



# Community Update



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JULY, 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Memorandum of Understanding signed— See Page 2*
- *Child Seat Safety Schedule—See Page 7*
- *Ambulance Billing Information — See Page 10*
- *Many fun upcoming events. Check out the last page!*

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## BOCC Receives Patriot Award



On Thursday, May 24, 2012, Division of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) Firefighter Kelly Lemmons, who serves in the Army National Guard, and Ron Pitts, a representative of The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program, presented the Patriot Award to the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners and several key DFRS staff members in recognition of their support of our citizen soldiers who sacrifice so much in defense of our freedoms.

The Patriot Award was designed to recognize employers who maintain employment policies and practices that are supportive of their employees' participation in the National Guard and Reserve. During the ceremony, Board of County Commissioners' President Blaine Young noted that Frederick County Maryland has a rich history of members in the community who have and who continue to serve our

country, and further stated that there are many employees of county government who serve in the National Guard and Reserve. Like the citizens of our county, the county government, as their employer, stands behind their service to our country and is very proud of every county employee who wears the uniform of our military services, both past and present.

Mr. Ron Pitts, a representative of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program, presented the awards on behalf of the Department of Defense. Under program guidelines, employer recognition and awards originate from nominations by individual Reserve component members. Mr. Pitts noted that only 5% of employers nationwide receive this prestigious award, and he thanked the Board of County Commissioners for providing county policies and support, that allow county employees to

continue to serve their country when needed.

Other recipients of the Patriot Award were: The Division of Fire & Rescue Services (DFRS) Director Thomas Owens, Bureau Chief Douglas Brown, Battalion Chief Michael Marchesani, Lieutenant John Neary, Lieutenant Jeremy Wade and Personnel Analyst Molly Staus.

Firefighter Kelly Lemmons has served with the Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services since July 2007. He is currently assigned to the Green Valley Fire Station on C-Shift. He is an E-5 Sergeant in the Army National Guard, has served in active combat duty and is a purple heart recipient.

The Division of Fire and Rescue Services extends its deep appreciation to Sergeant Lemmons, and to all members of the Division who serve as members of our military.



Standing L to R are: Commissioner David P. Gray, Commissioner C. Paul Smith, ESGR Rep. Ron Pitts, Commissioner Kirby Delauter, Sergeant Kelly Lemmons, Commissioner Blaine R. Young, Commissioner Billy Shreve, Personnel Analyst Molly Staus, Lt. Jeremy Wade, Union President John Neary, and DFRS Director Thomas W. Owens.



## IAFF Local 3666 Signs Two-Year MOU

On May 14, 2012, Frederick County Board of County Commissioners and IAFF Local 3666 Union President John Neary signed a two-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the County and the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County. Negotiations began in December 2011, between representatives from the county and Local 3666 and continued through mid-April 2012. As a result of these talks, an agreement was reached that provided benefits to both parties.

Some of the changes to the MOU due to take effect July 1, 2012, include: implementation of a separate pay scale for uniformed employees, adjustments to the advanced life support incentive pay system, adjustments to the post-employment health savings account, and reassignment of Fire Technician to a classified position status. The agreement will remain in effect for two years.

Local 3666 thanks everyone who was involved in any way with this process!

For more information, go to: [www.iafflocal3666.org](http://www.iafflocal3666.org).



County Commissioner Blaine Young and IAFF Local 3666 Union President John Neary sign Memorandum of Understanding between Frederick County and the Career Firefighters Association of Frederick County.



## DFRS Receives Teddy Bear Donation



Having a family emergency can be traumatic for children, and our Emergency Medical Technicians regularly use stuffed animals to help ease a child's fear during such situations, or during transport.

On May 4, 2012, the employees of Frederick Life Technologies, Frederick, Maryland, held their first annual "Global Volunteer Day." Volunteers donated, dressed and named a variety of teddy bears and stuffed animals, and the Division of Fire &

Rescue Services was selected to receive over 80 of those donations. The bears were then dispersed to the various fire stations throughout the county.

DFRS would like to thank Frederick Life Technologies for their generosity, and we commend them for their community-minded endeavors.



Shown L to R in photo: DFRS Firefighter Steve Boley; Frederick Technologies Representative Tasha Williams-Wright, and Volunteer Administrative Assistant Rhonda Cunningham

# Local Fire & Rescue Volunteers Elected to Serve

Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service is very proud to have Frederick County represented at the state level. Sharon E. "Sherry" Soper of the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company Ladies Auxiliary was elected the 2012-2013 President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Maryland State Firemen's Association (LAMSFA), and David Keller, III, of the Citizens Truck Company was elected the Second Vice President of the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

Congratulations to both, Sherry and Dave, as they serve in their new roles. We know that they will make the citizens of Frederick County very proud.



