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THE BULLETIN

Official monthly publication of the
Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

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Dennis R Mallery, Editor

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Inside this Issue:

- **MIEMSS, MFRI Report to MFRETC**
- **Garrett County Association Awards Honors**
- **Notes from Association Meeting at Luke**
- **Accident Lists Tanker For Sale**
- **Check Out the Multiple Activities From Around The Area**

Upcoming Meetings

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Dec. 6-7: Pocomoke City VFD

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Association

Nov. 2: Cresaptown VFD

Allegany-Garrett Co. Vol. Fire & Rescue Assoc. L.A.

November 9: Barton Hose

Garrett County Association

November 19: Kitzmiller

Mike Walters Fellowship of Christian Firefighters

Nov. 1: District 16 VFD

MIEMSS, MFRI Submit Reports to MFRETC

The following reports were presented to the MD Fire-Rescue Education & Training Commission during their September 17th meeting.



MIEMSS submitted the following report:
Update to Maryland

EMS Providers on Ebola

Outbreak: Recent press reports regarding the outbreak of Ebola in Africa, and the transfer of two infected American's to a hospital in Atlanta have raised public awareness of this illness. Although the possibility of other infected persons coming into the U.S. is very low, the CDC advises that healthcare providers consider Ebola in the differential diagnosis of febrile illness, with compatible symptoms, in any person with recent (within 21 days) travel history in one of the affected countries. Ebola is typically spread to humans through direct contact with bodily fluids from a person infected with the disease. First Responders should use universal precautions, including contact and droplet precautions, while treating and transporting patients with suspicious symptoms. Fit tested N95 masks and eye protection should be used on patients with severe pulmonary involvement, who undergo procedures which stimulate coughing or promote the gen-

eration of aerosols, or who have nausea and vomiting. Please review the CDC information on the current Ebola outbreak which can be found at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola

Flu Shots: All emergency services providers are encouraged to get their flu shots as soon as possible.

Ambulance Strike Teams:

Current plans include formation of regionalized ambulance strike teams composed of five ambulances, a strike team leader, and a MIEMSS field operations staff member. Once in place, the strike teams will be placed on a rotating call list. There will be at least one strike team 'on call' for every month. The strike teams will be composed of ambulances and staff from EMSOP's and commercial staff.

Each MIEMSS Region is currently working to solicit resources from their jurisdiction to form these strike teams. Currently, multiple jurisdictions have expressed interest and already have formed some of the strike teams. MIEMSS has provided strike team leader training and is working to develop and implement statewide training for all members of the ambulance strike teams.

Electronic Maryland EMS Data System (eMEDS):

eMEDS implementation continue statewide, both public

safety and commercial services. Prince George's County migrated to eMEDS in January. MIEMSS continues efforts to import legacy data from other electronic Patient Care Reports (ePCRs) vendors into the new Maryland system. MIEMSS is currently working with several jurisdictions and hospitals to begin a completely paperless EMS to Emergency Department documentation transition via the Hospital Dashboard. Numerous CAD Integrations have been completed. Stroke, Trauma, Burn and Pediatric specialty coordinators have also been granted access to eMEDS for immediate record retrieval. Additionally, MIEMSS continues to further develop eMEDS to accommodate protocol changes, and input from users statewide.

eMEDS Support Phone Number: (410) 706-3669-MIEMSS has set up a dedicated phone line for eMEDS support. This will simplify provider access for help with the eMEDS system when needed. Email messages may also be sent to eMEDS-Support@miemss.org
National Registry Testing for EMR and EMT Initial Certification: Beginning with courses that start in Fall 2014, MIEMSS will be utilizing the National Registry of Emer-

(Continued on page 4)

Charlene Stone Honored As Auxiliary Person of the Year



During the Autumn Glory Festival, held in Oakland, Charlene Stone was honored as Garrett County's Auxiliary Person of the Year. Following is Charlene's letter of nomination as submitted by Deep Creek VFD Ladies Auxiliary President Carrie Hook on behalf of the Auxiliary:

"The Deep Creek Volunteer Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary members would request that you consider this formal nomination for 2014 Auxiliary Person of the Year. We are pleased to nominate Mrs. Charlene Stone. She has been a member of this Auxiliary since 1993. During this time she has shown sincere efforts to support the fire department in multiple ways.

