Message from the Chairman

By Glenn Tolbert

You may have seen him walking our halls and not known who he is. A loping, lanky figure, exuding both confidence and a gentle kindness, he is Lowell Bender. Despite being soft spoken, when Lowell speaks people listen. That’s because in addition to his quiet intelligence, Lowell has served as Chairman of Community Action’s Board of Directors for 10 years. “I was selected by the GC Board of Commissioners to represent the elected officials”, he says in his humble manner. The board plans, coordinates, evaluates and administers programs directed toward the elimination of poverty and the enabling of low income families and individuals of all ages, in rural and urban areas within Garrett County, to attain the skills, knowledge, motivation and opportunity to become more fully self-sufficient.

Students at Garrett College, where he serves as Dean of Continuing Education, appreciate Bender’s understated qualities. He’s worked at the school for 35 years. Before becoming one of the top administrators at Garrett College, he served as the Director of Community Development at Community Action from 1967 to 1972.

“Head Start began as part of President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 authorized programs to help meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children.”

Today Head Start is a program within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the HHS. In 1995, the Early Head Start program was established to serve children from birth to three years of age in recognition of the mounting evidence that the earliest years matter a great deal to children’s growth and development.

Programs are administered locally by nonprofit organizations and local school systems.

[Source: Wikipedia]
On The Horizon...Lake Hill Affordable Homes

seeing the fastest growth of jobs in Garrett County and this is an ideal situation to make sure that they can afford housing close to where they work, Yoder said. It will also enable Garrett County residents working around the Lake to enjoy some of the amenities mostly available to visitors.

Cherie Ross, Vice President for Development, and the person directly responsible for planning and finding funds to develop Lake Hill, noted that Garrett County has a reputation for working together to accomplish goals. Building homes in Garrett County that working families can afford requires cooperation and partnership among government, private builders and lenders, and nonprofit organizations, she stated. This is a great demonstration of how teamwork can be used to create homes where families want to live.

Even as unemployment in Garrett County drops, the cost of housing has made it very difficult for young working families to acquire a home and increasingly hard for middle-income persons in a market where the median home sale far exceeds affordability ratios of median county household incomes. Existing employers seeking to expand or recruit employees and new businesses considering moving to the county are expressing concern over housing affordability for their workers. The need for more homes will go to the partners, Ross told the brothers who are building the homes.

The primary market will be families with a median household income of 150% of the median county income. The county will transfer land to a nonprofit land trust to build 200 homes. Revenue from the sales will go to the nonprofit for rehabilitation or development activities. The architecture drawings and plans are by Devlin Architecture.

The development has garnered some opposition, primarily from Delegate Wendell Beitzel, who is questioning its proximity to the airport and the appropriateness of developing a site near Deep Creek Lake that is not developed. This is a bad argument, explained Yoder, noting the development is almost a half mile from the airport and all federal and local safety and use regulations have been met regarding developing a residential community near an airport.

The development is in an area designated by the state and the region for economic development, and the site is next to a business park being developed by the county. The site is also close to the airport and the business park.

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One Hundred Years From Now

from “Within My Power” by Forest Witcraft

A good teacher is someone who teaches not only with his mind, but also with his heart. She teaches her students that it's okay to make mistakes; she is respectful of the student. A good teacher blends real life experiences with textbook material and is an effective communicator. He engages students, makes learning fun. He is curious, passionate about teaching, and excited to see a student grasp a difficult concept. A good teacher must be creative and imaginative; she knows there are many ways to teach a child, and is flexible enough to change her teaching techniques.

A good teacher allows students to ask questions, she draws on their learning experiences. A good teacher establishes classroom rules and procedures which help students know what is expected from them. A teacher is a role model; he encourages cooperation and establishes a sense of responsibility. He encourages students to participate in the classroom. He teaches them that they are expected to learn. He teaches children to grow, and learn. A good teacher evaluates and analyzes the progress of each child, and guides the child in expressing cooperation and creativity.

He or she also provides all children with a nutritious meal. channels. He or she encourages children to think, reason, and speak clearly.

The Head Start’s educational goal is to provide an educational experience that will prepare the child for school. It is important to teach the child to read and write. Head Start provides all children with a nutritious meal.

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Community Action Anniversaries

By Susanne Beeman

Kudos to the following employees celebrating an anniversary in September for their years of service with Community Action. Thank you for your dedication to those you serve!

Jenny Beitzel, AAA, 2 years
Amanda Compton, Head Start, 2 years
Robert Dixon, Transportation, 2 years
Judy Fike, Head Start, 7 years
Rhonda Finch, Head Start, 8 years
Lois Ford, AAA, 2 years
David Gilbert, Transportation, 1 year
Tanya Jacques, Head Start, 1 year
Kathy Lilly, Head Start, 13 years
Kim Lowery, Head Start, 7 years
Deb McCroskey, Head Start, 14 years
Sharon Reams, AAA, 2 years
Kathy Reel, Head Start, 17 years
Sharon Rinker, Head Start, 16 years
Darlene Schmidt, Head Start, 19 years
Kathleen Welch, Head Start, 6 years
Mary Yoder, AAA, 2 years

GTS News

By Marguerite Hayhurst

Pam Nelson, VP for Community Services & Family Development announced the Maryland Transportation Administration awarded GTS $590,540 to build 4 bus shelters in the GTS facility parking lot. The main purpose of the shelters is to keep the busses in a secure location and out of the elements, such as snow.

John Hill, Transportation Director, said the two-sided structures with a roof will enable busses to drive through the shelter after warming up. Construction is underway.

Message from the Chairman (continued)

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Like any other organization, Community Action is feeling the effects of today’s economy. Bender is closely watching how more and more county residents are applying for energy assistance through Community Action.

As for the present situation, Bender says he would like to see a continuation of the mission to improve the quality of life for the community’s residents.

“We have looked into the future and think we are on the right track, he says. We may decide to put more effort into programs like affordable housing,” says. “but we will not make any major changes in how we do things now,” he said.

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to our newest employees!

- Debra Bennett, Transportation
- Karen Durst, Head Start
- Stephanie Hershman, Head Start
- Melissa Johnson, Transportation
- Richard Wildesen, Jr., AAA
- Elisabeth Wood, Head Start