



KCEAA

“THE RHYTHM OF EMS”

Volume 1 Issue 5

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STATE NEWSPAPERS GIVE THEIR OPINION THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Charleston
Daily Mail

Tuesday April 25, 2006

When Kanawha Countians go to vote in the May 9th primary elections, they will also face a choice on the safety levy. It's a measure county residents have supported for 33 years.

County residents should continue to support the levy -- strongly. It is critical to Kanawha County's well-run fire, ambulance, police, and bus services.

The measure on the ballot does not represent a tax increase. It simply continues an existing tax.

But approval is important, and cannot be taken for granted. The levy will be retained only if 60 percent of voters give it their approval. The last time it came up, the measure passed by only 22 votes.

Financially, the safety levy is not a big ticket. It raises \$13 million a year.

A little more than \$6 million of that goes to ambulance service. Another \$6 million supports 21 bus routes that serve 2.2 million fares a year.

The Public Safety Grant Committee allocates the remaining \$650,000, and uses it to strengthen emergency service providers throughout the county.

The committee, in public meetings, has directed money both to facilities that serve everyone, as in the case of the Metro 911 system and the fire training facility, and to individual police and fire departments from Alum Creek to Tyler Mountain.

The levy represents 56 percent of the budget for the Charleston fire and ambulance division, 32 percent of the budget of the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, and 63 percent of the budget for the Kanawha Valley Regional Transit Authority.

Simply put, this levy funds the emergency services infrastructure of Kanawha County. The safety and well-being of everyone in the county depends on it.

Charleston
the Gazette
The State Newspaper

April 28, 2006

For Kanawha County voters, one of the most important questions on the May 9th ballot will be at the bottom — whether to renew the 33-year-old bus, ambulance, police and firefighter levy.

Since 1973, Kanawha voters have agreed that it is in their best collective interest to tax themselves a bit extra to pay for emergency protection and to pay for bus service. The question before voters is whether to renew the levy at its existing rate, which generates \$13 million a year. Renewing the levy would not raise taxes, but merely continue previous levels.

This levy literally translates into keeping ambulances and buses on the road and keeping radios, weapons and other equipment in the hands of deputies.

As for buses, we like the way KRT Assistant General Manager Doug Hartley talks about the system: People ride the bus to make money or to spend money. In all that traveling back and forth, people may visit grocery stores, doctors, shopping centers and government offices. They travel to work at all kinds of restaurants, offices and shops all over the county.

Kanawha County officials deserve credit for putting the levy question on a regular election ballot, instead of holding a separate election that would cost county taxpayers an extra \$270,000. (Incidentally, Kanawha officials asked for and got a change in state law allowing levy questions to be added to primary election ballots. Altogether, Commission President Kent Carper estimates, the county has saved about \$1 million since it stopped holding special elections.)

Professional fire and police departments and public transportation are part of what makes a thriving community and economy. In this exercise in direct democracy, we urge residents of Kanawha County to look after their best interests and approve this levy for another four years.

Pictures from Kanawha County Fire School



Chief Sigman is pictured with his family, he was honored with a lifetime achievement award.



Two icons of the Fire Service, what else can be said!

Emergency Services Recognized During Kanawha County Week



On April 13th, Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper proposed at the regular meeting of the Kanawha County Commission a resolution to designate April 24th through April 29th as Kanawha County Week. This was the week that the National Association of Counties designated for local county governments to educate the public about it's services.

The event kicked off with a press conference Monday morning with our local directors and department leaders present to give opening statements.

In conjunction with various public service agencies, Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority participated in events such as tours of our facility, health fairs, displays of our apparatus and talks about our role in emergency services. "KC" the robot ambulance was at many locations entertaining children of all ages.



It's a Boy!

Missy and Brian Tweel are the proud parents of a baby boy, David Esber Tweel, born April 27th at 8lbs and 9oz
Congratulations Missy!

It's a Girl!

KM 239 with Rick Unik and Scotty Nasby delivered a baby in the back of their truck on April 13th at the Chevron in Cross Lanes. They were backed up by Tia and Jason on KM 259.



“Chaplains Corner”

Be still my soul, the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In every change He is faithful and will remain
Be still my soul, thy best, thy heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways lead to a joyful end



“That Personal Touch”



“May Birthdays”

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|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Jay Albright | Lisa Bennett | Roger Caruthers |
| Charlie Cunningham | Jeff Elswick | Pat Fenimore |
| Mark Kerns | Wade Loudin | Dave Matics |
| Larry Miller | Rachel Nuckols | Nick Painter |
| Dave Perry | Melinda Sampson | Penny Scott |
| Chris Selbe | Mike Shafer | Richard Spainhor |
| Frank Spangler | Laura Tignor | Thurman Williams |



KCEAA will be offering the first statewide Advanced Interfacility Transport Class "Train the Trainer". Classes will be June 21st, 22nd and 23rd with final testing being on the 26th. This class will allow the field paramedic to transport level III patients. Currently treatment of these patients is not within their scope of practice. By taking this class, paramedics may transport patients with different medications and ventilators.

KCEAA trained 74 First Responders throughout the Kanawha Valley in April in soft tissue / skeletal injuries with bleeding and shock.

Employee Spotlight



Garry Turnes

Garry has been with KCEAA for ten years as an automotive mechanic. Garry has been in the mechanic business for over



33 years and has a Masters from Porsche Audi and ASE in automotive service excellence. He also has many Ford and Toyota certifications.

Garry states that he likes the challenges that come with electrical issues on our ambulances. This gives him the opportunity to go in depth with our units and he finds at the same time, it gives him more overall knowledge of ambulances. Garry is a stickler for detail. Garry also serves on our safety committee and accident investigation board.

Garry and his wife Cheryl live in Dunbar and have one daughter—Emily who is an EMT. In his spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing and actually makes recurve bows.



Board Member Spotlight



Mark Wolford

Mr. Wolford has served on the KCEAA Board of Directors for over five years and is presently one of our Vice Presidents.



Mark retired from the Charleston Fire Department as a Deputy Chief with 22 years of service. He was the Kanawha County Public Safety Director from 1988 to 1991. He currently is the Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for the City of Charleston.

Mark is a musician and played with various artists such as Bobby Darren and Lloyd Price “back in the day”. Mark and his wife Frances live in Charleston and have two sons, Mike who is a Firefighter with South Charleston Fire Department and Tony who works for the City of Charleston in the construction division.

Mr. Wolford brings “real world” experience to our organization through his many years of experience. His passion for emergency services is exemplified by the way he encourages us at a personal level.