

Uncertainty, questions haunt landfill neighbors

By ROBERT F. BUCHANAN
Staff Writer

Despite a long summer of intense public scrutiny, the state's handling of the Boehm-Joy landfill hazardous-waste case has left residents critical and questions still unanswered.

And, the chronology of events has been to many an example of an ineffective, unresponsive crisis-oriented agency that can't cope with a burgeoning problem.

Three months ago, the Maryland Water Resources Administration released figures showing high levels of lead, arsenic and chromium at groundwater supplies at and near the Crownsville landfill. Local residents responded by panicking; the state responded by calling a hearing on why the landfill should not be closed.

Monday, state officials said more recent tests show "virtually no problem" with groundwater con-

tamination. The closure hearing will, most likely, never be resumed.

All evidence suggests that the state erred in June, when it reported contamination. The state used the wrong laboratory techniques to compare its findings with approved federal standards.

But, rather than admit error, WRA Director Thomas C. Andrews continues to pass off the difference between the June and most recent results as a "difference between filtered and unfiltered samples."

The June water samples were not filtered before being analyzed, Andrews contends. The more recent results thus were the difference.

But the fact is that unfiltered results are not to be compared with federal drinking water standards, as the state did in June.

Agencies such as the WRA have served to confound Crownsville area residents who want

Analysis

desperately to know whether their health is or is not being jeopardized. Strong indications are that their health isn't in any immediate danger, but the state has failed to placate their fears.

The state's failure to communicate with the public is one of many shortcomings according to residents. After years of supposed monitoring of the Crownsville dumping ground, a number of serious questions remain. Among them:

- What has been dumped at the Boehm-Joy landfill? As late as Dec. 4, 1979, state officials wrote of "losing total control of DHS (designated hazardous substances) at the site" and wondered openly about what they should do about it.

State records show that before 1976, the WRA had virtually no idea what toxic substances may have been deposited at the landfill.

- Does the state plan to allow the landfill to continue accepting hazardous wastes? Later this month, state officials will resume a series of hearings to decide whether a three-year operating permit should be issued.
- If that's granted, landfill operators are expected to seek permission to continue to dump more hazardous wastes. Meanwhile, flyash and lime-precipitated sludge and sandblast waste continues to roll into the Crownsville site.
- What is the state now doing to monitor hazardous-waste dumping in Crownsville?

Following a major reorganization, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene now enforces state hazardous waste laws. The department's environmental programs chief, William M.

Eichbaum, says the state is keeping a "close eye" on Boehm-Joy, indicating that enforcement efforts are being stepped up. But what, precisely, does that entail?

Lower-level state officials — those who make the day-to-day decisions on landfill enforcement — are today barred from talking with the public and press about their doings. Some local residents say they have had problems obtaining information contained in the Boehm-Joy files recently.

The end result has been a further erosion of public confidence in the state. Local residents scoff and say they can't believe they are paying the salaries of officials whose apparent insensitivity may be endangering their health.

"It's really scary to think that these people are the ones who are running the state," says one Baldwin Hills resident.

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Evening Capital

Classified — 268-7000
Circulation — 268-4800
News-Business — 268-5000

Tomorrow's forecast:
Warmer
For details, see page 11.

VOL. XCVI NO. 216

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 1980

20 Cents

**Good
afternoon!**

BULLETIN

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza and two companions were killed today in an explosion that ripped apart their car in downtown Asuncion, Paraguayan radio stations reported.

A radio report monitored in Washington, D.C., said Somoza was fired on with automatic weapons and bombs and blown apart.

The Paraguayan radio reports said the explosion occurred at about 10:30 a.m. local time, about eight blocks from the luxurious home occupied by the 54-year-old Somoza.

The bodies of Somoza and his two companions, believed to be his chauffeur and a bodyguard, were taken to a hospital, radio reports said.

Somoza, expelled from Nicaragua following a bloody civil war, arrived in Paraguay last Aug. 18 and was granted asylum by Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner.

Don't forget

The 28th annual county fair opens at 4 today at Sandy Point State Park and continues through Sunday with exhibits, crafts, carnival rides and games, a queen contest and more special attractions. Tickets will be sold at the gate.

Area



This week's Chef's Choice features Grace Gertz who tells her secrets on preparing blue-ribbon winning canned goods. See page 13.

State

A safety device could have prevented a fatal train collision near the Maryland-West Virginia border Feb. 12, the National Transportation Safety Board says. See page 4.

Sports

Maryland football coach Jerry Claiborne says the Terps face their first real test of the season when they travel to unbeaten West Virginia Saturday. See page 33.

Lottery

The winning number drawn Tuesday in Maryland's Numbers Game daily lottery was 112.

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Enduring the ruts Arundel on Bay eyes end to 'nightmare'

By RANDY WILSON
Staff Writer

In Arundel on the Bay, in the heart of the "Land of Pleasant Living," the living has not been pleasant.

For 18 months, residents have endured the rutted roads, the choking dust and incessant noise. Cars need to be realigned every three months and children walk to school in boots even on sunny days.

But Arundel on the Bay sufferers have two reasons to smile today, despite their tribulations: Their troubles are almost over—and they could have been worse.

