROLL COUNTY TIMES

WESTMINSTER, MD
WEDNESDAY 24, 572
NOV 23 2005



Capital Clipping Service

101
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County may expand fallen worker credit

547F
By JOHN G. WESTERMAN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

An ordinance providing spouses of fallen rescue workers with a property tax credit could be extended to cover spouses of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

The county code now provides for a one-year, 50 percent property tax exemption to surviving spouses of rescue workers killed in the line of duty. In addition to including spouses of fallen police officers, the county wants to increase the credit amount to 100 percent and extend the lifespan of the credit to five years.

The law defines a fallen rescue worker as someone who dies while providing a fire, rescue or emergency medical service.

In July 2002, the Maryland General Assembly adopted a bill calling for all counties to provide a tax credit to the spouses of fallen rescue or emergency medical service workers killed while performing their duties. This bill

was introduced as a reaction to the Sept. 11, 2001, tragedies.

Several neighboring Maryland counties have already adopted similar tax credit ordinances to broaden the definition of their local laws to include police officers, said Carroll County Comptroller Robert M. Burk.

The change to the county ordinance would be consistent with what other counties are already doing, he said.

On Tuesday, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners gave permission for the proposed amendment to proceed to a public hearing scheduled for 10 a.m. Dec. 8.

The normal procedure following the public hearing is to leave the public record open for 10 days. After this period, the board will hold an open session for deliberation and possible adoption of the amendment, said Carroll County Attorney Kimberly Millender.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 13

police officers have been killed in the line of duty in Maryland in the past 10 years.

Burk said that since the ordinance was first adopted in 2002, 50 one has applied for

the tax credit.

Copies of the proposed amendment are available on the county's Web site (cogov.ernment.carroll.org) or by calling the Department of the County Attorney at 410-386-2030.

TIMES-RECORD

DENTON, MD
WEEKLY 4,900
NOV 23 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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PHOTO BY DOUG BISHOP

First CERT training graduates

Graduates from the first Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) class from the Mid-Shore area pose with their framed certificates, Nov. 18, in Centreville. From the left, kneeling, Susan Maxwell of Talbot County, Abigail Ricks of Caroline County, Becky Lasko of Queen Anne's County, Bette Lucas of Talbot, and Sarah Newcomb of Caroline. Standing, Brenda Miller of Caroline, Wayne Racz of Caroline, Laura Hill-McKinney of QAC, Martin Skinner of QAC, and EMS instructor Jason Stubbs of QAC. (Not pictured, graduates Angela Price and Terrance Meidinger, both from Caroline). Each of these local citizens put in 28 hours of personal time to receive training on how to organize and respond to help their communities in the event of a major natural disaster.

TIMES-RECORD

DENTON, MD
WEEKLY 4,900
NOV 23 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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From the left, Kevin Mowbray, Thomas Blades and William Collins were inducted into the Caroline County Volunteer Firemen's Association Hall of Fame.

Three firemen inducted into Hall of Fame

Three longtime Federalsburg firemen were honored Nov. 16 with induction into the Caroline County Volunteer Firemen's Association Hall of Fame.

Inducted were C. William Collins, Kevin D. Mowbray and Thomas P. Blades.

Collins joined the volunteer fire service on Dec. 5, 1950 and has been a retired member since March 4, 1982. He served as fire chief in 1962 and 1963 after spending six years working up through the assistant chief ranks.

He has also served on the Truck Committee and co-

chaired the Carnival Committee.

"Mr. Bill" became an active member in recent years and attends all meetings, fundraisers and is always willing to help.

Mowbray joined the volunteer fire service on Dec. 3, 1981 and is a life member. He has always been an active member on the Fire and EMS side of the company.

He is one of the founding members of the Caroline County Advance Life Support unit and is a CRT EMT and certified firefighter. He currently serves as president of

the Federalsburg Volunteer Fire Company.

Blades has been a member of the fire company since June 1980 and is a life member. He has been president of the Caroline County Firemen's Association the past two years and is a past vice president of the Federalsburg company. He is also a founding member of the Caroline County Advance Life Support. He is now the ambulance driver for the department.

