The quick response teams are based at available for the partygoer who needs a drink coffee, and finish ePCR run recrews, giving them a place to sit down, also serves as a warming station for our when resources on Court Street are EMS vehicles at our outlying stations communications center that monitors the away due to crowd congestion.

We have several staffing to manage patients who require ground transport vehicles with extra specialized. We have six dedicated ALS Block Party involve four areas of spe- Athletics County EMS operations at the EMS must plan for the others.

As with any outdoor event, the weather for the event. Total on patient treatment and EMS runs portation officer to provide a running coordinate countywide ambulance dis- 1 brings in extra telecommunicators, radio rooms at the Athens PD physicians, are scheduled to address the event security is a priority, and over 100 law enforcement officers from across the state are hired for the weekend. K9 officers, mounted (horse) units, bomb-sniffing dogs, the Highway Patrol’s Special Response (Riot) Teams, undercover liquor control officers, city fire officials, and the Ohio Fire Marshal’s office complement local law enforcement officers from the city of Athens, Ohio University, and the Athens County Sheriff’s Office. The goal is to make the event as safe as possible.

We are fortunate that our only hospital is one mile from Court Street, the epi- center of the event. The 20 bed ER normally swells to capacity during the Block Party and extra staff, including physicians, are scheduled to address the influx. Radio rooms at the Athens PD and Ohio University PD are double staffed for the night. Athens County 9-1- 1 brings in extra telecommunicators, providing a dedicated dispatcher to coordinate countywide ambulance dis- patch is one of the needs of our special event communications center. Our county health department and Emergency Management Agency are on standby with additional resources if needed. Our operations division utilizes the event to practice incident command and triage. We utilize triage tags and a trans- portation officer to provide a running total on patient treatment and EMS runs for the event.

As with any outdoor event, the weather is an issue, especially in late October. We’ve had Halloween Block Parties with temperatures in the low 70s and wall-to-wall crowds, and the next year we have 31-degree temperatures and snow flurries at 1:00 am, several hours before the event winds down. Our triage area does contain a warming station if needed, and EMS crews have treated and transported injured, unconscious, intoxicated, hypothermic patients from the event in previous years. As we move into the 46th year of Ath- enes County, local leaders are trying to slowly add more family-oriented events early in the day as well as shut- ting the event down before midnight, a huge change from several years ago when the 2:30 am bar closing time sig- naled the unofficial end to the week- end’s festivities. In an abundance of caution, EMS and other public safety forces will remain on hand after the event closes in case an “after-party” occurs at the campus bars or in off- campus residential housing.

The city and university have worked in unison to “change the trajectory” of events early in the day as well as shut- ting the event down before midnight, a huge change from several years ago when the 2:30 am bar closing time sig- naled the unofficial end to the week- end’s festivities. In an abundance of caution, EMS and other public safety forces will remain on hand after the event closes in case an “after-party” occurs at the campus bars or in off- campus residential housing.

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From volunteer to chief, Burns continues to lead Tri-Village Rescue Services

Chief Eric Burns, of Tri-Village Rescue Services, has risen from a volunteer to his current position to help lead his department into the future.

Burns said he started his EMS career in 1988 as a volunteer EMT while he was in college working on a degree in environmental health and safety.

“I also was able to take my paramedic class in the evening through one of the hospitals in the area,” he said.

Burns worked in the private sector as a human resources manager while continuing to volunteer as a paramedic with Tri-Village during the weekends. In 2002, the trustees of Tri-Village decided it was time to hire a full-time chief and Burns was given the role. Burns said his agency averages 450-500 calls annually, while covering a 120-square-mile area across four villages (New Madison, Palatine, Hollansburg and Wayne Lake).

The townships of Harrison, Neuwe, Butler and Liberty are also covered by the department.

The agency employs 24 part-timers, including seven paramedics and 11 EMTs. Burns is the only full-time employee of the department. Tri-Village runs two Advanced Life Support ambulances, a special operations vehicle and a staff vehicle.