Charlene was given an award for outstanding achievement among our members at our 2013 awards ceremony for volunteering for the majority of the auxiliary functions. She has shown great commitment to her volunteer efforts over the past 21 years. These include, but are not limited to:

Fundraising efforts, such as supporting the fire company's primary fundraisers by preparing and serving food, and offering hands on support with paperwork (ie: cash bash, crab

feast, auction, golf tournament, etc.) As well as, the auxiliaries fundraisers (selling raffle tickets, working the rotary booths, spaghetti dinners, pancake/buckwheat cake dinners, BINGO, and many more). Charlene currently serves as a representative/liaison from the Ladies Auxiliary for the Fire Company's Fund Drive committee for the new building fund.

Charlene is the primary contact for all hall rentals. She maintains the rental schedule, collects money, coordinates rental agreements, and locks/unlocks the hall for each rental.

Charlene is also the primary member for regularly cleaning the hall.

Charlene has assisted with hosting bi-county banquets in past years.

Charlene is the wife of the late, Harry Stone. Her husband was an avid member of many safety committees across the state. She shared that he would attend local, county, state, and international meeting to support and enhance public safety. She made efforts to support him by travelling and driving him to many of these meetings. When applicable she would represent the Deep Creek Ladies Auxiliary at such functions. They also, regularly attended the firemen's conventions in Ocean City, MD. Charlene continuously, shows willingness to help out and volunteer anytime there is a need. She is constantly trying to figure out additional ways that the auxiliary can support the fire company. Thank you for your time and consideration of this nomination. We join you in celebrating Charlene's volunteer efforts, as well as, countless others throughout the county."

(Photo courtesy DCVFD LA)

Richard Carlson Named Firefighter of the Year



Accident Chief Richard Carlson was named Garrett County's Firefighter of the Year during the Autumn Glory Festival recently. Below is his letter of nomination from Assistant Chief Paul Custer on behalf of the members of the Accident Volunteer Fire Department: "It is with great pride, admiration, and honor that the Accident Volunteer Fire Department members submit the name of Chief Richard Carlson as our nomination for the Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association's Firefighter of the Year Award.

Richard joined the Accident Volunteer Fire Department on February 20, 1981. He has served the department faithfully over the past 33 years. Richard has served as Chief of the department for the past twelve years. Richard has proven himself to be a dedicated and organized individual as he leads our operation department as Chief. In addition to being Chief, Richard serves on numerous committees such

as: building, truck, standing, fundraising, and the annual 4th of July Homecoming Celebration.

Richard began as most firefighters do, taking basic fire classes, progressing through the intermediate and finally the advance training. Richard is currently a National Certified Firefighter III, a Rescue Specialist, Incident Commander, and an Emergency Medical Responder. Richard has served the department as treasurer, captain, second assistant chief, assistant chief, and currently chief, a position which he has held since 2002. Normal responsibilities of a chief include control and management of a scene and insuring that officers and members are completing their respective duties. In the twelve years that Richard has worn the chief helmet, he has gone above his normal responsibilities. Richard has been on numerous committees, he attends most surrounding communities' parades or events on behalf of our department, routinely checks all equipment and the fire department building. It is typical to see Richard's vehicle at the fire hall putting fire reports into the computer, cleaning apparatus, and he ensures that everything is in order.

