



CONSTELLATION

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Exposed and cracked sewer pipes contribute to serious environmental problems along Dead Run in the Gwynns Falls watershed in Baltimore.

Photo courtesy of Coastal Resources, Inc.

In the pipeline: *Fixing ecosystem entails fixing sewers*

*by Mary Beth Thompson
Public Affairs Office*

Baltimore District will complete a draft report this month that proposes to go where the Corps hasn't gone before in its ecosystem restoration mission: into a big city's sewers.

The Corps has worked on a handful of small sewer system projects in the past. And the Corps

has done extensive ecosystem restoration work, traditionally with a habitat or storm water management focus. But sewers and ecosystem restoration have seldom been linked and never to this extent.

The Baltimore Metropolitan Water Resources, Gwynns Falls Feasibility Study draft report recommends that the Corps undertakes aquatic

ecosystem restoration in two Baltimore sub-watersheds by fixing the sewer infrastructure that runs through them.

The draft report will go to North Atlantic Division for review, and there will be a public comment period.

The Dead Run and Maidens Choice Run sub-watersheds, located in southwestern Balti-

(Continued on p. 6)



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

[http://
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Commander's Comment

"It is the policy of the Department of Defense to make available timely and accurate information so that the public, Congress and the news media may access and understand the facts about national security and defense strategy.

Requests for information from organizations and private citizens will be answered in a timely manner."

From *Principles of Information*

Endorsed by Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense

November 9, 2001

Speaking publicly about Corps work

by Col. Charles J. Fiala, Jr.
Commander & District Engineer

By their nature, Corps' projects and regulatory responsibilities will almost always be controversial. It is clear the public and the media will remain interested in our work. They will continue to question and criticize.

What may be less well known among Corps employees is that **we are required to respond.**

The Defense Department's *Principles of Information* policy calls for free flow of information.

A couple tenets underlie this policy. One is that taxpayers provide the money that funds our work. That gives Joan Q. Public and Joe Sixpack the right to know how the money is spent. The public's "right to know" is basic to our democratic form of government.

Another basis for being open has to do with credibility. Just as a lie that is exposed will destroy trust, the failure to provide information or the selective release of it so that only fragments are shared with the public will subtly undermine confidence. Either way, the

public's belief in what we say is lost.

Sometimes we get involved in sticky issues, and we'd prefer not to answer questions about them. At times, we may be tempted to use the Freedom of Information Act to put off a questioner. Situations do occur when following formal FOIA procedures is appropriate. (Ed. note: see page 4 for more on FOIA.) However, we should refrain from using FOIA as a delaying tactic.

The *Principles of Information* policy says that FOIA "will be supported in both letter and spirit."

For example, our leadership has told us that information requested by the media that is releasable under FOIA should be given to them without requiring a formal request.

If we know we will have to provide the information eventually, common sense tells us that little purpose is served by a delay.

The wait usually works to irritate the journalist, removes any positive feelings he or she may have had and gives the reporter reason to believe we are hiding something. In the end, the information—good or bad—will be made public. The

holdup just makes negative stories last longer.

The policy also clearly states that to protect the government from embarrassment or criticism is not sufficient reason to withhold information.

In fact, there are few limitations. We cannot talk if:

- the information's release is barred by a security classification or by statute;
- it would threaten national security or the safety and privacy of the men and women of the armed forces;
- it violates the Privacy Act;
- it would affect an official investigation or deprive someone of a fair trial;
- it contains trade secrets, or commercial or financial information about a company;
- it is internal advice, recommendations or evaluations, or qualifies for the attorney-client privilege.

That leaves a great deal the Corps can and should talk about.

Secretary Rumsfeld took the time Nov. 9, 2001—when, no doubt, he had many other demands for his attention—to reinforce the Defense Department's *Principles of Information*. That's how important the policy is.

Essays.

Street smarts, stay situationally aware

by Marshall Hudson
Public Affairs Office

Less than a block from the District's headquarters building, a Corps employee was assaulted as she walked down Howard Street on her way to work in January.

The incident should remind everyone that bad things don't just happen to other people—this could happen to any District employee.

While that crime may not have been preventable, many crimes are. The District's Office of Security and Law Enforcement has an educational video, *Street Smarts: How to Avoid Being a Victim*, which is available for loan.