In addition to his work with the fire department, he has close to 40 years experience in law enforcement.

DAILY BANNER

CAMBRIDGE, MD
THURSDAY 6,750
NOV 24 2005

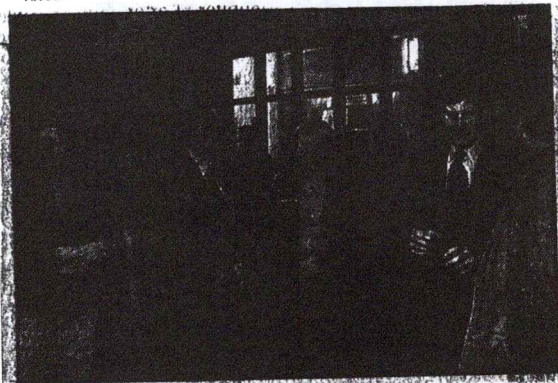


Capital Clipping Service

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Daily Banner/Pete MacIntosh

Relaxing conversation *SHF*

Participants of Tuesday's press conference regarding the placement of Automated External Defibrillators held at Mace's Lane Middle School took time to chat while waiting for TV reporters to arrive for interviews. From the left in front are Gail Collins of Cambridge Emergency Medical Services, Superintendent of Dorchester County Public Schools Dr. Fred Hildenbrand, Rachel Moyer, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System Executive Director Dr. Robert Bass, and Cambridge Mayor Cleveland Rippons.

LAUREL LEADER

LAUREL, MD
WEEKLY 30,000
NOV 24 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Education briefs

Pallotti High School

► Two Pallotti High School students took part in a mock disaster drill on Nov. 19.

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services Department conducted the drill at Bowie BaySox Stadium. The scenario involved a tornado slamming into a fan-filled BaySox Stadium. Sixty "victims" sustained injuries and were trapped underneath debris while 120 "rescuers" responded and evacuated the injured out of the disaster area for treatment.

Two of the injured "victims" were Jenna Brady and Sarah Moyer, both 16 and juniors at Pallotti High. Their fake injuries were facial lacerations and impaled glass in their hands and legs.



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Heart Association changes CPR guidelines

DALLAS, Texas (AP) -- Updating the way everyday people do CPR, new recommendations urge many more chest compressions for victims of cardiac arrest.

The revised guidelines issued Monday by the American Heart Association on cardiopulmonary resuscitation advise giving 30 chest compressions -- instead of 15 -- for every two rescue breaths.

The guidelines also recommend that emergency personnel cool cardiac arrest patients for 12 to 24 hours to about 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Two significant studies have shown that such cooling results in improved survival and brain function for those who are comatose after initial resuscitation.

More than 300,000 Americans die each year of cardiac arrest, when the heart suddenly stops beating. The heart association estimates that more than 95 percent of cardiac arrest victims die before they get to the hospital.

Studies show that the chest compressions create more blood flow through the heart to the rest of the body, buying time until a defibrillator can be used or the heart can pump blood on its own. Studies have also shown that blood circulation increases with each chest compression and must be built back up after an interruption, the association says in its online journal *Circulation*.

"Since the 2000 guidelines, research has strengthened our emphasis on effective CPR as a critically important step in helping save lives," said Dr. Robert Hickey, chair of the American Heart Association's emergency cardiovascular care programs.

According to the heart association, about 75 percent to 80 percent of all cardiac arrests outside a hospital happen at home, and effective CPR can double a victim's chance of survival.

Sudden cardiac arrest can occur after a heart attack or as a result of electrocution or near-drowning. It's most often caused by an abnormal heart rhythm. The person experiencing it collapses, is unresponsive to gentle shaking and stops normal breathing.

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Find this article at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/11/28/cpr.guidelines.ap/index.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

CALVERT RECORDER

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD
WEDNESDAY 10,000
NOV 30 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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Letters to the editor

A special thank you to emergency teams

My family experienced a nightmare Tuesday, Nov. 22, and I wanted to share the experience.