In the past years, the members of the Accident Volunteer Fire Department have attempted, unsuccessfully, to respond to more fire/rescue calls than Richard. Richard has been the top responder for several years, always making at least 90% of the calls. Richard has always attended a majority of the department meetings and all fundraising events that are held by the fire department. He also attends the Garrett County Chief's meetings that are held bi-monthly to represent the department. Richard was selected to serve on the Emergency Services

(Continued on page 5)

Association Gathers At Luke, Changes Announced for Fire Prevention Pageant



The October meeting of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association's Executive Committee was

held at the Luke Town Hall with President Clarence Broadwater presiding. Chaplain Pete Walbert offered the invocation followed by a brief memorial service to honor those who passed away since the September meeting. Roll call showed 21 departments (41%) in attendance with Bittinger, Bloomington, Clarysville, Corriganville, Deep Creek, Deer Park, Ellerslie Ambulance, Frostburg Ambulance, Gorman, Grantsville, Kitzmiller, Oakland, Orleans, Rawlings, Southern Garrett Rescue and Tri Towns EMS not represented. Past Presidents attending included Bob Knippenburg, Jim Decker, Ron Grabenstein, Pete Walbert, Aaron Winters, Dennis Bonner, Gerard McGann, Rod Bowser, David Kyle, Pat Bowser, Michael Simmons, Tim Dayton, Clarence Broadwater, Dennis Mallery and Barbara Knippenburg. Guests in attendance were Pam Kyle, FCFV Vice-president; Shelby Simmons, Miss Fire Prevention; Dwayne Kitis, MIEMSS; Mary Carr, AGCVFRA LA Past President; Dick DeVore, Director-Allegany Co. Emergency Services; Leslie Cassady, AGCVFRA LA; Bill Valentine, Allegany County Commissioner; and John Herath, Allegany Co. EMS Chief. Pat Bowser, **Volunteer Com-**



pany Assistance Fund, reported the next meeting of the committee will be November 16 at

Laurel. Several applications are coming in now.



Dwayne Kitis, **MIEMSS**, noted that the 2014 Protocol Update and the 'Break It To Me Gently' program should have been completed by all EMS providers by June 30th. Those who have not completed them can do so by going to emsonlinetraining.org and selecting the appropriate update for your level certification and also the Break It To Me Gently program. All companies should have received the 50/50 Matching AED Grant information. Applications were due October 13th. Ambulance inspections were done in Garrett County on September 29th and Allegany County inspections were done October 1st. Next years inspections will be done by MIEMSS and Garrett County's will be done October 6, 2015, Allegany County units on October 7, 2015 and Allegany County BLS/First Responder units on October 8th. The Region I EMS Council will be meeting on October 16th at the Eastern Garrett VFRD. The Miltenberger Emergency Services Seminar will be held at the Wisp on April 10-11, 2015. Todd Dyche, **MFRI**, submit-



ted his report and was read by Secretary Rod Bowser. The EMT Refresher course at Garrett College was cancelled. There were 24 pre-registered for class; however, only 10 showed up for class. Classes coming up include EMR Refresher at Garrett College with one pre-registered as of meeting day; EMT Refresher at the WMRTC with one pre-registered and EMT Skills at the WMRTC with five pre-registered. The Online EMT Refresher (12 hours) will be available starting December 1st. The Online Emergency Vehicle Operators program will be available December 15th.

The Maryland Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be held February 14-15, 2015. Information and applications are available under 'Seminars' at mfri.org as well as in upcoming bulk mailings. Spring course request forms have been mailed out to all Region I fire and EMS organizations. Completed forms should be returned no later than November 7th.



Mary Carr, **Fellowship of Christian Firefighters**, reported on the October meeting held at GoodWill VFC. President John Shockey of the host company welcomed the members to GoodWill. Pam Kyle read a poem about titled 'When Autumn Spreads Its Banner.' Chaplain

Pete Walbert offered the invocation and Blessing of the meal. Following the meal, Chaplain Walbert offered a Prayer for Joys and Concerns followed by the reading of 23rd Psalm in memory of those who had passed away since the last gathering. The Sunshine Committee reported sending two get well and one sympathy card. It was also noted the April Prayer Breakfast will be cancelled due to the LAMSFA Spring Conference being held that date in Jarrettsville. The next Breakfast meeting will be held at District 16 on November 1st when the Pearce Damewood Chapter from PG County will be visiting. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. that morning.