The video describes ways to reduce the chances of being victimized and explains the risks of different courses of action if you are involved in a crime in progress.

The video stresses that anyone can be victimized, so everyone should have a plan in case that happens. The plan should reduce your chances of being chosen by a criminal and include the actions to take in difficult situations.

The best way to prevent being a victim is to be a **tough target**.

Like predators, criminals look for the weakest prey available. They know that people who are inattentive can be taken by surprise. People who scan their surroundings are less likely to be chosen by criminals than people who stare off into space or look at the ground when they walk.

Criminals also look for fear,

because frightened people are usually compliant and easier to victimize.

Criminals will sometimes approach a potential victim and ask for spare change or directions. If the person shows fear, they will rob them. Criminals take advantage of easy opportunities, so even if you



are scared, try not to show it.

If a criminal does choose you, try to **deny him privacy** for his crime. Generally, the more time you give a criminal, the more he will take.

Avoid getting caught in an alley, a stairwell or other secluded place, because it may cost you not just your wallet or purse, but your rings, necklace, watch or something even worse.

If an attacker shows a weapon and orders you into a car or some other isolated place, your chances are generally better if you instantly run the other way. Even if he hurts you for resisting, the likelihood is that you would be worse off

going with him. You can throw your purse or wallet in his direction and run the other way if you think the motive is robbery, but never let an attacker take you some place where he loses his motivation to hurry.

Criminals don't want to get caught, so try to **attract attention** if someone tries to force you to an isolated area.

No one has to hear a call for help for it to be effective. Even the chance that someone may have heard it can make the criminal leave the area. It is better to be injured and left on the ground than to go to a place where he has no fear of being caught.

If you are being victimized, the most important thing to do is **take action**. Don't let the criminal decide how and when the crime will end.

Criminals regularly lie to victims throughout the course of a crime. If they say they only want your money, or you won't be hurt if you do as you're told, they may be telling the truth, but that is quite a chance to take.

Make decisions and carry yourself in ways that lower your chances of being targeted. If confronted, deny the criminal privacy, make noise and take action.

Whether it's best to throw down your money and run the other way, call for help or fight is situationally dependent, but remember that if you do only what you are told, you are completely at the mercy of the criminal. And most criminals will not show you any mercy.



Freedom of Information Act

by Chanel Weaver
Public Affairs Office

Forty years ago, a person could not gain access to government records simply by requesting them. But that was 40 years ago, and now, times have changed due to the passing of the Freedom of Information Act.

"A Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, request can be made for any reason whatsoever," said Al Gilley, the District's FOIA attorney. "FOIA requesters do not have to explain or justify their request."

The introduction of the FOIA was not a spontaneous event, however. It originated with a series of events that eventually led to its adoption.

The beginning

In the late '50s and early '60s, various officials from Congress, federal agencies and special interest groups were debating about the need for some type of law that would give citizens the right to access government records. Then, in 1964 Congress passed the Administrative Procedures Act, or APA, which had a public disclosure section. But the APA proved not to be very helpful to the general public.

"There were so many exceptions in the act preventing people

from getting access to government records that the APA became known more as a withholding statute than a disclosure statute," said Gilley.

And that's why the FOIA was introduced — because it made government records available to almost any person.

"The Freedom of Information Act is a law that gives a person the right...to obtain access to federal agency records unless the records are protected from disclosure by one of nine exemptions or by one of three law enforcement record exclusions," said Gilley.

Advantages

According to Gilley, the FOIA, which was passed in 1966, had many advantages over the APA.

For example, unlike the APA, where the burden was on the citizen to demonstrate a strong need for the record, under FOIA, almost every government record must be made available to the public. Gilley also said that FOIA has an additional benefit.

"You can sue in federal court if the government denies you access to records you request under FOIA," said Gilley. "You didn't have this right to sue under APA."

While gaining access to government records is much easier under FOIA, the act still has its own set of rules and procedures. For example, a person cannot just make a phone call to receive a document. FOIA requests must be written requests.

"They can be mailed, faxed, e-mailed or delivered, but they must be in writing," said Gilley.

Here in Baltimore District, there are also three additional things that a document needs to be considered a proper FOIA request.