Sharon E. Soper  
2012-2013  
President  
Ladies Auxiliary  
to  
Maryland State  
Firemen's  
Association



David Keller, III  
2012-2013  
Second VP  
of  
Maryland State  
Firemen's  
Association



[www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org)

## Are You Interested in Becoming a Volunteer?

The men and women who volunteer with Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service are very special people! They provide firefighting and emergency medical services throughout the communities in Frederick County, MD, and many also serve as auxiliary

members or in administrative roles within the twenty-six volunteer Fire and Rescue Stations in the county.

If you have that something special, and would like to join one of our volunteer Fire and Rescue Departments, please contact us today!

Visit us on the web at [www.frederickcountymd.gov/dfrs](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/dfrs)

## “In the Streets” Campaign Successful



The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Service has a long standing commitment to the community it serves. Today, this commitment is carried on by many members in the fire and EMS service, through both its career and its volunteer sides.

Last year, the members of the Citizens Truck Company made a decision to go into the streets of Frederick in order to improve the company’s visibility within the community. This approach provided them with an opportunity to not only interact with the public in a more informal setting, but to educate people on the role of today’s fire and EMS service. The effort was met with great success. Members of the

downtown business community were delighted to have the truck and its crew as part of their first Saturday “In The Streets” celebration.

This endeavor was supported by the combined efforts of many people outside of the truck house, and it was accomplished through the combined efforts of members and units from both the United Fire Company, Company 31. Fire

resulted in the public receiving first-hand, applicable safety information from Frederick County fire and EMS personnel. Some of these outreach efforts included information on the County’s smoke detector program and Child Safety Seat Program, and various emergency medical service programs. Fire and EMS members educated adults on safety while their children were entertained by fire apparatus on display.

“In The Streets” provided a wonderful opportunity for Fire and Rescue Services to inform and educate the community at large on the services available to them.



Prevention materials for the venue were provided by the Fire Prevention Chairperson, Sherry Soper. Together, they all engaged the community with numerous educational displays that demonstrated the “Together In Service” initiative currently in practice.

The successful outcome of the “In The Streets” campaign





# In Case You Were Wondering . . .

## What is a Rescue Company?

The fire and rescue service operates several types of tactical “companies” that perform specific functions during emergency incidents. The primary companies include: Engine Companies, Ladder or Truck Companies, Rescue Companies, and Ambulance Companies. This article will focus on explaining the Rescue Company, and we will highlight the other companies in future issues.

The Rescue Company is one of the specialized tactical companies in the fire and rescue service. The vehicle operating as a Rescue Company is a heavy-duty vehicle that has very large storage compartments that are used to carry a wide variety of fire, EMS, and rescue equipment not normally carried on the basic engine and ladder trucks. The Rescue Company vehicle is often referred to as a rolling tool box because of the large inventory of specialized tools and equipment it carries as part of its standard equipment inventory. Rescue Companies perform a wide variety of special service duties and carry a great deal of specialized equipment.

Rescue Companies are responsible for the aggressive search of a building to locate and remove trapped

occupants during a fire emergency. They perform forcible entry into secure properties to carry out their searches so that Engine Companies



can gain access to the fire. In fires involving multi-story buildings, Rescue Crews have a primary duty of reaching and searching the floor directly above the fire. This is the area that presents the greatest risk to the life of a trapped occupant.

Rescue Company crews also ventilate the building to remove smoke and heat, open walls and ceilings to locate hidden fire, and they take control of the utilities in the building, such as gas and electric to remove any hazard.

Rescue Companies are also dispatched to a variety of emergencies that require specialized rescue equipment. These include vehicles crashes where people are trapped in their vehicles and require extrication, industrial accidents, construction accidents, agricultural accidents, water rescue incidents, building collapses and cave-in emergencies, and other types of incidents that may require specialized tools, equipment, and personnel trained in specific rescue techniques.

A Rescue Company is staffed by a *minimum* of three personnel that includes a Driver/Operator, a Company Officer, and at least one Firefighter. Personnel who are certified as Rescue Technicians are also trained as Emergency Medical Technicians. A Rescue Company can and will also respond to a medical emergency if it is the closest unit available.



# It's Carnival Time!

Everybody loves a carnival, and many area Fire Stations/Ruritan Clubs are sponsoring them this year. Here is the remaining carnival schedule.



