

Organization of the Year



Resident Events & Outings



New Services



# The Charlotte Hall GAZETTE

Issue #14

Summer 2014

**Serving**  
Those Who  
**Served**



## Director's Corner

Charlotte Hall continues to be blessed with so much support from volunteers and donations. You don't have to look very far to see the positive impact and benefits of the gifts we continue to receive. One example is the kitchen that was installed in the Skilled Nursing Activities area. Such a nice addition to have available for the enjoyment of our residents. Veterans Service Organizations that donated to this wonderful project include American Legion Post 91, Sons of American Legion Post 91, American Legion Post 259, CHVH Liaison Committee, DAV Dept. of MD, DAV Chapter 26 and DAV Auxiliary Unit 26.

Another project that started in September 2013 is the construction of a pavilion outside of the 'E' wing multi-purpose room, provided by Cruisin' Southern Maryland. The pavilion provides our residents with a shaded area during outdoor activities. This is also quite an undertaking and, again, we are so fortunate to have such caring and generous people supporting Charlotte Hall.

As great as these larger projects are we cannot overlook the gifts that so many people provide. None of the gifts or donations we receive are small. Charlotte Hall Veterans Home would not be the place it is without the loving support bestowed on us. It is not the size of any single donation or hours of time that is donated by a single person or group that's important. What's most important is the fact that so many people truly care and really want the residents of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home to have the greatest experience possible.

Sincerely,  
*Sharon Mattia*  
Director

## Improvements to CHVH

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is fortunate to have the funding available to support three improvement projects critical to the continued safe operations of the facility. Our building has been in operation for twenty-nine years and really has never looked better. But, to keep ahead of those issues that could affect services to the residents, we must diligently assess our structure and equipment and identify where we need to focus our efforts and resources. Charlotte Hall has three current projects that are in various stages of implementation.

**Nurse Call System** – The Nurse Call system is about to be replaced with a more modern designed system. Sections of the current system date to the opening of the facility in 1985. It has served us very well but it is time now for an upgrade, since replacement parts are becoming very difficult to find. The new system will include many enhanced features that will certainly be an improvement over what is currently in place. This project has been awarded to a contractor and work within the building should soon begin. The current Nurse Call will remain in service as the replacement system is installed, so that there will not be any impact to operations.

**Fire Alarm System** – The Fire Alarm system is also about to be replaced. Actually, since the building was constructed in phases, we currently have two fire alarm systems that are integrated to function as one. The new system will provide

us with the improvements of a new main control panel that will have the capability to provide an overhead audio message indentifying the location of the emergency and will initiate the call for emergency responders. The new system will provide for future growth to support renovations and additions, should they occur. This project is in the design stage at this time

**Core Area Roofing** – The metal on the oldest portions of the building roof have been identified for replacement. Currently, the Department of General Services has a design engineer assessing what portions of the roofing require the most immediate replacement. It appears that all the metal roofing associated with the 'Core' area of the building, and possibly 'A' wing, will be identified for replacement.

As always, your support and cooperation of being accommodating to contractors working within the building are appreciated. Be assured that each contractor has been instructed on the importance of respecting your privacy and safety. The Nurse Call and Fire Alarm projects will have contractors within the hallways and rooms. With your cooperation and their respect for working safely and responsibly, we should expect these projects to progress with only minor inconveniences.

Thank you again for your continued cooperation and understanding.

*Michael Farr*  
Deputy Director

## Organization of the Year

What started as a group of men and women who like to ride and show their cars has led to incredible benefits to the residents of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

A local group called Cruisin' Southern Maryland, formed by a number of car clubs in the area, held its first rally in 2012, raising \$4,000 that was later donated to the home. Their mission continued in 2013, when the rally was extended to end at the Veterans Home to allow residents to judge the show cars and enjoy a picnic. In May 2014, the rally raised an astounding \$12,000 that was donated to our veterans!

In addition, in 2013, John Parlett, president of CMI General Contractors, Inc. and organizer of Cruisin' Southern Maryland, told Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Director, Sharon Mattia that they had raised \$9,000 and asked for the Home's wish list. Mattia mentioned the hopes for a pavilion to cover an existing concrete pad. Parlett quickly took the bull by the horns and determined the pavilion could be constructed with volunteer time and labor. At the ribbon cutting, Parlett stated that his company's subcontractors jumped at the chance to do something for the more than 400 veterans at Maryland's only veteran's home.

The result was a several-month building project worth more than \$50,000 that created something that, according to Mattia, "We didn't want to ask for the moon, but



we got it." She said that Parlett took on the project, "with the precision of a brain surgeon."