The requester must ask for the document under FOIA or an understandable synonym, reasonably describe the records being requested and be willing to pay all allowable fees.

And these fees are very distinct from each other.

"We charge three types of fees: search, review and duplication fees," said Gilley.

Exceptions

There are times, however, when certain fees for accessing government records are waived or reduced. While commercial requesters must pay all applicable fees, educational institutions and the news media only pay duplication fees, and they get

How much do you know about FOIA?

by Al Gilley
District FOIA Attorney

1. The FOIA was enacted in which of the following years?

- a. 1959
- b. 1966
- c. 1984
- d. 1990
- e. none of the above

2. How many FOIA exemptions are there in the ACT?

- a. 8
- b. 10
- c. 9
- d. 7
- e. none of the above

3. Subsection (a)(2) of the FOIA requires that certain types of records, such as final opinions, be routinely made "available for public inspection and copying." This is commonly referred to as:

- a. "FOIA Library" provision
- b. "public access" provision
- c. "reading room" provision
- d. "mandatory release" provision
- e. none of the above

4. In the FOIA the Acronym "IDA" stands for:

- a. Interested Document Administrator
- b. Initial Denial Authority
- c. Intra-agency Decisional Arbitrator
- d. Inspection of Document Authority
- e. none of the above

5. A non-commercial FOIA requester gets how many free pages of records?

- a. 100 pages
- b. 50 pages
- c. 200 pages
- d. 75 pages
- e. none of the above

6. A non-commercial requester gets how many hours of free search?

- a. 10 hours
- b. 3 hours
- c. 5 hours
- d. 4 hours
- e. none of the above

7. Which of the following persons are prohibited from making a FOIA request?

- a. A foreign spy
- b. A prisoner
- c. A state official acting in his or her official capacity
- d. A corporation
- e. none of the above

8. How many days do federal agencies have to answer an FOIA request?

- a. 10 working days
- b. 20 working days
- c. 10 calendar days
- d. 20 calendar days
- e. none of the above

9. Which of the following records are **not** considered "Agency Records" under FOIA?

- a. e-mail messages
- b. video tapes
- c. audio tapes
- d. personal notes
- e. none of the above

10. How much does the District charge an FOIA requester for each duplicated page?

- a. \$0.05 per page
- b. \$0.10 per page
- c. \$0.15 per page
- d. \$0.25 per page
- e. none of the above

(Answers, p. 12)

the first 100 pages free. Gilley said that "all others" have to pay search and duplication fees, but no review fees. There is an added incentive for these requesters, too.

"They get two hours of search free and 100 free duplication pages," said Gilley.

In addition, the District has a threshold amount below which they do not charge. If the total fee for processing a FOIA request amounts to \$15 or less, the

District will waive the fee because it would be more of an expense to process the check than a profit for the District.

Gilley says that it is the duty of every person in the District to be acquainted with the FOIA because it is a federal law.

When individual FOIA requests come into separate offices, he advises the offices to make a copy of the request and forward the original to him. Gilley also recommends that

each person pay specific attention to the amount of time spent and the government grade level of the person who is answering the request.

Gilley, who has been with the District since 1977, is doing his part in educating the District's personnel about the Freedom of Information Act. He teaches a class on FOIA each year, and is currently working on a District FOIA training video with his 10-year-old son, Michael.

Corps plans to repair sewers as ecosystem restoration work

(continued from cover)

more City and adjacent Baltimore County, rank among the most severely polluted of the 10 sub-watersheds within the Gwynns Falls watershed.

According to Chris Spaur, a Planning Division ecologist who is on the study team, the state of affairs is very serious.

"Two of the streams that are among the most severely degraded in the state of Maryland flow right through highly populated residential areas, and they're open to people," Spaur said.

Within Baltimore City, Dead Run flows through a city park, and Maidens Choice Run flows through low income and minority neighborhoods. It passes several schools, and the city has posted it as a health hazard.

"Kids can read, but, being kids, they ignore the signs, and they're out there playing in the water," Spaur said. "I've seen them."



Posted hazard signs along Maidens Choice Run fail to keep children out of the polluted stream.

Photo courtesy of Coastal Resources, Inc.

