There has been much discussion over the state of our economic times lately and one question in particular keeps coming up which I feel needs some addressing. To paraphrase it goes something like this: *If the budget is so bad then why does the County (Department) keep wasting money on “fancy new toys” instead of paying for people’s salaries?* While this may be a mystery to most the answer is quite simple. 89% of the Department’s budget is committed to paying salaries, overtime and benefits. The other 11% of the budget goes to operational necessities like medical supplies, equipment repairs, vehicle maintenance and so on. The Department is very fortunate to have been awarded some very generous homeland security grants which allow us to purchase essential equipment, apparatus, services and supplies which we would not otherwise be able to afford out of our normal operating budget.

Homeland Security Grants are very specific in dictating what we can ask for and purchase. All items purchased have to be pre-approved by the State prior to acquisition and accounted for each year after receiving it. With the exception of a couple of “new” positions related to emergency planning, Homeland Security Grants may not be used to supplement salaries and or overtime associated with non-WMD related training. Grant funding cannot be commingled with our funds in the operating budget and are kept in separate accounts which are audited annually.

In addition to Homeland Security Grant Funds our Department seeks additional funding from alternate grant sources to provide essential safety items, PPE and new medical equipment which keep us operating safely and at the vanguard of delivering emergency medical care.

In summation to address the concerns that have been brought to my attention about using grant funds to cover salaries, the answer is NO; we just simply cannot do that. I do assure you that we are constantly looking at ways to maintain operations as efficiently as possible and will do everything we can to keep service standards and staffing at the current level or higher. If anyone knows of or has knowledge of grant programs that cover salaries please feel free to let me know; we would love to apply for that funding. Be safe!
The rain followed by the warm weather has got my lawn looking like a jungle. As I got my mower out to get it ready for the season, I thought it would be appropriate to talk about power mowers.

The power lawn mower is one of the most dangerous tools around the home. Each year, approximately 68,000 persons with injuries caused by power mowers are treated in emergency departments. More than 9,000 of the people hurt are younger than 18 years. Older children and adolescents were most often hurt while cutting lawns as chores or as a way to earn money.

Lawn mower injuries include deep cuts, loss of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, and eye and other injuries. Some injuries are very serious. Both users of mowers and those who are nearby can be hurt.

To prevent lawn mower injuries to children, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

1) Try to use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.

2) Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.

3) Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.

4) Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Use a collection bag for grass clippings or a plate that covers the opening where cut grass is released. Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.

5) Make sure that children are indoors or at a safe distance well away from the area that you plan to mow.

6) Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool.

7) Make sure that blade settings (to set the wheel height or dislodge debris) are done by an adult, with the mower off and the spark plug removed or disconnected.

8) Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.

9) Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.

10) Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.

As always stay safe.
Chief's Awards for Life Safety

On April 21, 2009, Charles County EMS personnel received the Chief's Award for Life Safety for 2 different events.

Allen Bryant, EMT-B, and Susie Chagnon, EMT-P were recognized for their efforts in restoring vital signs to a patient that had initially called 911 for his wife, and suffered cardiac arrest while EMS was in the home. Their quick response and skills resulted in a life saved.

Jonathan Jefferson, EMT-P, Joe Summers, EMS Lt., Kelley Smith, EMT-P and Laurie Maddox, EMT-B were recognized for an event at the Charles County Fairgrounds in which a tourist to the area suffered cardiac arrest. Their response also resulted in a life saved.

Photos courtesy Lt. Campbell
The tragic, accidental death of Bryan L. Stump, a 12-year-old boy who was struck by a car as he was crossing Route 6 on his bicycle in April 2007, stunned his Nanjemoy neighbors. Since then, Bryan’s family and friends teamed up with the Charles County Sheriff’s Office, County Commissioners and Charles County Public Schools to honor Bryan’s life by sponsoring the Bryan L. Stump Memorial Bicycle Safety Initiative.

On May 2, Charles County Sheriff’s officers, along with County Commissioner Vice President Edith J. Patterson and staff from Charles County Public Schools, will host several bicycle safety training events at three different locations: Nanjemoy Community Center located at 4375 Port Tobacco Road from 9-11 a.m., Indian Head Elementary School located at 4200 Indian Head Highway from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and William Diggs Elementary School located at 2615 Davis Road from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
QUIZ OF THE MONTH:
What is the new IO insertion site as of July 1, 2009?

