Why did you join the fire service? I am sure most of you will answer something along the lines of, “to help people”, or “to make a difference.” There’s no arguing that these are both good reasons. But the role of politics, and the decisions made by politicians, directly impacts the day to day of your fire service and can mar these good intentions.

Case in point; the current climate of complacency that we face in Allegany and Worcester counties, in which both have decided to ignore Maryland Law requiring all jurisdictions not to weaken the requirement for residential fire sprinklers in new homes. The requirement for residential sprinklers has existed in the National Code since 2009. It was established when experts recognized that modern day, light-weight construction materials are adversely affected when attacked by fire. This conclusion was later reaffirmed by Maryland lawmakers in 2012 via legislation championed by the fire service.

Despite the overwhelming evidence in support of residential sprinkler systems, fire companies across this state continue to shrug-off the requirement in newly constructed homes. I would ask why? Is it the political pressure, a lack of understanding, or is it that those who remain negligent believe the myth that sprinklers are too much of a hassle and cost?

These systems are in place for no other reason than to allow the occupant’s time to safely escape a fire in their home. They’re also one of the first lines of defense in saving the (Continued on page 6)
The President’s Corner

This publication of the Volunteer Trumpet is where it is happening folks. We all know your companies are having many special fundraising events all year long and we need ways of getting that information out in advance to your members and companies across the state.

This publication can be doing that for you. The Trumpet is mailed out six times a year and is available online on the MSFA member’s web page. The Volunteer Trumpet editor is looking for articles of interest from individuals around the State of Maryland on the Fire & Rescue and EMS issues, recommendations and events.

Mike Dixon, the Editor, and his team can be reached at trumpet@msfa.org and the staff is looking into ways of being able to offer each of you an electronic copy of the Trumpet. In order for you or your company to be directly receiving an electronic copy of the Trumpet in your email you need to make sure you go online at marylandvolunteer.org website and sign up to receive their copy of the Trumpet.

On April 26th I was in Annapolis with the MSFA President’s and roughly 250 other people who had participated with this year’s MSFA Cancer Support Network 4th Annual Cancer Walk. They recognized Chief James (Jim) P. Seavey Sr., PP Jacqueline (Jackie) M. Olson and Flo Collins. The cancer committee has already set next year’s date for the walk on April 26, 2020. Please mark your calendars.

On another note the Maryland State Fireman’s Association Training and Convention Committees have been working with the Ocean City Fools on setting up Hot Training at the Beach. MSFA Chief Chaplain, John Long Jr., and the Maryland Fire Chief’s Association Chaplain Richard Bower have been working together and have made contact with NFA and Director Michael Cox of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in reference to suicide prevention training classes. The Chaplain’s from the MSFA and MFCA from different regions around the state of Maryland have been working on setting up some specialized training. This will be made available for the Fire and EMS Companies as well as your local Police, Chaplains, Administration and Chief Officers across the state. They will be setting up and providing seminars on how to recognize and provide guidance on the prevention of suicide for Fire and EMS across the state.

I had the honor to be in Annapolis with a number of the MSFA Legislative team members on April 30th to witness the Governor signing a number of important bills that support the Fire and EMS Services across this state. One of those bills was House Bill 595 which pertains to Worker’s Compensation. This bill had amendments added to include the bladder, kidney or renal cell, to be included as part of Medical Presumptions.

The MSFA & MFCA watched as the Governor also signed (Firefighter Jesse McCullough’s Cancer Protection Law) HB604 and Senate 646 and Senate Bill 727 that 19 Senators signed on to sponsor this bill. I do believe that this bill is the first of its kind in the nation. If you get a chance please review Senate Bill 727 and take advantage of the Cancer Screening Program.
MSFA Social Media Policy

By: Jonathan Dayton, NREMT

As many of you may know there is a new social media policy in place for the Maryland State Firemens’ Association (MSFA). This applies directly to the following “A social media code of conduct shall be adhered to by all members of the (MSFA) that have access to social media accounts with a title related to the (MSFA). For purposes of this policy, the term “Members” shall include, but is not limited to, MSFA Officers, MSFA Committee members, member companies, and members of member companies.”

Today social media policies are essential to organizations, especially the Maryland State Firemen’s Association that has numerous active social media accounts about the MSFA. The policy is not to limit the use of social media but protect the association if it is misused. To clear up a little confusion the policy does not limit anybody from sharing or re-posting information that the MSFA social media accounts originally posts, we encourage this to share and dispense information across the state. This does not require prior approval.