JULY 2 – JULY 7  
WALKERSVILLE VFC  
79 West Frederick Street  
Walkersville, MD 21793

JULY 23 – JULY 28  
JEFFERSON RURITAN  
Jefferson Volunteer F&R  
4603-A Lander Road  
Jefferson, MD 21755

JULY 9 – JULY 14  
GUARDIAN HOSE CO.  
Carnival Grounds  
123 East Main Street  
Thurmont, MD 21788

JULY 28 – AUG 4  
LIBERTYTOWN VFD  
12027 South Street  
Libertytown, MD 21762

JULY 9 – JULY 14  
MIDDLETOWN VFC  
Carnival Grounds  
400 Firemen's Lane  
Middletown, MD 21769

AUGUST 13 – 18  
ROCKY RIDGE VFC  
Mount Tabor Park  
13518 Motters Station Road  
Rocky Ridge, MD 21778

JULY 16 – JULY 21  
URBANA VOL. FIRE/RESCUE  
3602 Urbana Pike  
Frederick, MD 21704



# “Keep Kids Safe” Child Safety Seat Program

The Safety Seat Checkpoint schedule for 2012 is as follows:

Date	Time	Place	Address
Sunday, August 12, 2012	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Guardian Hose Company Station 10	21 N. Church Street Thurmont, MD 21788
Friday, September 14, 2012	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Costco - Frederick	10 Monocacy Blvd. Frederick, MD 21704
Sunday, November 11, 2012	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Spring Ridge Fire Station Station 33	6061 Spring Ridge Pky. Frederick, MD 21701

Please contact the DFRS Child Safety Seat Hotline at 301-600-SEAT (301-600-7328) to schedule an appointment, obtain information for upcoming community child safety seat checkpoints, or to request to speak to a Child Safety Seat Technician.



## Free Smoke Alarms

The Frederick County Fire and Rescue Service has one of the most aggressive smoke alarm campaigns in the state of Maryland.

As you watch the evening news, you will often see stories of firefighters doing door-to-door checks and installations of smoke alarms in homes after a tragic fire has occurred.

The Smoke Alarm program in Frederick County is a pro-active campaign that is designed to ensure that our citizens have working smoke alarms before a fire occurs.

County career and volunteer firefighters in all of our communities are canvassing neighborhoods to provide voluntary inspections of smoke alarms, and to install smoke alarms for those in need.

If you are a Frederick County citizen and need to have a new smoke alarm installed, or if you want to have an existing smoke alarm(s) inspected or tested, just call 301-600-7275, or email us at:

[smokealarm@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:smokealarm@frederickcountymd.gov)



# Fireworks Safety

If you wish to report someone setting off fireworks in your neighborhood, please call the Non-Emergency phone number at Emergency Communications:  
**301-600-1603.**

Every 4th of July scores of people are injured by fireworks. We want to remind you that, in Frederick County, only gold label sparklers, novelty items, and ground-based sparklers are legal.

As you know, it is illegal to discharge fireworks or to possess, with the intent to discharge, any firework that explodes, rises into the air, moves across the ground, or shoots projectiles into the air.

Illegal devices include, but are not limited to: firecrackers, roman candles, pop bottle rockets, as well as other consumer and commercial shell devices.

Fireworks are meant to be enjoyed, but you'll appreciate them more knowing that your family is safe. Public fireworks displays are the most suitable and the safest way to view them.

This 4th of July, Fire Marshals from the County and the State Fire Marshal's Office will be out

handling complaints within the communities. Keep in mind that civil penalties of \$500 for each firework can be imposed.

If you wish to report someone setting off fireworks in your neighborhood, please call the Non-Emergency phone number at Emergency Communications: **301-600-1603.**

There will be several public fireworks displays taking place throughout Frederick County. Check the Fire & Rescue website at:

[www.frederickcountymd.gov/FM](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/FM)

and select the link for "Maryland Public Fireworks Displays—2011" to see a listing of dates, times, and locations in the area.



# Grilling Safety Tips



Remember . . . never leave your grill unattended!!!

Keep your family AND your home safe this summer with these simple, common-sense grilling tips:

- Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only.
- Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- NEVER leave your grill unattended.

**Remember:** If you live in an apartment or condominium-style building, grilling must be done at least 15 feet from any portion of the building. Grilling on balconies is illegal; storing your grill on your balcony is also illegal.

# Summer Heat Safety Tips



June marks the beginning of summer, and with it the beginning of hot and humid weather.

The Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services would like to take a moment to remind our citizens about the potential dangers the summer sun and heat can bring. Between 1979-2003, over 8,000

deaths occurred in the United States due to heat exposure — that's more than all the combined natural disasters occurring during that time period .

