

# Thank You, DCLPOA...

Many of us remember with great fondness local attorney and circuit court judge Fred A. Thayer, who died suddenly in 2007 as a result of a heart attack. Fred was not only a truly outstanding legal expert, but was also a respected community leader in a number of venues.

Well, Fred's legacy continues today, benefiting the community at large, thanks to the community concern and generosity demonstrated by the Deep Creek Lake Property Owners Association.

It was in November 2007 when the association donated 16 automated external heart defibrillators (AEDs) to the county in memory of Fred, a gift worth more than \$20,000 at that time. Because of the huge geographical area of the county, the AEDs were placed in the vehicles of county sheriff's deputies since they routinely canvass the county, 24/7, and can often reach a victim of cardiac emergency to render aid faster than an EMS crew is able to reach the scene. All deputies are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the proper use of the AEDs.

For patients whose hearts are in a deadly rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (v-fib) as a result of heart attack or from various other causes, the AED is a vital piece of equipment, as its function is to provide an electrical shock to the heart to restore its regular rhythm/heartbeat. CPR alone can buy time for victims whose hearts are in v-fib, but breaking this deadly arrhythmia and thus giving the best chance of recovery is accomplished with the AED.

Well, now the association, under the leadership of president Bob Hoffmann and his fellow officers, has made yet another major contribution that will likely result in the saving of even more lives. A dozen more AEDs, plus 50 CPR manikins, have been presented to Garrett College for the training of people in CPR and in the proper use of the AED. The new equipment will be of significant use this Saturday in a mass training event sponsored by the local high school emergency services clubs and held at the college's Community Aquatic and Recreation Complex (CARC). The training will also involve the Garrett County Health Department, Garrett County Memorial Hospital, Garrett College, and local emergency services personnel, including the Northern and Southern rescue squads.

The DCLPOA, which is sometimes sadly and unfairly maligned by some short-sighted local folks, deserves thanks and praise for both of these generous gifts to the county, which without any doubt will result – and already have resulted – in the saving of precious lives. The members of this organization, who, by the way, already pay the lion's share of the county's taxes, are proving that they, too, are "local folks" who want the best for everyone who lives here, whether part time or full time, and whether one's residence is located along the shoreline of Deep Creek Lake or anywhere else in the county.