"There was nothing unusual about Arundel on the Bay," said John Scarborough, utility design chief in the county Department of Public Works. "Every project has its idiosyncrasies."

The "project" was sewer installation in the quiet Annapolis Neck community, and the "idiosyncrasies" were the same faced by thousands of county residents in recent years. Most sewer novitiates, however, use stronger language.

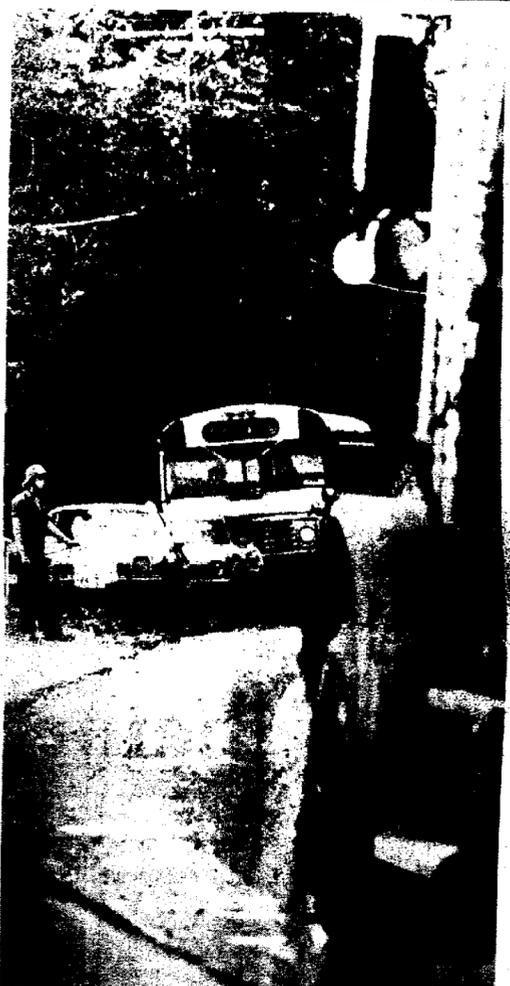
"I could take the bad roads and the noise," said one long-time resident who has seen Arundel on the Bay grow from a small hamlet of summer homes to one of the county's most prestigious waterfront addresses. "But the worst was not knowing when it would all end."

Beginning with the first trenches in February 1979, sewers came to Arundel on the Bay in much the same way they have come to Cape St. Claire, Deale and other communities that at first pleaded for the new service, amid protests and cries of "Take it back!"

Utility officials can do little but ask residents for forbearance. Most of the sewer work is done by private contractors, and although county inspectors keep a close watch on the work, they cannot drive the bulldozers or backfill the trenches.

"This one is way overdue," conceded Scarborough.

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TRAFFIC backs up in Arundel on the Bay as huge dump truck moves in to dump more asphalt.

Drug-device sellers face prosecution

By SCOTT FLANDER
Staff Writer

County State's Attorney Warren B. Duckett Jr. said today he will begin criminal prosecutions under a new state law banning the sale of drug paraphernalia, although the law is being challenged in federal court.

Duckett said he has received complaints that some drug paraphernalia is being sold in Glen Burnie, and he is "tired of waiting" for the outcome of a lawsuit filed against the state by a group of paraphernalia manufacturers and distributors.

County Police Sgt. William Pantall, head of the Vice and Narcotics Section, confirmed that one store in Glen Burnie is selling some paraphernalia.

Shortly after the county passed its own paraphernalia law in January, and initiated legal action against certain stores, paraphernalia sales were generally halted in the county.

In May the new state law, which carries criminal penalties, took effect, and within a few days a group of seven drug-device manufacturers and distributors filed suit in U.S. District Court in Baltimore. The group, calling the state law "vague and unconstitutional," asked that it be overturned. They also requested, and were granted, a temporary restraining order against prosecution until the matter was settled in court.

Duckett said he held off prosecuting other paraphernalia sellers in the county because they would likely ask to be protected by the restraining order as well.

Duckett said he is convinced that the paraphernalia group is delaying action on the lawsuit "just for dilatory purposes."

That didn't make much difference, however, as long as no drug paraphernalia was being sold in the county, he said. But now that there are reports of such sales, Duckett said he has decided to start prosecuting sellers here.

Duckett said that the sellers may go to federal court and ask that they be protected by the restraining order, or they might ask the county Circuit Court not to hear any cases until the matter is settled.

Despite those possibilities, Duckett said he will begin acting on the complaints. One such complaint came from state Sen. H. Erle Schafer, D-Glen Burnie. Duckett said.

Duckett said that neither his office nor the police can make a comprehensive investigation of all stores that might be selling paraphernalia. He said, however, that the police will be asked to check various businesses for illegal sales, and file reports for possible prosecution.

Police Chief Maxwell V. Frye Jr. said today his officers will cooperate fully with the State's Attorney's Office.

Burt Kahn, attorney for the Mid-Atlantic Accessories Trade Association, which filed the lawsuit against the state law, has called the law "so vague that someone must guess, at his own peril, whether he is committing a crime."

