

DISTRICT 12 - Nassau County

HEMPSTEAD VILLAGE, Nassau County, has entered into an agreement with NS-LIJ Center for EMS for emergency ambulance and medical transportation services during a six-month trial period starting in June. A dedicated ambulance would be available from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM and would be stationed in the village near the fire department headquarters. The trial period was offered by NS-LIJ at no cost and will start June 1 to coincide with the village's fiscal 2012-13 budget. According to the village mayor, after the trial ends, NS-LIJ EMS would bill a patient's insurance company \$400 to \$600, depending on the services provided in the ambulance and the distance traveled to the hospital adding "If you can't pay, then they are not going to pursue it. They would just write it off". Annual EMS call volume in the village is in the 4,500 to 5,000 range. Hempstead Fire Department Rescue Squad No 1 is also available in the village to provide a BLS level ambulance service. Previously, the village relied on Nassau County PD Emergency Ambulance Bureau for service. Their ambulances respond with only one technician, usually an AEMT-CC, and a NCPD or village police officer would respond to drive the ambulance to the hospital. Taking highly paid police officers off patrol duties to drive ambulances is an issue with some local municipalities.

MANHASSET-LAKEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT, Nassau County, in coordination with their local partners, the GREAT NECK ALERTS FIRE COMPANY, the GREAT NECK VIGILANTS FIRE COMPANY and the ALBERTSON FIRE COMPANY received a \$249,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The funds will be used for the purchase of a Driver Trainer Simulator. With this tool, the above named fire companies can train their members in all weather without putting a single apparatus on the road enhancing the safety of all civilians and firefighters. This piece of equipment will be utilized by approximately 750 firefighters, operating 26 engines, 8 heavy rescues, 5 ladder trucks covering 50 square miles, protecting 151,000 in population.

MASSAPEQUA PARK VILLAGE and OYSTER BAY TOWN, Nassau County, are awaiting responses from NS-LIJ Health System and Catholic Health Services about construction of a new full service hospital in Massapequa. This is unusual at a time when other hospitals in the area have closed, including the former Massapequa General in Seaford and Brunswick Hospital in Amityville. The area is currently served by Nassau University MC in East Meadow, St. Joseph's Hospital in Hempstead and Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip, Suffolk County.

NASSAU COUNTY hospital turnaround time for ambulances is rising. Data from ePCR sources indicate the current time is 27.1 minutes which has risen from 23.7 minutes in the 2008-2009 period. Factors that can contribute to delays include triage backlogs, not enough hospital stretchers to offload patients, emphasis on crews doing more complete PCR documentation, etc. Getting a better grasp on the turnaround situation at hospitals in the county and reducing the time is a regional project for 2012.

NASSAU COUNTY has been approved for a \$661,852.00 FEMA grant to equip all its fire and EMS agencies with radios capable of transmissions on the county Police Department's new 500 MHz encrypted radio system. The system will also be used by EMS crews to communicate with NCPD's Online Medical Control.

NASSAU COUNTY PD EMERGENCY AMBULANCE BUREAU is evaluating chassis options in regards to the onset of new federal emission regulations. Due to issues with Ford diesel engines the past few years the next round of about 12 re-mounts, which have already begun to hit the streets, are Chevy diesels. Three new Ford/Braun Liberty's were purchased and posted in 3 precincts. There are also two Chevy/Brauns being evaluated. New unit xx88 is a gas Ford/Horton with five Whelen 900 Series Super-LED's across the top front of the box that are very bright and supposedly much more affordable than a full-sized lightbar. The department has also begun to add chevrons the rear for added safety.