Dick DeVore, **Allegany Co. Emergency Services**, noted there is a new reporting form for 508 Funds required by the State now. Transactions should includes the invoice, copy of the cancelled check and bank statements showing where each check cleared the account. This year, departments will receive \$8,000.00. There are still four (4) departments that have not returned their accounting questionnaires to the accounting firm. Departments still outstanding are being asked to submit their forms as soon as possible so a report can be made to the Commissioners. The Association is also being reviewed on October 14th.

(Continued on page 5)

MIEMSS, MFRI Submit Reports to MD Fire-Rescue Education & Training Commission (cont)

gency Medical Technician (NREMT) for the cognitive or didactic portion of the State certification process for EMR and EMT candidates. This change only effects candidates for initial certification not current Maryland providers. Candidates that enter the Maryland EMS system at the BLS level with NREMT are not required to keep their NREMT certification in order to maintain their Maryland EMR or EMT certification. Nor are current providers required to obtain NREMT. The current 12 hour refresher for EMR and 24 hour refresher for EMT requirements stay in place for provider renewals at the BLS level. The candidate for EMT certification will continue to take the current practical evaluation process through the MIEMSS office for initial certification. Directions will be provided through the teaching agencies to students on how to register for the NREMR exam.

Statewide Active Assailant Incident Workgroup: At the request of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, MIEMSS and the Maryland State Police (MSP) convened an interdisciplinary work group to investigate current literature on these type of incidents, suggest general guidelines for response, make suggestions to ensure adequate levels of protection, develop consistent learning objectives to guide response training across the State, and identify gaps and resources to address those deficiencies. The workgroup has completed a draft document, *Guidance to First Responders for the Active Assailant Incident*. It was prepared by The

Governor's Office of Homeland Security., The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, The Maryland Department of the State Police, and members of the Maryland Active Assailant Work Group. The document was placed on the MIEMSS web site and comments were sent in regarding the finished product. The group has reviewed the comments and the final document should be released shortly.

Public Access AED Program: Currently there are a total of 4,967 AED Program sites in Maryland. A list of approved programs and their status (active or expired) is updated monthly and available on the MIEMSS website at www.miemss.org. AED information, including application information, is located in the public information tab under 'Maryland Public Access Automated External Defibrillator'. Facilities whose certificates have expired are not in compliance with Maryland's AED law. Revisions to COMAR 30.06 became effective January 7, 2013. MIEMSS has posted the updated information on the MIEMSS webpage that outlines the changes which are intended to make it easier for organizations to implement public access AED programs. A key point of clarification in the revisions is that AEDs should be placed in locations where they are clearly visible to anyone who is willing to use the AED, regardless of whether the individual has received training or not, recognizing trained individuals may not always be available to respond before

EMS arrives. Labels or signage on AEDs that read 'For use by trained personnel only' must be removed.

MIEMSS has contracted with Atrus, Inc. to establish a web-based registration process that will provide automated notifications regarding battery and electrode expirations, program renewals, and AED recalls. The program would also allow for the connection to an application called 'AED Link' that would allow interested jurisdictions to see all the PAD locations within their jurisdiction without having to manually enter the AED addresses into the CAD. The new program development is progressing and will hopefully be nearing completion soon, at which time MIEMSS will transition the paper-based registration process to the web-based registration process. Seven Counties have passed ordinances requiring all pools except those at private residences to have an AED. MIEMSS is aware of the following counties passing a requirement for AEDs: Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, Harford County, Montgomery County, and Queen Anne's County. The county pools are regulated and inspected for compliance by the local health departments. Additionally, a state law was passed that requires any county or municipally owned or operated pools within Maryland to have an AED. All of these pools with AEDs must also meet the requirement for public access AEDs in COMAR 30.06. Steve Edwards, MFRI Director, submitted the following report that is a synopsis of significant



events that have occurred within the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute.