Many may not know that the MSFA logo is a registered trademark and use of this logo needs to have prior approval from our attorney. I encourage all to read and review the policy at length. Questions can be directed to me at jdblackbelt1@gmail.com or by messaging the MSFA Facebook Page. Failure to not comply with guidelines are subject to penalties at discretion of the MSFA Disciplinary Policy.

Governor Hogan Signs Bills

It was a busy week in Annapolis as Governor Hogan held a Bill Signing Ceremony for some of the many pieces of legislation that passed during this session. Senate Bill 727 was one of four bills dealing with Firefighter Cancer. Our sincere thanks to Senator Guy Guzzone (D, Howard) for sponsoring the Bill, and Governor Hogan for supporting it.
Chip’s Firehouse Logbook

The Crash of USAF AGAR 23

by Chief Clarence “Chip” Jewell, III

May 6, 1981 started as any a normal day in Frederick County. Skies were gloomy with a hint of rain. The sounds of air traffic over Frederick County are very common as the flight paths of three major airports transect the county.

The enormous boom that shook the ground around Walkersville that fateful day was thought by many to be a close lightning strike. But when a nearby dairy farmer saw the foggy sky explode in orange causing him to dive to the ground, he soon realized it was an aircraft.

The multitude of tones alerting several fire and rescue companies around Walkersville sounded the alarm for a large airplane crash along Rt. 194 north of Walkersville. I responded POV (privately owned vehicle) and rode Squad 16 of the Woodsboro Volunteer Fire Company down the farm lane. As we topped a small knoll to reach the crash site, the visual of an area a few acres in size contained fragments, pieces and debris that we eventually realized were the remains of a military aircraft the size of a Boeing 707. Few remaining pieces were much larger than a Volkswagen.

Chief Vaughn Zimmerman of the newly organized Walkersville Community Ambulance Service took command. His many years as an active member and officer of the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company were evident as he established priorities, directed initial crews, and began the process of determining exactly what was before us. Reports the aircraft was military in nature were fairly early in the incident, but knowing what type of aircraft or if weapons were involved took a longer duration.

Brush units from Walkersville and Libertytown essentially controlled what little fire was evident. Several of the responding units were returned shortly after arrival as they were not needed for either fire suppression or rescue. The plane had nearly denigrated in flight scattering most of the debris over a few acres. But particles, especially minute pieces of computer paper, scattered several miles in all directions. The nose of the aircraft landed squarely on the Maryland Midland Railroad tracks, stopping a freight train that just pulled out.

(Continued on page 8)
Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association holds 26th Annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony

By Linda Canale   Photos by Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Relations Committee

On Monday, April 15, the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (FCVFRA) hosted the 26th Annual Fire and Rescue Awards Ceremony at the Walkersville VFC. On this evening, the Association recognized and rewarded the brave and dedicated men and women who have worked diligently, putting forth extraordinary efforts and lifetime achievements in support of the volunteer fire and rescue service of Frederick County.

Eighteen various awards are presented, and ten new members are inducted into the FCFVRA Hall of Fame. Todd Johnson, of the Frederick County Fire and Rescue Advisory Board, served as the Emcee. The invocation was given by FCFVRA-LA Chaplain Kathy Knipple, and the Frederick County Honor Guard presented the colors as the Miss Frederick County Fire Prevention Ambassadors led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening remarks were given by FCFVRA President Eric Smothers, FCFVRA-LA President Ramona Ridgely, Deputy Chief Kevin Fox, Director of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services, Chief Thomas Owens, DFRS, and County Executive Jan Gardner.

The awards that were presented are as follows:

- The Clint Hughes Departmental Fire Prevention Award was presented to the Junior Fire Company of Frederick.
- The James H. Stavely III Fire Prevention Award for individual fire prevention efforts was presented to Steven Stull, of the Lewistown VFC.
- The Cletta Abrecht Auxiliary Member of the Year Award was given to David Sturtz of the Middletown VFC Auxiliary.
- The Louise Lenhart Auxiliary Encouragement Award went to Rita Newman of the Middletown VFC Auxiliary.
- The Charles H. “Mutt” Deater, Jr. Apprentice of the Year Award, given to an outstanding member who has not reached their 19th birthday, was presented to Zoe Carnegis, of the Independent Hose Company of Frederick.
- The Winona “Winnie” Crum Rookie of the Year Award, presented to a volunteer with less than one year of membership, was received by Ethan McClure of the Rocky Ridge VFC.
- The Fire/Rescue Departmental Training Award, presented to the top three companies with the largest number of formal training per active member, was as follows:
  - United Steam Fire Engine Company of Frederick, with 126 hours per active member
  - Graceham VFC, with 97 hours per active member New Market District VFC, with 95 hours per active member
  - The Millard “Mick” Mastrino Instructor/Safety Award was presented to Karyn Myers of the Vigilant Hose Company of Emmitsburg.
  - The Everett W. Gaver Service Award, given to a member that volunteers at a fire company, a church, and a civic organization, was awarded to Michael B. Constantine on the New Market District VFC.
  - The Robert L. Renner Departmental Service Award was presented to Cheryl Hipkins of the Urbana Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, for her work in handling many of the administrative duties of the department.