In 1992, Congress asked the Corps to investigate water resource problems in Baltimore. The District completed a reconnaissance study in 1994 that identified Gwynns Falls watershed as a focus.

The District launched the feasibility phase in 1996. Attention centered on the Maidens Choice and Dead Runs sub-watersheds, and the team looked at several alternatives for improving these two very damaged aquatic ecosystems. Later, Baltimore County withdrew from the study, and the study focused on Baltimore City.

"When we started out, the basic mindset was that we could go in there and do some habitat restoration work and do some good — habitat restoration work would be wetlands creation, or working on stream habitat conditions and some other things," Spaur explained. "But what we learned as time has gone by in this study is that undertaking projects like that would be unlikely to do any good because there are others problems so much more severe."



The mouth of the Gwynns Falls meets the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River in Baltimore flanked by highway bridge piers and other typical urban infrastructure.

Photo by Chris Spaur

"We asked why these streams are so highly degraded and found that a big part was caused by the sewer system," said Daria Van Liew, project manager.

The mostly clay sewer pipes in both sub-watersheds date from the 1920s and 1930s. The sewer systems use gravity to move the contents down the pipes, so the pipes were built in or right next to streams. Erosion has caused the pipes to settle, shift and crack. Joints have loosened. Some pipes have become exposed.

Far-reaching consequences result. Sewage leaks from the pipes into the streams. The streams leak into the sewer pipes, and the pipes also take in groundwater that would otherwise make it to the streams.

The former puts bacteria into the water. The latter substantially reduces the quantity of water in the streams. These effects destroy the prospects for healthy aquatic life and expose

humans to potential health risks.

"You want to start with what will have the biggest impact," Van Liew said. "If you want to do environmental restoration in this watershed, you have to fix the sewer system."

Baltimore City faces huge obstacles in

rehabilitating its decrepit sewage system. The increased water volume that these degraded watersheds force into the sewage treatment system worsens the city's predicament.

"The problems facing the city of Baltimore are immense," Spaur said. "And actually, this is a problem common to older urban areas throughout the country."

The District is not proposing to build new infrastructure for the city, Van Liew said. The proposal is to take on a cost-shared project to prevent sewage from getting in and out of the sewer pipes, and the loss of water flow in the streams that results. To do that, the existing pipes would be sliplined and the manholes would be raised. The cost estimate is in the \$12 million range.

Because the suggested work is somewhat outside of what has been done in this mission area before, the Baltimore team consulted policy makers at North Atlantic Division and Headquarters before proceeding.

The team has also worked closely with the city, with state and federal resource agencies and the public throughout the study. The team plans to complete the feasibility report by July, incorporating input from the public comment period.

"I think everyone who's looked at it thinks it makes sense," Spaur said. "The public is very aware of it. The agencies are very aware of it. If this works out, I can't think of anything more in the public interest and in the interest of environmental restoration than this work."



Storm water runoff from large parking lots like this one at the Social Security Administration add to the pollution problems in highly urbanized watersheds like Baltimore's Gwynns Falls. Photo by Chris Spaur

Team looks at other ecosystem restoration work at Gwynns Falls

The interaction between the streams and the sewage system is the most critical problem in the Gwynns Falls watershed, but it is not the only one causing environmental harm, according to a Baltimore District team studying metropolitan water resources in Baltimore.

Uncontrolled storm water runoff from numerous large parking lots, roadways and rooftops affect the streams in this highly urbanized area. This runoff contains pollutants from cars and other sources that severely degrade the streams.

The team is investigating several other projects that would help improve the condition of the watershed. They include:

- "daylighting" up to 800

feet of a tributary of Maidens Choice Run currently piped underground;

- restoring a wetland at Beechfield Elementary School;
- retrofitting urban storm water management features;
- restoring a wetland at Seton-Keough School along a tributary of Maidens Choice Run;

• constructing a new storm water management pond at Loudon Cemetery in the floodplain of Maidens Choice Run;

- and stabilizing stream banks in an environmentally-sensitive manner at several sites in both Maidens Choice Run and Dead Run sub-watersheds to protect sewer pipes vulnerable to erosion damage.