Photos courtesy Jamie Lumpkins

April 19, 2009
Over $10,000 raised!
Inauguration Merit Citations

For their participation in the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies, the following personnel received Merit Citations from the Director of Emergency Services on April 21, 2009:

Stephen Finch, Assistant Chief of EMS
Jonathan Jefferson, EMT-P, EMS, TRT
Nick Ellis, EMT-B, EMS, TRT
Sonja Gorman, EMS Lt.
Jennifer Adams
Michael Morgan, EMT-B, EMS
Meghan Hiponia, EMT-I, EMS
Jackie Martin, EMT-P, EMS
Chris Barbour, EMT-P, EMS
Mark Hayes, EMT-P, EMS
Missy Fox, EMT-B, EMS
Kelly Conley, EMT-B, EMS
Charles Ramsey, EMT-P, EMS, Tactical Response Team
Kelley Smith, EMT-P, EMS
Craig Parton, EMT-P, EMS
Joe Summers, EMS Lt., Tactical Response Team
Travis Walden, EMS Lt., Tactical Response Team
J. Weyrich, EMT-B, WVFD EMS 12

Maryland Medical Protocols For EMS Providers - Update 2009
"Meet the Protocols"

EMT-B's must complete only:
BLS Protocol Update 2009

CRT-99's and EMT-P's must complete:
ALS Protocol Update 2009 (Part 1)
ALS Protocol Update 2009 (Part 2)
EMS FOR CHILDREN DAY

Hey Kids!

Bring your sick or injured teddy bears to meet real EMS workers at our TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

We will help you fix up your bear!

- The Charles County Sheriff’s Office will be on hand with bike, helmet and other safety tips
- Injury prevention tips, ambulance tours and lots of giveaways!

MAY 20, 2009 Regency Furniture Stadium

6:00 PM Piney Church Rd, Waldorf

Sponsoring EMS Week May 17-23, 2009
THE PULSE

CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

….of doing the right thing

Allen Bryant loves a rainy day and low on board oxygen!

Photo courtesy Lt. Campbell

I SPY

Don Giampetroni, Allen Bryant, Sonja Gorman  April 16, 2009 “save”
-a patient in cardiac arrest

Dave Higgins, Ann Damon, Monica Recher , Joe Summers  April 23, 2009 “save”
at Regency Stadium-a pt. in cardiac arrest

From P. Lenharr, EMT-P, 04-18-2009:

While riding with Kenny Miller and Devon Mower today at station 11, I had just arrived on duty at 1430 and we were immediately dispatched for a subject not breathing on Strauss Avenue. Quickly after dispatch, a unit from 9 arrived on the scene with a working code. Medic 20 arrived shortly after that and then we made it on the scene.

I assisted Medic 20 by obtaining an ET airway and assisted with other Paramedic skills. The patient was a classic ACLS mega code. (PEA, Asystole, V-fib, Vtach) Rythm changes and 9 defibrillations later for multiple V-fib changes, along with Epi, Atropine, and Lidocaine, we had a strong pulse and a BP of 100/60 upon arrival at Fort Washington. Good cellular metabolism was confirmed with ETCO2 levels in the 30-45 range, with levels originating around 10 at first placement of the ET tube.

The crews involved did an awesome job on this call.

PA-169 (Brayns Road CCEMS)

Driver K. Miller
Paramedic - P. Lenharr
Mark Your Calendars....

### May 2009

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Mission Statement

The mission of Charles County Government is to provide our citizens the highest quality service possible in a timely, efficient, and courteous manner. To achieve this goal, our government must be operated in an open and accessible atmosphere, be based on comprehensive long- and short-term planning, and have an appropriate managerial organization tempered by fiscal responsibility.

Vision Statement

Charles County is a place where all people thrive and businesses grow and prosper; where the preservation of our heritage and environment is paramount; where government services to its citizens are provided at the highest level of excellence; and where the quality of life is the best in the nation.

Mission Statement CCEMS

It is the mission of the Charles County Department of Emergency Services, EMS Division to provide superior quality emergency medical support to the citizens of Charles County, Maryland and requesting jurisdictions.

Vision Statement CCEMS

With well-trained, capable and professional personnel; The Charles County Department of Emergency Services, EMS Division will provide the best premium quality of preventative and emergency care in the fastest, most efficient and cost effective manner possible to the citizens of Charles County, Maryland and requesting jurisdictions. It is the goal of the Charles County Emergency Services, EMS Division to be at the vanguard of pre-hospital emergency care.

ANSWER TO QUIZ:

As of July 1, 2009, an IO may be placed using a drill device in the proximal humerous.