- The Louise Lenhart Auxiliary Encouragement Award was given to Richard S. Keyser, Sr. of the Middletown VFC.
- The Dr. James Marrone EMS Member of the Year was awarded to Matthew Moser of the Rocky Ridge VFC.
- Firefighter of the Year for 2019 was presented to Thomas “Frank” Hipkins, of the Urbana Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.
- The Firefighter Medal of Valor was given to Jeffrey Scire of the Independent Hose Company of Frederick. Upon arriving at the scene of a house fire and learning that a person with mobility problems was trapped in the basement, Jeffrey entered the smoke-filled basement without protective equipment, turned out gear, or SCBA, and found the man overcome by smoke and heat about 20 feet into the basement. Jeffrey grabbed the man and pulled him from the basement and into the outside stairwell.
- The Michael Wilcom Officer of the Year Award was presented to New Market District VFC Chief Benjamin Nalborczyk. Under his leadership, the department has seen a significant period of growth and improved response times.
- The Outstanding Unit Award was presented to two departments – the Guardian Hose Company of Thurmont and the Vigilant Hose Company of Emmitsburg, for their actions taken on a rescue where the patient had been trapped in an overturned vehicle in a creek at the bottom of a ravine. Their teamwork and skills allowed them to extricate the victim, climb through heavy vegetation up a steep bank, and evacuate to...
Why Did You Join the Fire Service?

(Continued from page 1)

lives of you and your comrades that will be on scene.

The April 2019 townhome fire in Chesapeake Beach was an example of how quickly light-weight homes can collapse under the attack of fire when not suppressed upon onset.

We were extremely lucky that day to have responding firefighters - who were making the attack and attempting to rescue trapped occupants - not more seriously injured or killed. None of us want to attend another line of duty death service within this State, nor have our friends severely burned or injured to a point that they can never come back to the firehouse. Which is why it is bewildering to me that there are those who would abandon logic and not support the installation of residential sprinklers in new homes.

We know that working smoke alarms and sprinklers save the lives of families and spare them the grief that they will carry forever if a loved one perishes in a fire. Each year we see over 100 individuals escape fires in their homes thanks to their sprinkler systems activating at early onset and allowing time to escape. Helping people and making a difference within your community comes in many forms outside of responding to the scene of an event.

If that wasn’t the case, then you would continually fail to prevent 911 calls from occurring by stifling the life-saving message of fire prevention from reaching the ears of those you serve.

The MSFA & the MFCA both support residential sprinklers, yet many of the departments that are not in favor continue to refer to themselves as members of these associations. If your belief in the frivolity of sprinkler systems is so strong, then why is your department still affiliated with these organizations? The current situation for both counties is strictly a political one that has nothing to do with the cost of the systems or the lack of new homes being built.

So I implore you to do the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do. You joined the fire service to protect and serve the people of your community. You dedicated your life to maintaining their safety. You chose to be there to help people and to make a difference. If you have any other outlook on your role that contradicts those values, then maybe it’s time to move on to other things.

Another Sprinkler Save in the Mother County

By Shirley Copado

On Friday, February 22, 2019, the 911 Center in St. Mary’s County alerted Company’s 1, 7, 9 [Leonardtown, Hollywood, Bay District] for a sprinkler activation at Landing Way, a waterfront townhouse project near the Leonardtown Wharf area.

In the dispatch narrative, we were advised “kitchen, oil on the stove and neither flames or smoke visible”. Upon arrival, the crew from Engine 10 found sprinkler activation and no fire. Crew from Company 1 and 7 remained on the scene assisting with salvage and all others were placed in service.

The fact that residential sprinklers were on this property protected the homeowner from major fire damage but also the entire complex from the potential for a major townhouse event. This project presents significant issues due to location, access and design of the project.