My daughter, Tara, was babysitting my 2-year-old granddaughter Alaina at my home in Huntingtown. At 1:50 p.m. Tara called me at work, Goel Services in Landover, hysterical — Alaina was missing. I told her to call the police immediately. I got the white pages to find my neighbors. I got hold of two of my neighbors, the Rockefellers and the Darbys, and they went immediately to the house. I was en route from Landover, with my boss Dorcas Goel. My husband jumped out of the barber chair (halfway done) and was en route. The 40 minute drive was the longest ever. I was hoping the police were there to take a report to help. I was calling Tara every few minutes to see if she had been found. Not yet.

We were five miles out and we noticed a helicopter in the distance. I thought "no way." Arriving at my house, I found the street was blocked off with a police car. As we entered the street, both sides were lined with emergency vehicles (the first one I saw besides the police cars was an ambulance, scaring me further). My house backs to a huge duck pond and the thought of Alaina out there was terrible.

As we pulled up to the house we were informed not to go on the property because the "dogs" were already out and our search would be distracting. We were finally allowed in and try to console my daughter Tara. There were about 50 police officers and firefighters already there. As helicopter cruised from the sky and the dogs were searching — we were frantic. They then called in scuba divers to start searching the pond. Civilian volunteers were ready to set up the search. My daughter Melissa said people at her work at K. Hovanian Homes were planning to come. The "Amber" alert was sent via recording to Huntingtown residents.

By around 3:30 p.m. my granddaughter was found safe and sound — my son, her father, had come home early from work and had taken her with him — a big misunderstanding.

Very special thanks to the Calvert County Sheriff's Office, the Maryland State Police and the Huntingtown Volunteer Fire Department, and neighbors and friends that were ready to help. I still can't believe the response that we had and in the time that all this was accomplished. I have a renewed confidence in the Calvert County emergency groups and know they are on the ball and ready to go at a moments notice. I am totally impressed by their knowledge and truly appreciate everything they did.

I knew Calvert County was a great place to live but I never realized how special it is. Instead of calling it "Calvert County" we should call it "Calvert Family."

Alaina Campbell and the Campbell family, Huntingtown

CALVERT INDEPENDENT

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD
WEEKLY 10,000
NOV 30 2005



Capital Clipping Service

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MEDIC OF THE MONTH

Danielle Dunn has been Calvert paramedic since 2001

By NIKKI G. LENHARR
Contributing Writer

Having to dial 911 can be one of the scariest experiences of a lifetime, so many things can be running through your head.

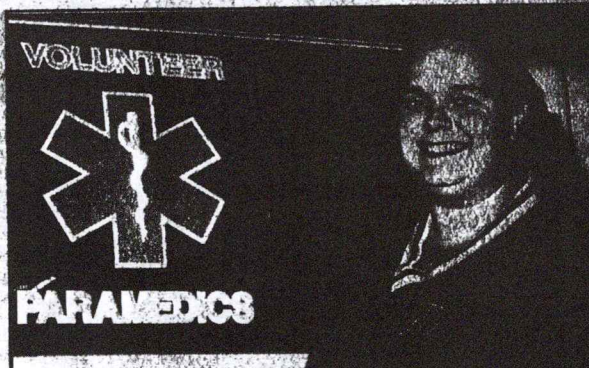
Calvert Advanced Life Support would like to alleviate some of this anxiety by presenting the "Meet your Medics" column. Here you will be able to get to know a little bit about the highly trained volunteer that may respond to your emergency. This month you will meet Danielle Dunn, emergency medical technician-paramedic.

Dunn has been a paramedic since June 2001 but her history with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) runs deep. Dunn joined her local fire department at the age of 16 to follow in the footsteps of her uncle and grandfather. She enrolled in classes and became an Emergency Medical Technician-basic. While she enjoyed her experiences with this level of training, Danielle longed to help people on a higher level. Dunn attended the University of Maryland Baltimore County where she received a bachelors of science degree in emergency health services and her advanced life support (ALS) training.