MFRI 2015 Strategic Plan:

In the year 2015, the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute will celebrate its 85th year of providing fire, rescue and EMS training within Maryland and beyond. Our success has been based on the contributions of many individuals and organizations over these years. Our gratitude and thanks are extended to all who have been dedicated and have worked hard to make our training and educational system for emergency responders a program of which we can all be proud. Organizations in order to remain relevant have to change and provide a new direction as time moves forward. Organizations who do not change and adapt at some point fail. MFRI has had success and I think we do a good job of planning and most importantly, listen to our students and instructors. However, it is now time to establish a new strategic direction that will drive our programs and services for the next decade. Beginning in July of 2014, MFRI will endeavor to create a new vision for emergency services training, titled the 'MFRI 2025 Strategic Plan'. This plan will consist of the following major components:

- Internal and external evaluation of MFRI
- Determine organizational strengths and weaknesses
- Input from students, instructors, and organizations
- Conceptual plan that will

(Continued on page 5)

MFRI Reports (cont)

provide improved focus and a new direction

Many of the existing MFRI practices and policies will remain, but we must examine them in the context of the future and continue those that are the most effective. Our goal is to have a conceptual plan at the strategic level that is concise and to the point. I have no interest in creating a huge planning document that will just set on the shelf.

Key to the success of this planning effort will be your input and advice as we move forward with this strategic planning process. There will be ample opportunity to provide your thoughts and recommendations, so please take full advantage of that. I expect that this plan will be developed with extensive input from students, instructors, and organizations from throughout the State. The goal is to have a blueprint to determine how we move forward as an organization and most importantly, in which direction we move forward. The major focus will be on student success and instructor excellence. Your cooperation and input during this planning process will be greatly appreciated.

Carlson Named Firefighter of the Year

Board in which he has served for two years.

Richard is a lifetime resident of Garrett County and is currently serving his fourteenth term as Mayor of the Town of Accident. He is employed at Spectro Energy, at the Accident Pumping Station. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Accident and attend St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

As members of the Accident Volunteer Fire Department, the firefighter of the year should set an example for the fire department and the community. We feel that this person should be able to pull new members in and make them feel welcome while teaching the new recruits firefighter tactics.

The firefighter of the year, in our eyes, is someone who selflessly gives to his department countless hours and responds to calls for help at all times. We wholeheartedly feel that Chief Richard Carlson is a perfect example of what a volunteer firefighter of the year and community servant should be. It is an honor for the Accident Volunteer Fire Department to submit the name of Richard Carlson for this prestigious award.

(Photo courtesy Accident VFD)

Association Meets, Insurance Questionnaires Past Due!!

John Herath, Allegany County EMS, reported only one ambulance did not pass the ambulance inspection. The County-wide failed response rate remains over 6%. There are changes being made to the eMEDS form. Vital signs are now mandatory for all patients. Reports will now be locked after 48 hours and can only be unlocked by John or your company administrator. It is **imperative** that reports are completed within 24 hours of a call. Priority I and II patient cMED forms are to be completed and left at the hospital prior to returning to your station. Make sure to mark your report 'done' once you've completed your report. If you fail to mark it, it can be entered into and information can be altered.



Pat Bowser, **Fire Prevention & Education**, reported on the September meeting held

at the Bowling Green VFD. It was decided to not set up at the Mall this year; however, the Committee will be holding a raffle with the drawing date of March 22nd at which time a dinner is tentatively scheduled to be held with the Miss Fire Prevention pageant being held following dinner provided there are candidates for the Miss or Jr. Miss program. The raffle is for a large screen television and tickets will be sent to all departments and auxiliaries to buy or sell! The dinner program

will be attended by those who wish to support the program. It will provide a quieter forum for the pageant and a more favorable learning experience for the candidates. Dave Kyle, **Ways & Means**, handed out 50/50 Raffle tickets to each department to buy or sell with the drawing to be held at the December 7th meeting at Orleans.