"It is such a pleasure to give back to the folks who have done so much for our country, for the freedom we now have," Parlett said during his remarks. He listed the following companies that contributed to the project:

- CMI General Contractors, Inc.
- The Watkins Engineering Partnership

- J.M. Tennyson Construction
- Bob Taylor Engineering
- Carruth Concrete
- Chaney Enterprises
- Guy Masonry
- Capital Welding
- Dean Lumber
- Dunkirk Supply
- Huber Engineering Woods
- Blue Line Distribution
- Buddy Gibson Construction
- Orndorff and Spaid, Inc.
- Garner Construction
- Mattingly Electric

**“It's such a pleasure to give back to the folks who have done so much for our country”**

- C & C Plumbing
- Charlotte Hall Square Retail Center
- T and T Portable Toilets
- Custom Coatings
- C & D Electric
- Concrete Surgeon
- Sherwin Williams

Several speakers during the event noted that if government had taken on such a project it would have taken years to complete. The volunteers did it in less than three months.

Since every penny that went into the pavilion was donated, the \$9,000 raised was turned over to the Home to use as they please, including the furnishing of the pavilion. Mattia said she is looking forward to crab feasts and other activities for the veterans in the new facility.

The car clubs involved with Cruisin' Southern Maryland are: Southern Knights Rods and Custom, St. Mary's Rod and Classic, East Coast Drifters, Quartermasters Racing Team, American Truck Historical Society, Tri-County Cruisers, Night Thunder Cruisers, Southern Maryland Model A Club and East Coast Pro Streets.

## Resident Events & Outings



Stir Fry Cooking Session



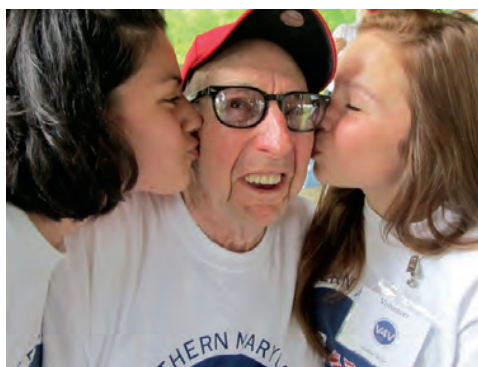
Memorial Day Ceremony



Blue Crabs Outing



All American Harley Christmas



Vacation for Vets at Greenwell State Park



Happy Birthday Elvis Celebration

## Upcoming Events

These are just a handful of the many fun-filled activities available to our residents. For a complete listing of activities, please check our website for a detailed monthly calendar of events.

### August

- 8 Poker Trournament \*
- 9 Annual Poker Run <
- 11 Blue Crabs Baseball Game <
- 17 Root Beer Floats with Linda \*

### September

- 5 End of Summer Jam \*
- 5-6 Vacation for Vets <
- 8-12 Assisted Living Week Celebration <
- 12 Casino Night +
- 17 Japanese American Veterans Association Presentation +
- 18 Air Force Birthday Celebration +
- 20 Carnival +

### October

- 11 Belly Dancers <
- 13 Navy Birthday Celebration +
- 17 Ladies Tea \*
- 18 All American Harley Davidson Wish List Ride +
- 31 Halloween Party \*

- \* Nursing Home
- < Assisted Living
- + All Residents



## Veterans Benefits Specialist Comes to Charlotte Hall

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is proud to announce the welcome Lisa Donor as our new Director of Veterans Benefits. As a Navy veteran she brings with her over twenty five years of experience in business, marketing and advocating for quality of life benefits for our military's active duty, retired, guard and reserve, veterans and family members.

With this new position, Mrs. Donor will monitor and analyze veteran's service records, advise and assist persons who reside in Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in presenting claims or obtaining benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Partnering with

the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), Lisa will also be participating in civic functions to inform potential residents & their families of services rendered, rights and benefits of veterans and eligible dependents as required and act as a liaison between veterans and their dependents with the MDVA and other community agencies.

As a resident of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Lisa can meet with you to see if you qualify for additional veteran's benefits.

You can reach Lisa at extension 429 or [ldonor@hmrmd.com](mailto:ldonor@hmrmd.com).

## Employee Spotlight

On May 2, 2014, HMR held their annual awards banquet in Baltimore, Maryland. We are very proud to announce that four employees at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home were awarded and that we received the Team Award.

The first award presented was the WOW Award, which is bestowed on employees that go above the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of residents, families and fellow staff members. One of the recipients was Gary Steventon, a GNA, who puts in countless extra efforts in providing outstanding care for the Veterans. Chuck Young, Assistant Director of Maintenance and Engineering was also given this award after becoming the Acting Director, when our Director required extended leave. Chuck answered the call of duty and successfully lead the Maintenance Department to a deficiency free life safety VA Survey and beyond. Sara Jordan, a Human Resources Assistant, received the award for

her exceptional work and focus in helping to significantly reduce worker compensation claims and improve the worker's compensation program at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home.

Adrienne Jones, the Assistant Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance Director was given the Heritage Award for being the Nurse of the Year. Adrienne's superior leadership skills, positive attitude, winning smile, and her true love for her veterans earned her this recognition.