Currently, Dunn is working on her masters of science in emergency health services and will be received a post-baccalaureate certificate in web-based instruction. Danielle has held various positions within Calvert Advanced Life Support, including deputy chief of training.

"When I was given the opportunity to handle training by Chief Sharon Eskins, I jumped at the offer and have enjoyed all that I have been able to do," Dunn said.

During her days Dunn works for Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, the state



COURTESY PHOTO

Danielle Dunn

EMS agency, as the Region V associate administrator. Her job is to facilitate and support the EMS operations for Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Montgomery and Prince George's counties. She also helps to plan and coordinate various EMS educational conferences offered in Region V.

Dunn was recently deployed to Jefferson Parish, LA in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She was a member of a five-person management team sent by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Her role was as the health and medical liaison and she was responsible for ensuring the field teams had all of the pharmaceutical and medical supplies they needed to fulfill the operation's mission. According to Dunn, "It was the experience of a lifetime, being there certainly changed my outlook on life."

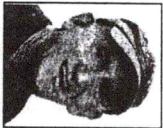
In her free time, Dunn likes to spend time with her husband, Mike, her dogs, Haley and Blazer, and the rest of her family. When asked why she wanted to become a paramedic she replied, "There is nothing more satisfying than the smile on someone's face when you make them feel better and are there for them in their darkest hour."

RECREATION

Don't run off without proper ID

The following is for runners, joggers, walkers, bikers, hikers or for that matter anyone.

I have discovered the way to get an instant name change without the red tape. But as you may have guessed, there are some asterisks and there is some fine print. You don't get a choice. You get either John or Jane Doe and you must have met with some kind of happening that requires the need of medical help or being transported to a hospital. If that happens and you carry no identification, you become a Doe, John or Jane. That's all there is to it.



RUNNING

By Joe Shafian

I am being told that in general these days, when the EMTs are called for a medical emergency, and if the person they are called for can't respond, nor can anyone identify or speak for the person, the medics will not go through pockets for a needed ID or medical information. If it isn't readily visible, they will tend to the person, load them into the ambulance or put them on a helicopter and assign the name John or Jane Doe. And the reason I'm making mention of it is that I am also being told that runners or joggers are the worst offenders, according to some area fire departments that operate the ambulances.

Just for the heck of it, I decided to do an ID poll of my own while doing a run the other morning at Quiet Waters Park just outside Annapolis, which in retrospect is one of the stupidest things I've ever attempted. As best I could, I asked three runners and seven walkers if they carried any ID. Apprehensive as some of them were, they would think about the question, shake their head no or mutter they didn't have any ID. Some just ignored me. One person held up a set of keys that had one of those grocery store tags on it, no doubt suggesting it was an ID. All 10 looked at me as if I were the pervert they've heard about lurking in the woods. Accordingly, after the first 10 prospects, I ended the polling and got the heck out of there expecting the cops at any minute. It was obvious that people get into their



Emergency medical personnel suggest all runners include an identification tag in their wardrobe.

However, in my research, I did hear about a local runner with no known existing condition, who a few years ago dropped dead of a heart attack while out running alone, with no ID. When he didn't arrive back home in a reasonable time, the family became concerned and spent more than seven frantic hours trying to locate him, and finally did. One of the hospitals suggested that someone in the family come identify a John Doe. True story, I'm told. Make it a must. Carry a very visible, large ID with medical information. One of the emergency officials I talked with said that the little ID pouch some runners wear in their shoe laces is no good. They can't use precious seconds unlacing the shoe or trying to dig out the little tag inside. And they don't have much to say for those commercial or medical wrist monitors that are coming into use. The bands don't have enough space on them to provide significant information and they didn't think the GPS indicator is designed as an ID.

On a more cheerful note, let's talk about those seasonal holiday races. One is the annual Thanksgiving Morning run and walk at Camp Letts. There were the non-holiday runs yesterday at

A runner since high school, he did the Jingle Bell and said he will run races in every Maryland County. He's run marathons, but for campaign purposes, runs 5Ks, which I see he does in about 28 minutes.