At our station, it has often been said, if we have a major fire in this project, we will have more than our hand full. The resident was able to remain in the home and the damage was confined to the cabinets, microwave, carpet in living area, fresh coat of paint and lower ground level ceiling and carpet.

All in all, what could have been a major loss and challenging fire was basically a minor event with minimal loss of property.
Wally is Back

By Jim Jarboe

It’s been 10 years since I last did... Are You Smarter than an Old Time Fire Chief?

Round One
1. What was the name before it was called Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI)?
2. Who was the original voice of Smokey Bear?
3. What is the deadly gas that is always present in fire?
4. Name the school in Chicago that was the scene of a tragic fire in 1958 which claimed 93 lives (Most of those who perished were children.)?
5. Where was the first convention of the MSFA held?
6. What does the acronym PASS stand for, when operating a fire extinguisher?
7. Name the movie in which John Wayne's occupation was to extinguish oil fires?
8. Who was the producer of the TV series Emergency?
9. In home fire safety, what does EDITH stand for?
10. What is the name of the chemical that is added to natural gas to give its odor?

See Wally's answers on page 8

LOYALTY & PROTECTION

Qualities Every Fire Company Expects from Its Workers’ Comp Company

Across Maryland, Chesapeake Employers’ Insurance helps qualified MSFA members keep firefighters safe from accidents and injuries. We’re your insurance partner, and we’re here when you need us.

MSFA members could earn a group dividend*

Ask your local agent for a quote
or visit CEiWC.com

*An individual participant will be eligible to receive a group dividend per Chesapeake Employers’ Dividend Guidelines.
Chip’s Logbook

(Continued from page 4)

of Walkersville literally
in its tracks.

AGAR 23 was a United States Air Force EC-135N, essentially a Boeing 707 for military use. It took off from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio at 1005 hrs. for what was classified as a training mission.

At 10:49:48, AGAR 23 dropped from radar. The aircraft suddenly rolled and essentially nosedived from an altitude of approximately 30,000 feet. For reasons yet not clearly understood, the plane exploded just before crashing to the ground as it flew over Walkersville, MD.

A crew of 17 and 4 passengers, including some crew family members, perished. The wives of two crewmen were among the deceased, traveling along as part of an Air Force outreach for family members to observe.

This air disaster was the second deadliest aircraft accident in Maryland history. On Dec. 8, 1963, Flight 214, a Pan American Airways Boeing 707, was returning to the U.S. from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Onboard: 73 passengers and eight crew members.

A rare December thunderstorm sent a lightning bolt in to the fuselage of the aircraft sending it to the ground in flames. It is believed to be the only fatal passenger aircraft accident attributed to a lightning strike.

AGAR 23, the aircraft call sign, was ARIA 328, part of a fleet of aircraft initially assigned to the Apollo space program to provide a worldwide telemetry and communications platform during space flight operations. Apollo/Range Instrumentation Aircraft (A/RIA) were equipped with a steerable 7 foot antenna dish in the distinctive “Snoopy” nose.

After the Apollo mission ended, the Air Force renamed the aircraft fleet Advanced Range Instrumentation Aircraft (ARIA). These aircraft were more for international surveillance gathering telemetry, information and supporting cruise missile and ballistic missile defense tests.

In 1984, the ARIA fleet was transferred to Edwards Air Force Base in California. Advancements in technology and more sophisticated intelligence programming eventually led to the retirement of these aircraft. On November 3, 2000, the last EC-135E (re-designed from the EC-135N) named Bird of Prey, was delivered to the National Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio where the initial memorial to AGAR 23 is located.

Memorial Dedicated

May 6, 2018, a memorial service was held at the Heritage Farm Park in Walkersville under a misty gray sky similar to the tragic day of May 6, 1981. A granite memorial in memory of those lost is modeled after the AGAR 23 Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. As the names of all 21 souls that were aboard AGAR 23 were read, the memorial was dedicated on hallowed grounds touched by the aircraft. The solemn memorial is located about one mile from the crash site in 1981 and aligned that when looking north over the podium, a visitor is actually looking directly at the location that AGAR 23 came to final rest.

As former co-workers, Air Force personnel, family members of the crew and several of the initial first responders stood in silence, the dreary skies opened just enough to allow a flyover from an Air Force aircraft similar to AGAR 23. The jet lowered and followed the flight path over the same earth, on the same day, at the same time.