Commuter option: DASHing to work

Downtown Baltimore District employees have a new commuting alternative starting March 4. For a fee of about \$57 a month, employees may park in stadium parking lots and use a shuttle service Monday through Friday.

DASH, which stands for Downtown Area Shuttle, will carry commuters from the parking lots to points throughout the downtown area. Two stops will bring commuters within a couple blocks of the City Crescent Building. One is at Howard and Pratt, and the other is at Howard and Fayette.



"We've been keeping our employees advised of the plans for this service, and many have expressed interest," said James Turkel, acting deputy district engineer for civil works.

The Baltimore Downtown Partnership, which sponsors the service, announced that a fleet of seven buses will operate from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

During peak hours of 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., service will be every five minutes. During off-peak hours, service will be every 20 minutes.

On weekends, the shuttles will operate throughout the downtown area from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. with service every 20 minutes. Parking lots will be closed.

Monthly passes, which include a parking spot during weekdays and unlimited shuttle access weekdays and weekends, will be available only to employees of participating companies. Baltimore District is planning to participate.

"In our case, the plan is to have GoTo.Gov administer the collection of monthly fees and distribution of the hang tags," Turkel said. GoTo.Gov is a government support organization located in the Fallon Federal Building.

The exact fee will be determined when an agreement is reached with GoTo.Gov, probably late in February. Check the e-mail general bulletin board for the latest information on the fee.

Baltimore District history quiz

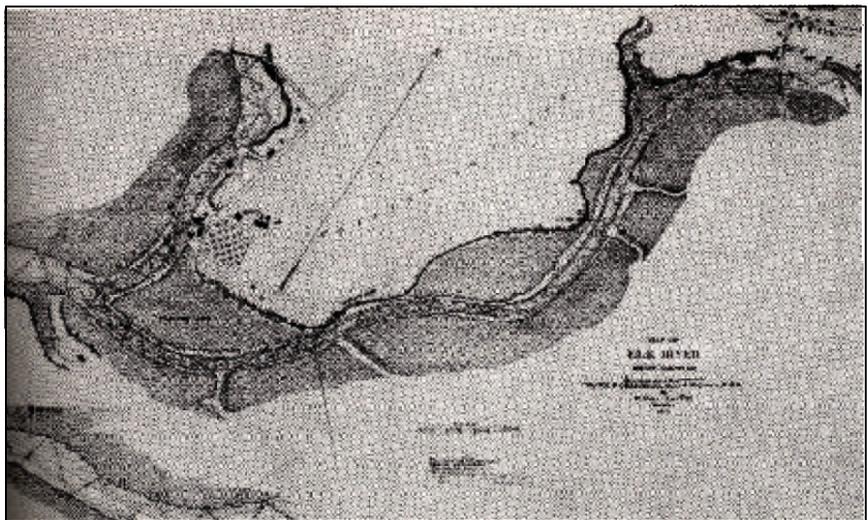
Select the caption that correctly describes this drawing.

a. A map of Italy as seen from the northwest quadrant.

b. The famous painting, "A Woman's Boot at the Folies Bergere" by French painter Toulouse-Lautrec.

c. A drawing showing the road to Miss Kitty's Elk Valley Ranch on the "Gunsmoke" TV show.

d. A survey map of the Elk River made in 1875 under the direction of Major William P. Craighill, then Baltimore District Engineer.



National Archives

Call 410-962-2809 if you need assistance answering the quiz.

Identity theft:

Protect yourself, your credit

If you care about the privacy of your financial information, your credit history, and your credit card numbers, you can protect yourself from criminals. Identity theft is the fastest growing financial crime in the United States.

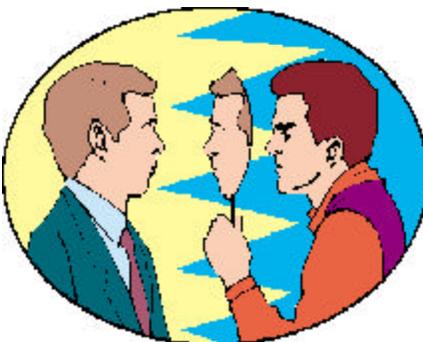
It can be as simple as someone stealing your credit card number and charging merchandise to your account. Or it can be much more far-reaching. A crook could use your name, birth date, and Social Security number to take over your bank accounts or set up new ones.