The state law bans the sale of a wide range of items that are "intended or designed" for use with illegal drugs.

Community college weighs tuition hike

By NANCY JANE ADAMS
Staff Writer

Students at Anne Arundel Community College next year may be paying more for tuition, after the Board of Trustees last night approved in theory a \$2-a-credit-hour hike.

The proposed tuition increase would be the first at the college in three years. One credit now costs \$19, and college officials are proposing raising that to \$21 up to 15 credits. Students taking more than 15 credits may be paying as much as \$315 a term.

The raising of tuition fees is needed to meet the increasing costs of utilities and salaries, and is "not outlandish," said

Philip L. Clark, dean of administration. The hike, however, would put AACC among the top four community colleges in the state for tuition.

Other so-called "budget assumptions" approved by the trustees last night included an estimated 6 percent cost-of-living increase for employees and automatic step-up increases, for a total estimated cost of \$943,685. Clark said the college may ask the county for more funds in November for personnel after final fall enrollment figures are tabulated.

Clark is projecting an estimated budget of \$11.7 million, a 10.9 percent increase over this year's budget.

State aid to the college, based on a formula of full-time equivalent students, was

raised this year from \$800 to \$850. Clark said, however, that he doesn't expect another increase from the state.

AACC President Thomas E. Florestano said the county has increased its financial support of the college over the years, and "the only other group that can kick in is the students."

The trustees also received a report on fall enrollments, which show only a slight increase over last fall.

Herbert H. Curkin, director of admissions and acting registrar, said 7,398 students are enrolled for courses this term compared to 7,366 last fall, representing only a 0.3 percent increase.

The good news, according to Curkin, is that 10 percent more students returned to

campus this fall than last fall, although transfer students from other institutions dropped by 43 percent.

Approximately the same number of county high school graduates are attending the college this fall as last fall. Curkin said the college began a serious recruitment campaign last September, visiting all the high schools in the county.

Of the 5,345 students graduating in 1980 from county public and private schools, 912 or 17 percent of them are now attending AACC, Curkin said.

Black student enrollment at the college this fall is down by 47 students since last fall, Curkin said, while the number of white students has increased by 57.

There has also been a slight drop in the number of other minority students, such as Hispanics and American Indians, Curkin said, but more Asian students are attending the college this fall.

More students over the age of 26 are also attending the college this fall, and the number of women going to school has also increased — a trend the college has experienced in the past few years.

Summer enrollment was also slightly up from last year. The number of course sections offered were cut, so the college saved some money while still attracting more students, according to Melvin J. Britt, dean of summer school.

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'Quiet' John Chambers bows out quietly

By ED KEAN
Staff Writer

John Chambers entered politics with apprehension. He figured he would be involved in the often seamy political arena for only 18 months and then quietly return to private life.

Thirteen years and three elections later, Chambers, alderman for Ward 3 in Annapolis, is finally leaving public office. But he leaves convinced that one need not be crooked to be a politician.

And as he departs, the city's only black alderman voices disappointment that more young people, particularly blacks, are unwilling to enter politics.

"The satisfaction that I've gotten from this job is you can be in politics and still maintain your honesty and your integrity," said Chambers, who announced last week he would not seek re-election.

Chambers' decision came as no surprise. For some time, it had been rumored that the Hicks Avenue resident would be stepping down when his term expires in May.

"I've been contemplating not running for another term for quite a while," Chambers said last week. "I think I have served the community well and I feel I have had enough of public life. In fact, I never thought I'd be in politics this long." Chambers now

SPOTLIGHT ON PEOPLE

will concentrate on his job as co-owner of the Chambers Bros. Barber Shop on West Street.

Originally, Chambers, 52, was appointed to complete the unexpired term of T. Norwood Brown, alderman for the city's seventh ward. Brown resigned to work for the city's Urban Renewal Authority. Ward 7 was later redistricted and Chambers represented the third ward.

Chambers initially was reluctant to become an alderman, having heard the usual warnings that politicians were not to be trusted. It was at the urging of his wife, Hannah, that he took the post. "I saw more in the beginning the ability he had than he did," Mrs. Chambers recalls.

Although he entered politics reluctantly, Chambers came from a family that had played an active role in the city's black community. His father, the late Rev. John T. Chambers, Sr., was the founder of the county

chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

As an alderman, Chambers was quiet, choosing to work primarily on getting the city to make community improvements in his predominantly black ward.

Political observers say Chambers was less active politically than his predecessor. Accordingly, one alderman says he made few enemies and had more respect in the black community.

And political observers say he kept his integrity intact. Chambers, in appearance and behavior, is rather traditional—the devoted family man who has played an active role in his church and in fraternal organizations. As his wife says, "He doesn't drink. He doesn't smoke. And I've never heard him say dman yet."

As the city's lone black alderman, Chambers is in a potentially powerful position because his influence transcends his ward, unlike most other alderman.

At the same time, Chambers never sought to build a large political base. "I don't think John Chambers ever attempted to be larger than his ward," said Carl Snowden, a prominent black political activist. Yet, Snowden said, Chambers was perceived by many blacks as the alderman to contact on particularly important issues.

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Alderman JOHN CHAMBERS