The crash of AGAR 23 touched many lives in many different ways. But, on May 6, 2018, the Air Force family, the fire service family, and the family members of the crew of AGAR 23 became one.

Be Safe

Chip

Wally’s Answers (see quiz on page 7)

1. Fire Service Extension Department’
Frederick County VFRA Awards Ceremony

(Continued from page 5)

• The Heart of a Volunteer Award was presented to Russell “Jake” Lenhart. Jake is a 45 year member of the Urbana VFR&RC, and also volunteers at the New Midway VFC. The 80 year old continues to work at the company fund-raising events, especially in the kitchen.

• The Bruce L. Reeder Sr. “Golden” Service Award, given to a member with 50 or more years of service, was presented to John Hollinger of the Vigilant Hose Company of Emmitsburg. He has been a member there since 1946.

The following persons were inducted into the Frederick County VFRA Hall of Fame:

Kevin Albaugh – Rocky Ridge VFC
Brial Bollar – Graceham VFC
Jane Bopst – Junior Fire Company, Frederick
Jim Bopst - Junior Fire Company, Frederick
David Fox – Wolfsville VFC
Carroll “Randy” Leatherman – Middletown VFC
Terry Myers (Postumously – line of duty) – Vigilant Hose Company, Emmitsburg
Clifton “Cliffy” Shriner – Vigilant Hose Company, Emmitsburg
Debra Smith – Middletown VFC
Karen Stull – Lewistown District VFD

Emcee Johnson gave closing remarks, acknowledging the members of the awards committee for their work. FCVFRA Chaplain Tim May delivered the benediction.

The new members of the Frederick County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Hall of Fame are (l to r), front row – Wanda Myers (for Terry Myers), Jane Bopst, Karen Stull, Debra Smith, and Randy Leatherman. Back row, (l to r) Randy Myers (for Terry Myers) Brian Bollar, Jim Bopst, Kevin Albaugh, Cliff Shriner, and David Fox.
Maryland Recruitment Weekend 2019

BRENTWOOD, April 13, 2019 – On this Saturday in April an overcast morning quickly gave way to a fine spring day, as the Maryland Volunteer Fire/EMS Recruitment Weekend got underway. There were activities all across the state and when the Volunteer Trumpet stopped by Prince George’s County Station 55 on Rhode Island Avenue the sun was shining brightly on the firehouse. There Chief John Moats and President William Broadus had a full crew of firefighters eagerly waiting to talk to visitors about what it takes to become a first responder, while also discussing the many benefits of joining the fire service ranks. Several new recruits to Brentwood VFD were there too, talking about how they were drawn to the fire service family while they shared their experience as new probationary members. (photos: Dixon)

GREENBELT -- April 13 --With a message of “you can make a difference” The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad opened the firehouse to visitors, inviting the community to stop by to learn more about the fire service and the volunteers serving the district. While eager recruitment teams talked to people about opportunities in firefighting, EMS, and administration, there were live burn demonstrations, hand on activities with the maze and fire extinguishers, a side by side sprinkler burn demonstration, CPR station, and much more. As all this was going on, the Ladies Auxiliary served hot dogs and light refreshments to anyone stopping by. It was a packed day of recruitment activities that engaged the community and had people talking about the benefits of joining the fire service family at Greenbelt.
MARYLAND RECRUITMENT WEEKEND—2019

By Mike Dixon

LAUREL -- April 14 – With a message of "take the leap" the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad opened Station 49 to visitors, inviting the community to stop by to learn more about emergency services and the first responders serving the district. Members eagerly talked to people about opportunities at the Squad, while activities that engaged the public were held throughout the day. These included a vehicle extraction demonstration, CPR lessons, blood pressure checks, apparatus tours, a diving demonstration, special visitors such as Sparky and Sniffy the smoke detector, and much more. It was a packed, successful day of recruitment activities that engaged the Prince George’s County community and had people talking about the benefits of joining the ranks at Laurel.

TOP LEFT — Fire/EMS Chief Stefan Livingston welcomed the community while talking about some of the activities that were going on during the day as Captain Williams looks on.

BOTTOM LEFT — EMS Lieutenant Gopal Topiwala and his mother pause for a photograph with Sparky.

TOP RIGHT — Sparky has made another friend.

BOTTOM RIGHT — A member of the dive team completes a demonstration.
LAUREL, April 14, 2019 — During an open house for Maryland Recruitment Weekend 2019, the Laurel Volunteer Rescue Squad first responders prepare for a vehicle extraction demonstration.