With many local runners in the military in far flung places around the world, we're seeing more and more "remote" races as was noted in a recent *Capital* story of people running the Marine Marathon at their duty station in Iraq. It seems the only secure place there was the perimeter of the Baghdad airport.

And in the previous column, I made mention of a "companion" run by the military in Africa, along with the Annapolis Strider's Cold Turkey 10K in memory of Karl Fisher at South River High School, Sunday, Nov. 20. I'm finding out that a lot of people here and overseas put in many hours to make this a success including two energetic Striders, Penny Goldstein and Donna Cogle. There was mention that in Africa, one might be running in competition with hyenas and camels.

Seems that on Kent Island, they don't wait for state or federal funding for certain things. When Homeland Security ordered that another emergency warning siren be put up, some people organized a race and raised nearly \$2500 toward the cost. It was called the first annual Turkey Trot 10K, and held in Stevensville, Nov. 5 on the Cross Country Trail. The results show a 2-year-old coming in at 52:09, not bad for being pushed in a stroller by a mother and two others. Mary Ann Meltriko was race chair, assisted by Lori Parks, Vice President of the United Communities Volunteer Fire Department.

RESULTS

Turkey Trot 10K, Stevensville, Kent Island, Sat. Nov. 5 (first ten finishers): 1. Brad Smith, Stevensville, 48:03. 2. John Smith, 49:03. 3. Kelly Smith, 50:40. 4. Julie Pearson, 52:08. 5. Laura Hoffman, 52:09. 6. Liam Hoffman, 52:09. 7. Sheila Rugger, 52:09. 8. John Smith, 52:09. 9. Kellera Cornell, 56:02. 10. Leo Dunn, 45, Stevensville, 58:24.

Calendar

Dec. 11: Annapolis, 10 a.m. Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis Strider's 27th Anniversary 15K. No. 8 in the Champion Series. See the Strider web site, annapolisstriders.org for details.

Running results and items of interest can be mailed to Joe Shafian at The Capital, P.O. Box 911, Annapolis MD 21404, faxed to 410-280-5953 or e-mailed to jshafian@capitalgazette.com. Joe is a member of

Howard County Community Readiness Week

CERN Helping Prepare Community for Disaster

By Adam Sachs

As Howard County police, paramedics, firefighters and health officials held a large-scale training exercise based on a simulated terrorist toxic chemical threat at a county motel last month, law enforcement personnel 15 miles away were closing Baltimore's tunnels to guard against potential terrorist activity — for real.

"It was quite eerie," said Richard Krieg, chairman of Howard County's Community Emergency Response Network (CERN), a coalition of front-line emergency responders, community organizations and citizen volunteers whose goal is to prepare the county for a terrorist event or natural disaster, such as a hurricane, ice storm or tornado. "We got word about the tunnels in the middle of the simulation."

The terrorist simulation took place during Howard County's Community Readiness Week, which was held Oct. 16-22. It entailed

a series of workshops, initiative launches and training exercises designed to heighten the awareness of families, businesses, county institutions and organizations of the need to develop an emergency response plan.

Joining Forces

The event was spearheaded by Howard County government, the Howard County Chamber of Commerce and The Horizon Foundation, which coordinates and oversees CERN.

The week included the formation of Howard County's Medical Reserve Corps, a group of physicians, nurses and other health care professionals who can mobilize quickly in an emergency to meet the community's health needs if Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) reaches surge capacity in treating victims of a disaster.

The Howard County Emergency Operations Center also launched a test of its new Community Notification System, making automated

telephone calls to county residents with a recorded message advising them of the new system. The test represented the first countywide activation of the new communication tool, which is designed to alert residents in a timely manner during an emergency situation.

In addition, Community Readiness Week

featured a neighbor-to-neighbor workshop intended to motivate families and neighborhoods to develop their own emergency plans; the debut of Ready Eddie, a yellow flashlight mascot who appeared at an elementary school to inspire children to be prepared and relay the message to their parents; the unveiling of a kiosk at two county libraries to educate residents about emergency preparedness through an interactive computer program and literature; and a course in Volunteer Mobilization Center operations.

