

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BY

FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIRE COMMISSION

AND



FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIRE & RESCUE ASSOCIATION

2020 FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE **ANNUAL REPORT**



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Fairfax County, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County.

Volunteer Fire Commission

Zone I

Companies 2, 8, 10
Gerry Strider
Bailey's Crossroads VFD
Vice-Chair

Zone II

Companies 5, 19, 22
Timothy G. Fleming
Franconia VFD

Zone III

Companies 14, 17, 21
Robert Mizer
Burke VFRD
Secretary

Zone IV

Companies 1, 12, 13
Michael Masciola
Dunn Loring VFRD

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Administrative

Shawn P. Stokes
Dunn Loring VFD
Chair

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association Operational

Thomas Warnock
Burke VFRD

At-Large Fire Commissioner

John Morrison
Vienna VFD

2020 was a year of significant adversity, change and success for the volunteer system in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The challenges posed by COVID-19 were significant – operationally, financially, and personally for our volunteer departments and their members. Yet, the commitment to providing service to our community didn't waver. By working together, the volunteer departments were able to adapt and overcome, and continued to provide services to the citizens of Fairfax County.

The Fire and Rescue Department continues to demonstrate its commitment to involving and integrating volunteers, laying the groundwork for a strong, more robust volunteer system in the future. Additionally, the Volunteer Fire Commission experienced a change in leadership – after 19 years of stalwart leadership from Chief Tim Fleming, Chief Shawn Stokes was elected commission chair.

And through it all, the volunteer system continued to add, train, and integrate new members, while providing operational and administrative resources to put additional units in service, assist with public outreach and help with food distribution events.

In 2021 we are continuing our efforts to recover from COVID-19 and move the volunteer system forward to even greater things. Our focus on sustained and improved integration into the combination system includes defining a role for all members that will ultimately encourage retention of these valuable volunteers. We look forward to our continued partnership to serve the residents and visitors to Fairfax County.

John S. Butler
Fire Chief
Fire and Rescue

Shawn P. Stokes
Chairman
Volunteer Fire Comm.

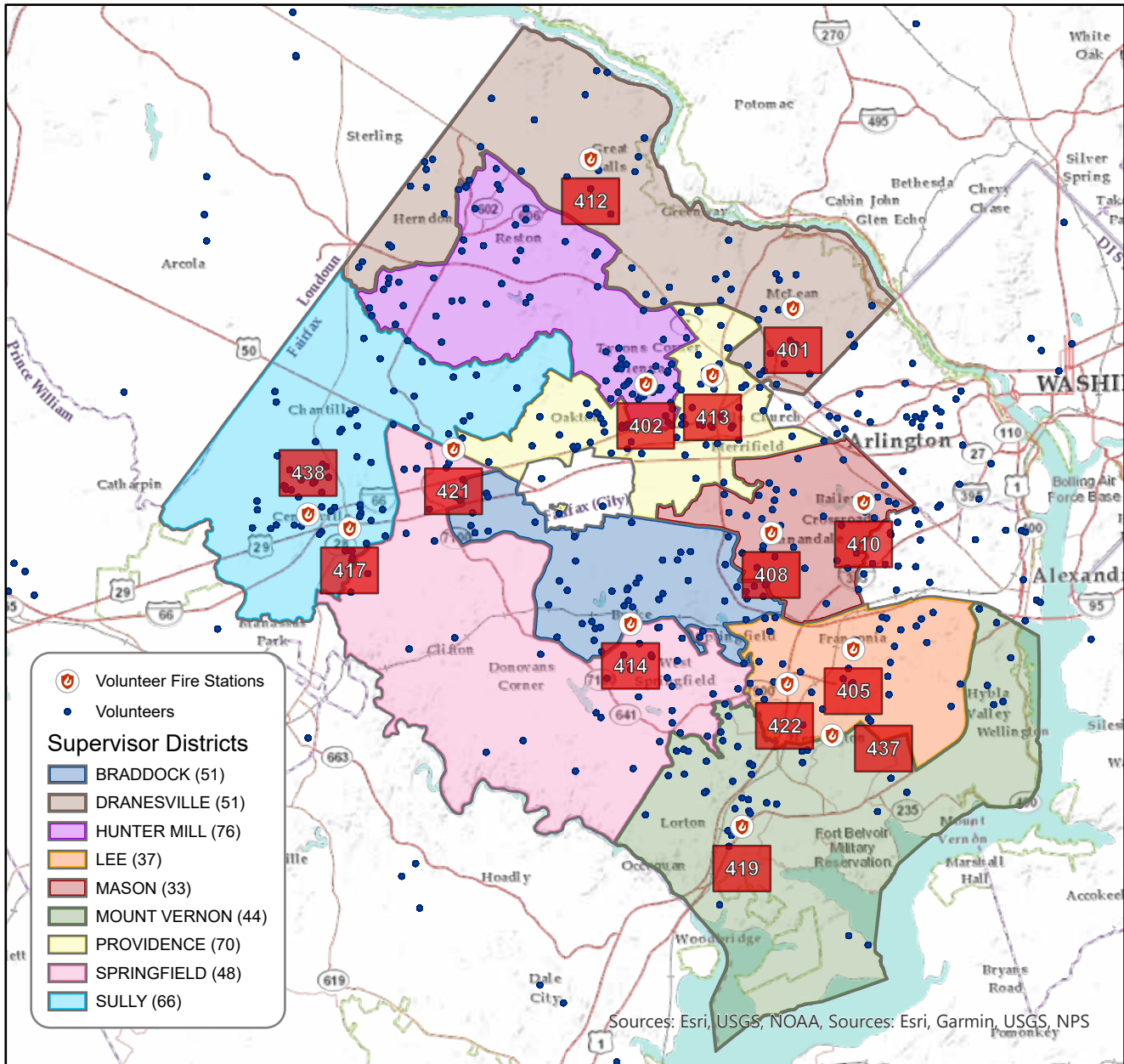
Michael Wendt
President
Volunteer F&R Asso.

