

## **No Agreement Reached on Ambulance Billing.**

The Charlottesville - Albemarle Rescue Squad regrets that it did not have the opportunity to comment on a story appearing in the March 13, 2008 edition of the Daily Progress that discussed a city budget work session and comments made there about billing for ambulance transport.

Contrary to a statement appearing in the story, C-ARS has not taken a position on charging for emergency transport later this year.

There has been a committee established by Albemarle County to discuss EMS revenue recovery, or "billing for service", and that committee has met for over a year. The committee, made up of representatives of the city, county, and the three volunteer rescue squads, has not made any decision about billing.

The rescue squads have not decided if, or under what circumstances, they would agree to bill for ambulance transport.

C-ARS has participated in the committee discussions but has not reached any agreement yet with the city or county about billing for ambulance transport, and will not do so without consulting with the leadership of the other two volunteer rescue squads serving the Charlottesville-Albemarle area - Scottsville and Western Albemarle rescue squads.

We believe any statement prior to such consultation, as well as careful consideration of a course of action that ensures a continuation of a high level of quality service to the public, is ill advised.