Chain of Events

The week kicked off with two Howard County business leaders — Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Pamela Klahr and Economic Development Authority CEO Dick Story — emphasizing the importance of county businesses developing an emergency plan and protecting vital business records to ensure their survival and take care of their employees.

County Executive Jim Robey echoed their concerns, noting that Howard County is located in a "target-rich environment" for terrorist activity. "Business owners have a responsibility beyond the bottom line of the business to protect the company, its employees and their families," he said.

Speakers noted that many businesses in the Gulf Coast region were doomed by Hurricane Katrina because they lacked adequate emergency plans, protection for databases and records and methods for contacting employees after the disaster.

"Too little, too late are the parents of disaster," Howard County Fire & Rescue Services Chief Joseph Herr told an audience of about 100 government, health care and business leaders at the Community Readiness Week kickoff. "This week is about fire and rescue coming together with the business

community and county government to say we don't want to be in a position where we're doing too little, too late."

Robey delivered a similar message to individuals and households as he sent to businesses: "County, state and federal government can't do it all," he said. "Each family has a responsibility to be prepared in its own right."

It took the bombing of New York's World Trade Center to spur the creation of CERN and the movement toward government and institutional readiness and individual and business responsibility. In the aftermath of 9/11, The Horizon Foundation's board of directors concluded that terrorism posed a threat to the health and wellness of Howard County residents. Horizon officials met with front-line responders, such as police and firefighters, and nonprofit human services organizations, with CERN emerging from those deliberations.

CERN now includes 60 members from various organizations, divided into committees focusing on emergency readiness, school system preparedness, volunteers, education and training, strategic planning and communications. The organization has received an award from the National Association of Counties for its well-coordinated mobilization efforts and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Personal Responsibility

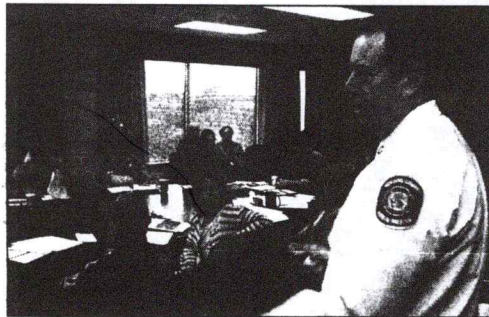
In addition to ensuring business survival in the event of natural disaster or terrorist attack, CERN aims to educate Howard County residents about what they must do to "shelter in place," or survive on their own for three to five days while emergency responders are inundated with directives.

"Many people have taken steps to sheltering in place," said Krieg, The Horizon Foundation's CEO and president. "Other groups seem inclined to do something, but haven't yet. Our job is to challenge people to have the facts and determine what would be a reasonable response."

Concerning the business community, Krieg expressed satisfaction in the response to CERN's efforts. "I thought it would be a tough nut to crack, but chamber of commerce



CERN Chairman Richard M. Krieg helped unveil the new Information Kiosk at the Glenwood Branch Library as part of Community Readiness Week activities. The kiosk contains information about sheltering in place and other emergency procedures.



Fire & Rescue Services Chief Joseph Herr briefs participants of the county's emergency training exercise.

[President] Pam Klahr stepped up to the plate," he said. "Businesses are more aware but CERN wants to make more headway with businesses so they'll have the ability to conduct business in the aftermath of a disaster and do well by their employees."

Perhaps the most significant event of Community Readiness Week was the establishment of Howard County's Medical Reserve Corps, part of a national program that developed out of President Bush's 2002 State of the Union Address urging Americans volunteer to support their country. Corps members are provided credentials, affiliations, training and identification in advance so they can be mobilized quickly and without confusion during a chaotic time.

"We are proud that the committed and caring members of our medical staff have joined in this effort to care for Howard County residents both in the hospital and the community setting in the event of a disaster," said Vic Broccolino, president at CEO of HCGH.

For more information on CERN, visit www.cern.us.