

# THE COMMUNICATOR

camden county DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & JUVENILE JUSTICE

SPRING 2011

## STEERING MIGRATION



Construction begins on the communications tower at Camden County College, Blackwood.

Camden County is prepared to meet the Federal Communication Commission's mandate to convert to a narrowband platform by January 1, 2013. Through the diligent work of the Radio Steering Committee, an experienced communications firm, the county's Department of Public Safety and Administrator's office, significant progress is being made. New to the team is Marge DellaVecchia, Deputy County Administrator, licensed Professional Planner and experienced project manager. Marge brings project management experience from her prior employment managing hotel/casino

renovation projects, and 14 years as the Director of Engineering and Planning for Cherry Hill Township. Now, she has taken on coordinating and managing the 700 MHz Migration to ensure the project meets its goals and timelines.

The 700 MHz Migration Project includes the development of 17 new antenna sites and the purchase of new mobile radio units for police, fire and EMS personnel to ensure uninterrupted emergency communication for first responders. The multi-phase project will be implemented over several years. The first phase includes the migration of fire and EMS communication to the new 700

MHz system and the construction of seven towers. Towers have already been completed at the Winslow Township Municipal Building and the county's Lindenwold Complex. A third tower at Camden County College's Blackwood Campus is on track to be finished in April.

Construction plans are being completed for towers in Pennsauken and Runnemede, and site investigation is taking place for a tower in the Cherry Hill area. Bid specifications for these towers will be released later this spring with construction slated for the summer. An agreement has also been made to share space on an existing broadcast tower in Waterford Township. All towers will be equipped with microwave transmitters and antennae to support the new 700 MHz platform.

Later phases of the project will include the development of additional towers to facilitate critical "on-street" and "in-building" radio coverage essential to public safety personnel. These towers are planned for Audubon, Camden, Cherry Hill, Pennsauken, Waterford and Winslow.

Through the commitment and dedication of the Freeholder Board, the members of the Public Safety Department and the valued members of the Radio Steering Committee, we will complete a public safety and emergency communication system that will provide for the needs of the county and its municipalities and increase the safety of our police, fire, EMS and the public they serve.

## FREEHOLDER'S FORUM



**Freeholder Rodney A. Greco,**  
Liaison to the Department of Public Safety

It is my privilege to welcome Camden County's new Director of the Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice, Robin J. Blaker. Many of you already know Rob from his role as the Director of the Regional Emergency Training Center for the past year.

In his new position, he will continue to move the public safety mission forward with solid day-to-day management, enlightened and progressive strategic planning, and a consistent approach to identifying and integrating industry-proven best practices into our various operations.

"I am excited about collaborating with the public safety community to ensure our citizens are provided with the best possible services," Rob said. "I am available to anyone that has any concerns, suggestions or questions."

Rob joins the team at a time of real transition. With several critical public safety projects progressing successfully, and budgetary concerns on everyone's mind, this year will be one of great advances and great challenges. We must all come together to strengthen relationships and endeavor to develop new partnerships to accomplish our mission.

Working together, we will continue to provide the residents of this county with the outstanding emergency services on which they have always relied. Thank you all for your service to our community.

## GROWTH OF THE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Voorhees Township has been added to the Police Dispatch responsibilities of the Camden County Communications Center. The Freeholder Board, Voorhees Township Mayor and Committee, Voorhees Police Department, and the Communications Center played vital roles in this smooth transition. The Communications Center now provides Fire and EMS communications service for all 37 of the county's municipalities and police communications service for 32 of the communities.

Through the combined efforts of the transition team, led by Captain James Odd of the Voorhees Township Police Department and Anthony Sirolli of the Communications Center, extensive planning, administrative operational policy revisions, and highly technical testing of the existing computer, radio, and telephone/911 systems, were completed in January. The transfer of service was completed in the early morning hours of Monday, February 7, 2011. Voorhees Township's approximately 32,000 police calls a year will now be received and processed through the Communications Center.

## THE CAMDEN COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation plans form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction and repeated damage in the next disaster. The planning process is as important as the plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision-making to reduce damages to lives, property and the economy from future disasters. Local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition of receiving certain types of hazard mitigation disaster assistance, emergency and non-emergency. The requirements and procedures for local mitigation plans are found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at Title 44, Chapter 1, Part 201.6 (44 CFR Part 201.6.). Started in 2006, ours was the first regional Hazard Mitigation Plan grant in the state. In 2010, a revised plan was submitted to FEMA.



George R. Martin, III, Certified Emergency Manager, and Emergency Management Coordinator Samuel Spino

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MANAGERS ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to George R. Martin III for attaining the designation of Certified Emergency Manager from the International Association of Emergency Managers. This is the highest level of professional achievement conferred by the IAEM, with only 964 emergency management professionals worldwide given the title.

George, who has worked in the Camden County OEM for 12 years, submitted an extensive credentials package of personal and professional achievements, along with completing a Management Essay and written examination. In his 28 years with the county, George has demonstrated a high level of competence and ethical fitness for emergency management and we commend him for his achievement.

## COUNTYWIDE MOBILE DATA EXCHANGE PROJECT

The Mobile Data Computer (MDC) project for Fire Departments was completed in December 2010. All departments have now been outfitted with at least one MDC. This was completed with the cooperation of all the departments in the county as well as Bob Obarski from the Communication Center IT Department. MDC technology allows each department to view current incident information and update activity status, enter narrative, read the comment field and list other units assigned to the incident. Departments that have been using MDCs have found them to be a useful tool.

Soon, we will begin an MDC program for county EMS units. This will provide the field units with vital information, while reducing the number of radio transmissions needed for each incident. We are currently in the process of procuring the equipment and hope to begin installations in April 2011.