John Shuhart, **Insurance**, reported since the last meeting, he made a Relief Fund payment for

Charles Riley, Bloomington. No word has been heard from Deep Creek regarding their membership in the Relief Fund. The questionnaires for the accident insurance were mailed out to each company during September. Most companies have responded; however, the following have *not* replied (as of meeting day) Bittinger, Bloomington, Bowman's Addition; Clarysville, Deep Creek, Luke, Mt. Savage, Northern Garrett, and Oakland.

John questioned Clarysville's status as a department. They've been out of service; for three months now, their liquor license was pulled which closed their bar. They have liquidated all their assets. The Air Truck was donated to another department and the remainder of their equipment is being housed at Frostburg. They had to vacate their station immediately, so basically they no longer ex-

(Continued on page 6)

EMS Leadership Program

especially designed for EMS Officers and leaders of all levels

November 14-15, 2014

Maryland Fire & Rescue Headquarters

4500 Paint Branch Parkway
College Park, MD 20742

Registration must be made online at als@mfri.org
For more information: (301) 226-9900 or 800-ASK-MFRI

Association Gathers

ist-so do they need insurance coverage?
 Mary Carr noted the Past President's Joint Christmas Party is being held on Saturday, December 20th at District 16 VFD. In place of a jingle, each person wishing to participate is asked to make a \$10 donation which will be sent to the Bessie Marshall Fund. A brown bag auction will be held. All Past Presidents are invited to attend as well as the current officers and Miss and Jr. Miss Fire Prevention ambassadors. Reservations should be called to Betty Grabenstein, (301) 724-3493, no later than December 10th.
 Gary Carpenter, president of Baltimore Pike VFC, noted they held their open house on Saturday, October 4th. It was noted they are well on their way to recovery!
 Barb Knippenburg reported she is still waiting on the smoke alarm reports from Bowman's Addition and Cresaptown from their distribution.
 The next meeting of the Garrett County Association will be held November 19th beginning at 7:30 pm at Kitzmiller VFD.

***** Accident Tanker For Sale *****



FOR SALE: The Accident VFD has their 1961 Tanker, shown above, for sale. Unit's still in service. Hose and ladders not included in the sale. For more information or to place a bid on the unit, contact the Department at accidentvfd@verizon.net

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

The Oldtown VFD has two 10 ft sections of 4.5" hard suction and two 10 ft sections of 2.5" hard suction free for the taking. For more information, contact Chief Ken Wolford at (301) 707-8600.

**Don't Forget!!
 Remind your family, friends and neighbors to change the batteries in their smoke alarms!**



Allegheny County Departments

County EMS Chief John Herath is attempting to determine the number of flu vaccine doses he'll need for the upcoming flu season. If your Department has not contacted him with a number of your members wishing to receive the vaccine, do so asap!

Upcoming Training

- EMR Refresher**
 Dec. 5th Garrett College
 1830 hrs Fri/Sat/Sun
- EMT Refresher**
 Dec. 6th WMRTC
 0830 hrs Sat/Sun
- EMT Skills**
 Dec. 20th WMRTC
 0830 hrs Sa/Su
- EMS Leadership Symposium**
 Nov. 14-15 MFRI HQ
- Fire-Rescue Organizational Guidance (FROG)**
 Dec. 12-14 Frederick Co. Public Safety Trg Academy
- MD Weekend at National Fire Academy**
 Feb. 14-15
 For up-to-date schedules, check courses at www.mfri.org

Cresaptown VFD's 3rd Annual HOLIDAY BASH

Saturday, November 15
 3:00 - 8:00 pm
 Doors open 1:00 pm
 Allegany County Fairgrounds
 Early Bird Drawings (Must be present)
 2:00 - 2:50 pm,
 Tickets: \$25/person for a chance at 27 prizes
 Grand Prize: \$1,000
 Only 500 tickets on sale
 Contact any member to purchase yours now!

