

Edgewood Elementary, HOPE Health commission to visit two sites

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission will conduct a multiple-site visit Wednesday to discuss Harford County's innovative Healthy Options Provide Empowerment, or HOPE, Project, and the school-based Health Center Program at Edgewood Elementary School.

HOPE helps inmates with complex health care needs transition back into the community.

Both HOPE and the school-based medical center programs receive commission funds.

According to the Harford County Health Department, the purpose of the CHRC's site visit is to assess performance and discuss how Harford County is using grant funds to expand health care access.

The first stage of the site visit is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. at Edgewood Elementary School to discuss the school-based health center program.

Participants are expected to reconvene shortly before noon at the health department administrative offices in Bel Air to discuss the HOPE program.

Among those expected to participate are Del. Mary-Dulany James, Sheriff Jesse Bane, County Councilman Dion Guthrie, District Court Judge Mimi Cooper, Harford County Office on Mental Health Executive Director Sharon Lipford, County Health Officer Susan Kelly and representatives from the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene.

The Harford County Health

Department has received several grant awards from the CHRC over the last few years, all of which support a comprehensive and coordinated system of care in Harford County.

"We appreciate the commission's commitment to Harford County," Kelly said in a press release. "These grants from the commission have put us in a position to initiate and maintain these programs, providing valuable public health services to our community."

According to the health department, in fiscal year 2008, Harford County received a \$484,237 multi-year grant from the commission.

The goal of the HOPE Project to identify 600 dually diagnosed inmates at the local detention center and link them directly into an integrated system of care, to include substance abuse counseling, psychiatric services, medical home for primary care and support services consisting of case management, housing and entitlement program eligibility, that starts during incarceration and continues post-release.

Harford County reports identifying 439 inmates to date, generating approximately 2,000 clinical appointments in the program.

For more information on the HOPE program, contact Beth Jones, 410-877-2360. For more information about the School-based Health Center Program, contact Marcy Austin, 443-992-7670.

In the bag



NICOLE MUNCHEL | AEGIS STAFF

Harford County Councilman Dick Slutzky helps bag groceries at Klein's ShopRite in Aberdeen Wednesday evening. Two percent of the proceeds earned in Harford County stores on Wednesday will go to The Aegis Empty Stocking Fund.

Storm brings wind gusts, power outages

BY KIRSTEN DIZE
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More than 2,000 people in Harford and Cecil counties were without electricity Wednesday night and into Thursday after a thunderstorm with gusting winds swept throughout the area.

"Most of the storm hit up north, Bel Air into the northern part of the county," Gerry Luft, meteorologist at Aberdeen Proving Ground, said Thursday.

The storm rolled through around 9 p.m. with wind

gusts between 27 and 42 mph in the Aberdeen area, according to Luft.

"Cecil County, they were hit pretty bad over there, but Harford not so bad," Bridget Shelton, spokesperson with Delmarva Power, said Thursday.

As of 4:30 p.m. all of Delmarva's Harford customers had their power restored, and several Cecil customers were left without power.

"We still have a handful of customers in Cecil County without power, but they are expected to be restored by

six o'clock this evening [Thursday]," Shelton said.

Shelton said there were about 1,500 outages in Harford County as a result of the storm.

Baltimore Gas and Electric began storm operations at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday and by 4:30 p.m. more than half of those without power in Harford were back in action.

About 1,210 BGE customers were without power due to Wednesday's storm, and 215 were still waiting for power Thursday evening.



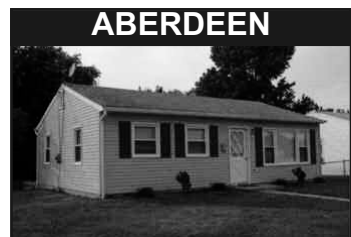
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HARFORD COUNTY

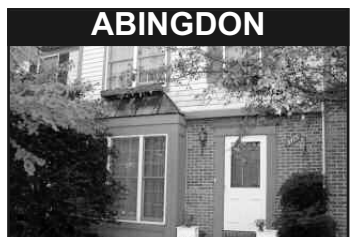
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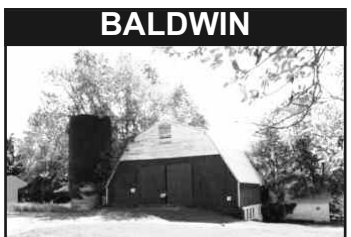
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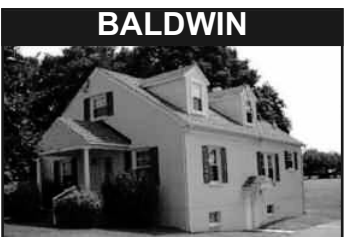
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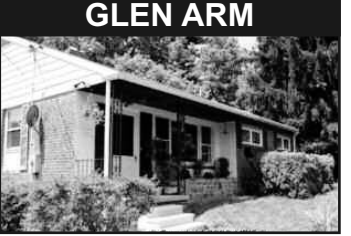
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