Financial institutions are liable for most unauthorized charges. The worst effect could be on your credit history. It could prevent you from getting a mortgage, a job or good auto insurance rates.

Some ways to protect your

identity include the following:

- Don't put bank statements or credit card offers into the trash where someone else can pick them up.



- Use a paper shredder for every piece of junk mail, usable checks from your credit card company and bank statements. Destroy records you no longer need: bank statements, credit card receipts, health insurance reimbursements. Shredders are cheap and easy to use.

- If mail theft is a problem, get a lockable mailbox. Don't put letters or payments on your mailbox for the postman to pick up. Anyone else can, too.

- Buy a credit report at least once a year and check it carefully.

- Don't carry rarely used credit cards, extra identification, or anything that shows your birth date. One authority recommends using your passport for ID. It doesn't give your address.

To get a credit report, call Equifax at (800) 685-1111; Experian at (888) 397-3742; or TransUnion at (800) 916-8800. Reports cost \$8.50, according to *Business Week* magazine. To stop pre-approved credit card offers, call (888) 567-8688.

To get off junk mail and telemarketing lists, visit <http://www.the-dma.org/consumers/privacy.html>.

National Poison Prevention Week: March 17-23

If you decided to learn all about different kinds of poisons, it might take the rest of your life to do it. Multiply the number of ways poison could enter your body by the number of substances that could be harmful, and you'll see why. The result is incalculable.

Nasty situation? Well, maybe but here are some things to do:

- Wear a filtering mask or respirator around substances that could be considered inhaled poisons.

- Wear long sleeves and long pants while using any harmful substance that could be absorbed through the skin. Wash off imme-

diately any that gets on the skin.

- Read the labels. In the office or the plant, when using any chemical substance, read the

Poison Prevention Week



label for cautions and observe them.

The National Safety Council also suggests these ways to avoid accidentally eating or drinking a harmful substance:

- Check the label for instructions before taking medicine.

Always keep medications in their own bottles.

- Have a special place for medications and cough remedies – a place that is away from other products. Never take medicine in the dark.

- Wash your hands before eating or smoking, especially if you have been handling questionable substances.

Army consolidates automated referral

The Army is merging all the resumes maintained by five Civilian Personnel Operations Centers into one central Resumix database. The consolidation will happen in stages.

The Northeast CPOC centralized database was deployed last month. By the end of March, the centralized database will be installed in Southwest, South

Central, Southeast and North Central CPOCs. The West CPOC will come into the fold at a later date.

After the consolidation is completed, one resume will be on file for use by all five regions. Resumes submitted through the Army Civilian Resume Builder will go into the central referral database. Resume Builder is a

civilian personnel tool that offers the ability to save and edit a resume online.

Resumix is the automated referral system that is replacing the SF-171, OF 612, Knowledge-Skills-Abilities sheets and other supplemental forms used in the past. It is being deployed throughout the Department of Defense.

McCallum named to Hall of Fame

Cheryl McCallum, administrative assistant in PPMD, was the first African-American to be inducted into the Harford County Bowling Hall of Fame at a ceremony Feb. 16 for superior performance in the game of American Ten Pins.

McCallum's success has included at least 12 first place titles in the Harford County Women's Bowling Association tournaments, and two perfect 300 games. She participates on the Perry Point VAMC bowling league.

District celebrates Black History Month

Office of Counsel attorney Al Gilley recreated Dr. Martin Luther King's *I Have a Dream...* speech at the District's Feb. 16 celebration of Black History Month.

Gilley focused his remarks on the importance that organizations and the church have played in the civil rights movement in America. He used the example of Rosa Parks and the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott to highlight his point and clear up common misperceptions about that event.

The City Crescent Voices of Harmony, a choir of District

employees, sang several selections, including a rendition of *How I got over*, which brought the group a standing ovation.

Also participating in the program, coordinated by Marie Johnson and Bertha Brownson, EO, were Antoine Plessy, EN; Sandra Crawford, SBA; Cheri Ames, Mary Ann Mitchell and Joanne Shinn, CT; Rosalyn Davis, Counsel; Emma Gibbs, IM; and Errigh LaBoo, OP.