Corriganville VFC Pie & Pumpkin Roll Sale

\$9.00 each
 Orders due
 Delivered Nov. 24th
Meringue:
 Chocolate, Coconut and Lemon
 Apple, Dutch Apple, Sugar Free Apple, Blackberry, Wild Blueberry, Razzleberry, Cherry, Peach, Raisin, Pumpkin, Harvest Berry and Pumpkin Rolls.
 Contact any member to place your orders. All proceeds benefit our new truck fund.



IN MEMORY

Audrey Brenneman, Bittinger VFD Auxiliary

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

(Isaiah 41:10)

<p>*** FREE ***</p> <p>Dry Cleaning & Shirt Salon 1313 National Hghwy LaVale, MD 21502 (or any of their branches)</p> <p>Offering Free Dry Cleaning of Class A Uniforms or Uniform Shirts</p>	<p>Oldtown VFD Auxiliary</p> <p>Turkey Dinner November 9th 12:00 pm until sold out</p> <p>Carry outs available</p> <p>Soup & Roll Sale November 14th Potato & Chicken Noodle \$5.00 quart Rolls-\$3.00/pan</p> <p>Orders due Monday, Nov. 10 May place orders with any member or call (301) 759-2917</p> <p>Coming Soon....</p> <p>Tickets to District 16 & Oldtown VFD Cash Bash Saturday, March 14th</p>	<p>Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>Good Will Fire Company First Friday of each month 4pm-6pm</p> <p>Fireman's Armory in Lonaconing</p> 	<p>Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.</p> <p>Spaghetti Dinners</p> <p>2nd Saturday each month 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Adults: \$7.00 Children: \$3.50</p> <p>Turkey Dinners</p> <p>4th Sunday of: March April September</p> 
<p>Bedford Road VFD AYCE Spaghetti Dinner</p> <p>Thursday, December 4th 4:00 - 7:00 pm</p> <p>\$7.00/person</p> <p>Spaghetti-Roll-Salad</p> <p>Eat in or Carry Out</p> <p>*Soda and desserts available for extra charge.</p>	<p>Send Us Your Information!!</p>	<p><i>The Bulletin</i> is the official newsletter of the Allegany-Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association who's business address is P.O. Box 252 Barton, MD 21521-0252. Information for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to the Editor at P.O. Box 142 Oldtown, MD 21555-0142 or emailed to drm21555@yahoo.com</p>	

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

According to the National Fire Protection Association, each year, nearly 4,000 fires in the United States occur on Thanksgiving Day!!

The fires have caused 15 fatalities, about 50 injuries, and nearly \$27 million in property damage every year. A majority of these incidents involved cooking, particularly deep fryers.

According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, more than 78 people have been injured since 1998 using deep fryers to cook turkeys with a majority of these incidents involving frozen or partially frozen turkeys.

Below are some safety tips for cooking this Thanksgiving:

- Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors, a safe distance from buildings and any other material that can burn.
- Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.
- Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never leave the fryer unattended. Most units do not have thermostat controls. If you don't watch the fryer carefully, the oil will continue to heat until it catches fire. Use a cooking thermometer.
- Never let children or pets near the fryer when in use. Even after use, never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer. The oil inside the cooking pot can remain dangerously hot for hours after use.
- To avoid oil spillover, do not overfill the fryer.
- Use well-insulated potholders or oven mitts when touching pot or lid handles. Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades. Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire or even an explosion hazard.
- The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and allow approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Remember to use your best judgment when attempting to fight a fire. If the fire is manageable, use an all-purpose fire extinguisher. If the fire increases, get away and immediately call 9-1-1 for help.