Over Burns’ experience in EMS, he said his favorite part has been working hands-on to assist patients.

“I’ve always loved patient care, ever since I started in EMS,” he said. “When people call 911, they are having a bad day, and we as EMS professionals need to remember that we are being given a trust by these people to help them. We are given very personal information and we see parts of their lives that they don’t show just anyone. I feel as an EMS professional, I need to respect an patient and share their concern for their health.”

Burns said one of his favorite types of calls is to help the elderly, especially veterans.

“One veteran, even at 95-younger as he can remember each of the names of the soldiers he lost,” he said. “All of our patients deserve the best care.”

Burns said the most challenging part of his job is staffing.

“About 10 years ago, we had tons of people, but today, departments are struggling to fill their schedules,” he said. “We have to compete with other departments to keep staff and young people aren’t going into our field because of the education requirements and the pay. Let’s face it, people can find other jobs that more than EMS does without all the stress, long hours and low pay.”

Burns said he is proud his agency is a member of the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association because of the networking opportunity.

“It has opened multiple doors for me and given me the opportunity to see how other organizations are run,” he said. “I have become more involved in the politics of EMS since joining OEMSCA.”

Burns sits on three different state committees and said he has enjoyed meeting EMS chiefs and administrators across the state.

“I think that the relationships that we build at our organizational meetings as well as at our annual conference are invaluable,” he said. “I hope that our organization keeps growing and we become as active as the Ohio Fire Chiefs organization. I hope we become a leader on EMS legislation in Ohio, making our voices heard on the national level as well. I feel the more work we get at legislation passed, the more our occupation will be recognized as one that makes positive changes for Ohio EMS.”

Burns said new products and technology are important in improving the capability of himself and his staff.

“Doing 12 leads in the field was never thought of when I went to paramedic school back in 1989,” he said. “Or having a camera at the end of the intubation blades to show your location, these are things that make our jobs so much easier.”

Burns said he greatly appreciates the dedication and hard work put forth by his staff.

“We are a small farming community and we do rely a lot on the local providers to keep back-up ambulances staffed,” he said. “My staff is also great at working within our community, showing pride in working with Tri-Village Rescue Services. We are the only department with a dedicated vehicle for mass casualty and fire rehab in our county.”

Burns said the department is very accommodating to civic organizations, including by allowing them in to use the agency’s conference center.

“Our policy is that we are nothing without our community behind us,” he said. “We are very frugal, and we do what we can to improve our building and keep up with maintenance to our equipment to save taxpayer dollars.”

Burns said he’s proud of his team.

On June 28, 2019, Edition V

OEMSCA Conference and Legislative Meet and Greet Nov. 12

The Ohio EMS Chiefs Association Conference is Nov. 12 at the Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows South in Lewis Center, OH. The conference is from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and it will be immediately followed by a Legislative Meet and Greet from 5-7 p.m.

Several talented speakers and presenters will be featured at the conference. If you have not yet registered for the conference, please do so by Nov. 1! Here is a link to that information

http://oemsc.org/meetings/

OEMSCA NEWSLETTER

The agenda for the conference is below!

• 0700-0800 Registration and Breakfast
• 0900-0940 “The Moment of Impact” Dr. Mike Peterson, D.O., FACEP
• 0940-1000 “EMS Today—Have We Lost Service Orientation?” David Glendenning- Presenter
• 1000-1100 “Therapy Dog Program” Debbie Willis- Presenter
• 1100-1130 Break and Vendor Time
• 1130-1215 “EMS Dashboard” Rob Wagner- Deputy Director ODPS
• 1215-1500 Lunch and Networking
• 1300-1400 “Global Thinking” Ned Parks- Presenter
• 1400-1600 “Wingman Leadership Seminar” Lt. Col. Scott “Hurler” Weaver
• 1600-1630 Vendor Visits
• 1630 Wrap Up