## What Can You Do To Be Safe?

**Keep an eye on weather forecasts** — If planning to spend extended periods of time outside, be sure you check the weather forecast for the day to know what to expect. Dress appropriately and provide for hydration before heading outdoors.

**Look Out for the Elderly** — Keep elderly family members and neighbors in mind. Ensure that they have access to a suitable environment. The Center for Disease Control recommends checking on elderly family and friends twice a day during summer months.

**Stay Hydrated** — Start hydrating even before going outside, and continue to drink lots of water even if you feel like you are not sweating a lot.

**Do Not Leave Children or Pets in a Parked Car** — Avoid this even for a short period of time. Temperatures inside a vehicle can easily exceed 150° F, which is a fatal environment.

**Avoid Peak Heat Hours** — During the hottest hours of the day, stay inside. If possible stay inside an air-conditioned building. The hottest hours of the day are typically from mid-morning to mid-afternoon.

**Wear Sunscreen** — Be sure to apply sunscreen before going outside, and reapply sunscreen when outside for extended periods of time.

**Recognize the Signs of Early Heat Exhaustion** — Clammy Skin, loss of skin color, excessive sweating, a tired overestimated look on someone's face, dry mouth, and headache are all early signs of heat exhaustion. If you suspect someone is experiencing a heat-related medical emergency, Call 911 and move the person to a cooler environment, if possible.

The Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services and the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association hope you and your family have a safe Summer!

## Swimming Pool Safety

Drowning and near drowning can be prevented, . . . and you can help! Anyone involved with the supervision of children must be aware of the dangers associated with any body of water. Below are some useful tips to prevent these needless tragedies:

- Teach your children how to swim, and learn how to swim yourself. Learn CPR
- Know where your children are at all times. If you leave the pool area, take the children with you.
- Do not allow children to play around the pool and store all toys outside the pool area.
- Never allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source, and never allow a child to swim alone.
- Have life-saving devices near the pool, such as a pole/hook, or flotation device.
- Keep large objects such as tables, chairs, toys, and ladders away from pool fences.
- Post the 9-1-1 number on the phone.
- Always have a "designated child watcher."
- Never swim when thunder or lightning is present and never dive into unfamiliar or shallow bodies of water.
- Use pool covers when the pool is not in use.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

July 2012

- 2 -7 Walkersville Carnival
- 9-14 Guardian Hose Co. Carnival
- 9-14 Middletown VFC Carnival
- 16-21 Urbana Volunteer F&R Carnival
- 14 Bingo Bash – Emmitsburg Ambulance
- 22 Bingo – United Steam Engine
- 23-28 Jefferson Volunteer F&R Carnival
- 28 Fried Chicken Dinner—New Market VFC
- 28- 4 Libertytown VFD Carnival

August 2012

- 4 Sportsmen’s Drawing — Emmitsburg Ambulance
- 4 Cornhole Tournament — Middletown VFD
- 10 Golf Tournament — Jefferson VFD
- 11 Gun Raffle – Jefferson VFD
- 11 MD Crab & Shrimp Feed – Thurmont Ambulance
- 13-18 Rocky Ridge VFC Carnival
- 25 Fried Chicken Dinner—New Market VFC

**Walkersville VFC ~ Bingo held every Thursday except during Carnival and Thanksgiving weeks!**

**AMBULANCE TRANSPORT INSURANCE PROGRAM**

The ambulance Subscription Club Program is a supplemental funding plan designed to relieve patients and their family members from costs associated with an ambulance transport that is not covered by insurance. It is available to all citizens of Frederick County.

Types of Memberships & Rates

<b>Senior Citizen</b>	
(per person aged 60+)	\$15.00/yr
<b>Individual (Including Disabled)</b>	\$25.00/yr
<b>Household (three or more)</b>	\$50.00/yr

**\*\*\*JOIN TODAY AND SAVE!\*\*\***

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301-600-1308 or 301-600-1644 or go to:

[www.frederickcountymd.gov/subclub](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/subclub)



**FIRE & RESCUE COMMUNITY UPDATE**

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Produced by the Frederick County Division of Fire & Rescue Services

Chief Thomas W. Owens, Director

Caryl J. Wenger Contributing Editor/ Publisher

5370 Public Safety Place  
Frederick, MD 21704  
Phone: 301-600-1536  
Fax: 301-600-2592

Email: [cwenger@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:cwenger@frederickcountymd.gov)

We're on the Web:  
[www.frederickcountymd.gov/dfrs](http://www.frederickcountymd.gov/dfrs)