"This event was an amazing display of the talent and commitment of our employees," said Jim Turkel, acting deputy district engineer for civil works.

District says farewell to cafeteria friend

It looked as though the entire building turned out Jan. 26 for a farewell tribute to a City Crescent Building cafeteria worker, according to one District employee.

Jeanette Fraizer, a seven-year veteran at the cafe, said she was overwhelmed by the turnout and well wishes she received from District and building employees at the party.

After hearing that employees had donated over \$600 in cash, she literally fell off her chair in

disbelief. She also received many flowers and individual gifts.

Fraizer was known for her honesty and readiness to go the extra mile to help anyone. She greeted everyone with a friendly smile and remembered individual's special orders, likes and dislikes.

After a short rest, Fraizer plans to go back to work at another cafe in the Baltimore area.



Capt. Herman Hubbard, Knight Protective Service, points out someone to Jeanette Fraizer at her farewell party.

'Together we can save a life'

March marks 59th American Red Cross Month

During the month of March people across the world can celebrate the work of America's most prominent disaster relief organization, the American Red Cross.

In times of natural disaster or terrorism, the Red Cross is there to help victims and their families.

Twenty years before starting the American Red Cross, founder Clara Barton came to the aid of soldiers fighting in the U.S. Civil War. She became known as the "Angel of the Battlefield" as she distributed supplies and tended to the wounded and dying.

Barton documented the appalling carnage and medical conditions of the wounded. She served similarly in the Franco-Prussian War, in flood-ravaged Johnstown, Pa., and in hurricane-battered Galveston, Texas.

Aside from the work of aiding victims, collecting blood is one of the organization's primary activities. Blood is in particularly short supply during the summer months and the year-end holidays, but donations are needed throughout the year.

Baltimore District will have a blood drive April 5. To participate, contact your division or office representative.

March: Irish-American Heritage Month

When St. Patrick was captured and enslaved at the age of 16, he would have been astounded to know what his life would become. He would have been even more surprised to learn that March 17 would be celebrated as his feast day by a large part of the world.

After his escape and many

adventures, Patrick converted to Christianity, studied and was ordained. He served 15 years in the church before his first nomination as Bishop of Ireland in 432.

St. Patrick used the shamrock leaf to symbolize the Trinity, a symbol that is still held dear by the Irish and those of Irish descent all over the world.

Armed Forces Day

Armed Forces Day will be celebrated May 18, with week-long observances throughout the period designated as Armed Forces Week, May 11-19.

This event will allow all service personnel the opportunity to demonstrate their deep sense of patriotic commitment. This year's theme is United for Freedom.

Andrews Airforce Base, Md.,

will host the annual DoD-sponsored joint service open house, May 17-19.

The open house attracts between 500,000 and 800,000 persons annually and has high visibility at both the national and international levels. All components — active, guard and reserve — in the national capital region will be represented at this event.

Courteous employee of the month

Tex Jobe, of the Visual Information Audio Visual Lab, has been selected courteous employee for the month of March.



Tex Jobe

"Whether performing photo shoots, making videos, providing A/V support at the City Crescent Building or in the field, Tex always greets every request with a smile and an immediate desire to help. He is always willing to make the extra effort to give customer service, and continuously provides outstanding support in a courteous and professional manner."

— Henry Dunn
Chief, Information Support
Services Branch, IMO

Find your house

Want to look at your neighborhood from the sky? You can get a new perspective on your home town and see your house by visiting <http://teraserver.homeadvisor.msn.com>.

Many of the shots are from the U.S. Geological Survey. While you can't actually see people, the aerial shots of Earth can be a great way to learn about your city and how your home is situated in it.

Just enter your city and state, then keep zooming in until you get a view of your house.



Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Official Business



Harvest for the Hungry

The annual food-giving program of the District, Harvest for the Hungry, will run through March. Key persons in each office have been designated and boxes have been placed for donations.

Employees are urged to contribute canned or boxed food. Perishables cannot be used in this program.

Answers to FOI Quiz:

- 1)-b
- 2)-c
- 3)-c
- 4)-b
- 5)-a
- 6)-e (two hours)
- 7)-e (only fugitives and federal employees in official capacity)
- 8)-b
- 9)-d
- 10)-c