Calm, cool and collected PST Peter Krygiel

## CAMDEN COUNTY 9-1-1 DISPATCHER HONORED

Mr. Jerry Griffith delivered his own daughter Hailey-Ann in Lindenwold last November when his fiancée Amanda Vogle went into labor and couldn't get to the hospital in time. Jerry dialed 9-1-1 in a panic. On the other end of the line was Public Safety Telecommunicator Pete Krygiel.

In a smooth and steady voice, PST Krygiel guided Griffith through the birth of Hailey-Ann, all the while being assured that the information he was receiving was being relayed to the emergency personnel dispatched by the Communications Center. Unable to wait for the first responders to arrive, the new father delivered his baby during that 11-minute phone call with the help of PST Krygiel, who followed the training he received to ensure a healthy birth for both mother and child.

PST Krygiel received a proclamation honoring him for his handling of the call from the Board of Freeholders at the December meeting in Runnemede. His story was also featured in the Courier-Post and as a segment on Channel 6 Action News.

We are all proud of the great job done by PST Krygiel.

## COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

### *FIREHOUSE Software Integration*

FIREHOUSE software has been up and running for about a year now with 25 fire departments using the product totally integrated with the CAD system. This integration allows the CAD system to send data to the fire departments database and starts the NFIRS report when the incident and all units assigned are cleared. This functionality eliminates the need for agencies to have closed incident reports faxed to them at the end of every call. The version of FIREHOUSE we purchased is the enterprise version, meaning all fire departments have access to every module offered. For example, if an agency is using the pre-plan module, these pre-plans can be accessed from the fire scene via their on-board computer.

### *emsCharts Software Integration*

EmsCharts software has been integrated with the CAD system so that the EMS units can get their times and run numbers via emsCharts at the completion of each incident. There are currently four EMS agencies in the county taking advantage of this functionality and it eliminates the need to call for and/or ask for times and numbers via fax. Emscharts can be accessed from a mobile computer, allowing the crews to do their charts while returning from an incident.

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECEIVES COUNTY OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Camden County Office of Emergency Management has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 County of the Year award by the New Jersey Emergency Management Association, an award presented each year to an OEM agency that exhibits extraordinary and continued support for comprehensive statewide emergency management practices.

"We are very proud of our Office of Emergency Management for receiving this recognition," said Freeholder Rodney Greco, liaison to the Department of Public Safety. "The award stands as a testament to how committed we are to strengthening the relationship among municipal OEM coordinators around the county and the region. We need to be prepared to work together during an emergency as a state, and Camden County is fortunate to have an OEM that helps lead the way to keep our residents safe."

The County of the Year award was presented to Sam Spino, OEM coordinator, by Barry E. Eck, president of the New Jersey Emergency Management Association, at the December meeting of the Camden County OEM. Spino accepted the award on behalf of his staff, which includes George Martin, Jason Vilardo, Mark Simonetti, and all the Municipal Coordinators and Deputies. "I am proud to accept this award on behalf of everyone at the Camden County Emergency Management Office," said Spino. "What we do is truly a team effort, and I am fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of individuals that work so hard for the residents of Camden County."

The New Jersey Emergency Management Association is comprised of emergency management coordinators and personnel from counties and municipalities within the State of New Jersey. Its purpose is to promote the efforts of its members and to protect the property and lives of all New Jersey residents.



**COUNTY OF CAMDEN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice is committed to delivering professional and exemplary services in response to Camden County's diverse public safety and juvenile justice needs. We seek to build partnerships with all members of our county community in an effort to maintain overall safety while affording dignity and respect to all individuals.

The exploration of innovative ideas and concepts leading to improved services which optimize resources is a high priority for department personnel. With professionalism and honor in our work ethic, we shall strive to protect and serve with excellence and enhance the quality of life for all who reside, visit or travel through the County of Camden.

**COMMUNICATIONS CENTER IS KEY PARTICIPANT OF NJ 42/55/I-76/676/295 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

The Camden County Communications Center is an active participant in a little known organization that has become a major advocate in first responder safety on the highway. In 2002, a group consisting of fire departments, EMS units, the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Department of Transportation Traffic Operations South and Emergency Services Patrol, DRPA Police Department, Gloucester County Communications, Camden County

down Route 42 for more than 10 hours.

The group is now called the NJ 42/55/I-76/676/295 Incident Management Task Force. Since its humble beginnings in 2002, the task force has published a Policy and Procedure Manual that has been used as an incident command model throughout the country. Additionally, several task force members have lectured around the country as to the success of the task force in bringing the state police, fire service, EMS, DOT and private towing companies together to collaborate as a single unit or team at highway incidents.

The task force has also trained several hundred first responders on how to operate safely at incidents occurring on highways. The Communications Center is a key player since approximately 90 percent of the aforementioned highways' mobile 9-1-1 calls go through the Communications Center. It was also decided that the Communications Center would handle all of the radio communications on these highways for responding fire and EMS apparatus. After years of planning and cooperation, a model of successful incident management exists in Camden County and is exercised almost every day.



Communications Center, private towing companies, and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission met to determine a more efficient and effective way to handle traffic incidents which occur on limited access highways. This effort was born from a major bus accident in February of 2001 that shut

**camden county**  
BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS

**Louis Cappelli, Jr.**, Director  
**Edward T. McDonnell**, Deputy Director  
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**Joseph Ripa**, County Clerk  
**Charles H. Billingham**, County Sheriff  
**Patricia Egan Jones**, Surrogate  
**Warren W. Faulk**, Prosecutor

**Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice**  
**Rodney Greco, Freeholder Liaison**  
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The Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice is comprised of the Park Police, Office of the Fire Marshal, Office of Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Training Center, Countywide Communications Center, and Youth Center