The Achievement of Excellence Award is a team award which was presented to the employees of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home for their total commitment to improving the quality of life of the veterans entrusted to their care. HMR Veteran Services, Inc. extended their admiration and thanks for the continuous contributions in the pursuit of excellence to the entire team.

## Services

### Services that are offered at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

- Skilled Nursing
- Assisted Living
- Rehabilitation
- Alzheimer's Care
- Optometry
- Dental
- Podiatry
- Beauty/Barber Shop
- Massage Therapy
- Veterans Benefits

# Governor's Beautification Bowl



**Congratulations to  
Crossroads of Hughesville Garden  
Club for Being Number One!**

## Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are an important part of Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Volunteers are a constant reminder to our Veterans that the community appreciated the sacrifices they have made for our Country. Through visiting the home on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis, individual volunteers and organizations make Charlotte Hall Veterans Home a thriving hub of activity and social exchange.

Our Volunteer Program offers a variety of volunteer assignments that fulfill the volunteer's desire to make a difference in a veteran's life. The program can be tailored to meet the volunteer needs of an individual, family, large group, or corporation.

If you are interested in learning more about our Volunteer Program, please contact our Director of Volunteer/Community Outreach, LaDonna Mohler at 301-884-8171, ext. 664 or [lmohler@hmrmd.com](mailto:lmohler@hmrmd.com).

Director Sharon Mattia received a call from the Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club asking if Charlotte Hall Veterans Home had a project the Garden Club could support. Community involvement is always welcome, so began a wonderful relationship with the members of the Garden Club.

The Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club adopted the main entrance sign and surrounding garden. The Garden Club planted chrysanthemums and later added shrubs and plants that would provide year-round color and require minimal maintenance. The Club said they would be responsible for maintenance of the garden and would pay all associated costs. This offer was too good to pass up, so of course we agreed.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home is very happy with the appearance of the new garden and know that it will get even better as

### Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club Project CHVH Wins Award



the plants mature. We are very thankful to the Club and are pleased that they have received recognition from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland for their work on our garden. In March

2013 the Garden Club received the "Governor's Beautification Bowl." This award is given to the top-scoring garden club project in the state.



## Volunteer of the Year

“Thank you again for selecting me as CHVH’s Volunteer of the Year for 2013. I am honored and blessed to have been able to «serve» again. I truly appreciate being selected, but what I do, I do it from my heart. I’ve always tried to treat others better than I would want to be treated. Over a year ago I

went into this volunteering ‘thing’ because I felt I had more to give back the community, but I never thought that volunteering at CHVH would be so rewarding. Week-to-week, I find myself receiving more than I’m giving.

Working at CHVH has been a blessing for me. It’s an outstanding organization with top professionals at every type/field of work. The staff are the best folks I’ve been associates with in many years. From the leadership (Sharon Mattia & Larry Younger, the receptions staff, the welcoming staff, the admin staff, the dining facilities staff, physical therapy staff, the nurses, nurse aides, activity specialist and assistants, building facility folks, the maintenance folks, everyone, at CHVH are excellent service and support providers, making it easy for any volunteer to help at this Top-Notch facility.

Above all, it’s your leadership, organizational skills and community outreach, which makes it easy to work at CHVH. You’ve

done an excellent job since joining CHVH. I’m sure that Sharon and Larry are especially thankful and glad that they have you directing the volunteer and community relations programs. Also, you did an outstanding job in organizing the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet today. It was a big success. And, the magician was superb.

I look forward to continuing working with you and the others, for it’s not just me, it’s a team effort. An effort that I know is greatly appreciated and welcomed by all residents and staff. I won’t be able to be there tomorrow, Thursday, but I’ll see you next Tuesday. Have a wonderful Easter Sunday. Happy Bunny Day, too.

*Jaime ‘Lighting Bug’ Lleras*

## Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Administration held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. Volunteers truly create “magical moments” for all the veterans residing at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, which was the inspiration of this year’s banquet theme, “Celebrate the Magic of Volunteering”. We thank each and every one of our volunteers for the continuous support they provide to our nation’s heroes.

This year’s banquet was sponsored by and held at the Waldorf Jaycees Hall to better accommodate all of our generous supporters. Secretary Edward Chow, Jr. was the guest speaker for the event and helped create some magical memories for the afternoon.

Together our volunteers contributed 19,117 volunteer service hours in 2013. This is a 38% increase over last year’s total hours. This amounts to \$440,646.85 of volunteer time according to Independent Sector (a coalition of approximately 550 charities, foundation, and corporate giving program). They calculate an hourly dollar value of volunteer time in the state of Maryland at \$23.05.

It is all of their special magic that reminds our veterans that they haven’t been forgotten and are very much appreciated. Most of our veterans consider volunteers part of their extended family and we are proud to have them as a member of our Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Family.



Tim Hall (magician) &  
Secretary Edward Chow, Jr.  
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs



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Secretary Edward Chow, Jr.  
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