

CITIZENS FOR THE PRESERVATION OF PLEASANT VALLEY



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October 2011 CPPV eNewsletter

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In this edition:

- 1) Update on First Responders Communications Tower
- 2) 1861 Civil War Tour with Tom Clemens and Dennis Frye – November 5, 8:30am-5:30pm
- 3) Upcoming CPPV Meetings and Election
- 4) Report on August 30th County Commissioner meeting in Boonsboro

1) Update on First Responders Communications Tower

While CPPV has not received any new information on our tower, we continue to come across instances of similar systems across the county having problems. For example, this excerpt from the article “After Failures, Firefighters Balk at Digital Radios”, available at

www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/after-failures-firefighters-balk-digital-radios

Caught in thick smoke in a burning suburban Cincinnati home, veteran firefighter Robin Broxterman and her novice mate, Brian Schira, tried to summon help on their Motorola digital radios. She called four times, he another half-dozen, according to radio logs from the 2008 incident. For seven long minutes before concluding that contact had been lost, the Colerain Fire Department's incident commander heard nothing discernible from Broxterman and Schira, certainly no urgent "mayday" calls for a rescue operation, an internal investigation found. In the ensuing rescue effort, Broxterman, a 37-year-old mother of two, and Schira, 31, were found dead in the basement, covered with rubble from a collapsed floor. "No firefighter should have to die because of a radio that doesn't work," said Arlene Zang, Broxterman's mother and a firefighter herself, while conceding that other factors influenced the tragedy . . .

An earlier article we had been citing on Florida's problems with the system is no longer available. However, we found a similar article “Emergency Radios To Cost Taxpayers \$1.5M More” available at www.wftv.com/news/23210233/detail.html

2) 1861 Civil War Tour with Tom Clemens and Dennis Frye – November 5, 8:30am-5:30pm

Join Civil War historians Tom Clemens and Dennis Frye on this interesting 1861 Civil War sites tour featuring the following events Maryland and West Virginia: The occupation of Maryland Heights by Stonewall Jackson and the events in Harpers Ferry in April and May of 1861; the skirmish at Falling Waters; Shepherdstown, Ferry Hill and Williamsport focusing on the defenses, Ford and Patterson's occupation; Stonewall Jackson's attempt to destroy the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Dam #5. Tour fee includes motor coach transportation/gratuity, lunch at an area restaurant, en-route historical interpretation by historians Tom Clemens and Dennis Frye. Fee: \$96 Hagerstown Community College Continuing Education class DIS 327 E1. More information available at

www.hagerstowncc.edu/coned/areas/lifelong

3) Upcoming CPPV Meeting and Election

The next CPPV meeting will be February 22, 2012. We plan on having a speaker, and we will also hold the annual CPPV election. We will elect a new President and Treasurer. The current President and Treasurer can not run for the same office again. Let us know us if you would like to run for an office, or if you would like to be on the nominating committee.

4) Report on August 30th County Commissioner meeting in Boonsboro

On August 30, the County Commissioners held an evening meeting in Boonsboro. Before the meeting, CPPV had sent an email to our email list to solicit comments on the County Ethics Ordinance. This resulted in the following statement, which was presented to the Commissioners at the August 30th meeting.

Dear Washington County Commissioners

As you may already know, CPPV has concerns about the new Ethics Ordinance. After receiving feedback from our membership, we decided on the following statement:

Ethics is the base upon which a democratic society is built. However, we have to recognize that everyone has a somewhat different perception as to what is ethical. That is why an strong, unambiguous County Ethics Ordinance is critical. We would like an update on what was discussed in the morning session. We are hoping that the new ethics rules will not just be the bare minimum required by the State of Maryland. A strong ethics ordinance passed by you now, one which is actively enforced and has real legal teeth, would send the message that Washington County lives by real ethics rules and expects the State to do the same. ***Passing an Ethics Ordinance which exceeds the required State minimum is a great opportunity for the County to show that local government really can be more responsive to citizens than larger government!***

Thank you