The Volunteer Fire Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to deal with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department on all matters pertaining to the volunteer fire services in Fairfax County.

*Volunteer Fire Commission
12099 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire-ems*

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Fairfax County volunteer fire departments are located across the county, from north to south and east to west and 79% of our members live in the county, providing service in the communities where we live and work.



ABOUT US

The Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association is comprised of 12 independently chartered volunteer fire and rescue departments operating throughout Fairfax County. The history of organized volunteering in Fairfax County, which can be traced back 117 years, parallels the history of the fire service in the United States. Today, volunteer members proudly serve in a combined career and volunteer fire and rescue system that was formally established in 1949.

Our members come from all walks of life, with ages of active volunteers spanning eight decades, and professional backgrounds from all industries and fields. We leverage our unique experiences, skills and educational backgrounds to contribute materially to the fire and rescue system, bringing our passion for public service to improve the safety and security of our neighbors and our communities.

We are proud to support one of the nation's premier fire departments, with our apparatus, facilities, and members contributing to the outstanding reputation of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEERS BY THE NUMBERS

365 days in 2020 with a volunteer on duty somewhere in the county

718 members serve 12 VFDs across the County

503 operational members provide firefighting and emergency medical services

215 administrative members manage our non-profit corporations, fundraising, operate our canteen units on large emergencies, conduct community outreach, and teach classes at the training academy

40% of our members are female

22% of our members self-identify as racial or ethnic minorities

79% of our members live in Fairfax County



A CHALLENGING YEAR IN REVIEW

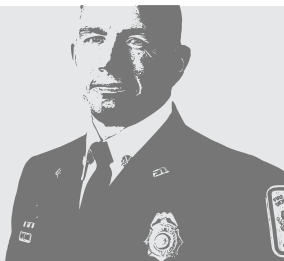
2020 was an unprecedented year for everyone in ways that no one could have imagined. From around the world to around the block, the COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges in services and operations to both the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) and the 12 individually incorporated Fairfax County volunteer fire departments (VFDs).

The 2020 Fairfax County Volunteer Fire Service Annual Report is presented by the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire Commission (“the Commission”) on behalf of the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (“the Association”) and the more than 700 members of the Fairfax County volunteer

fire service. The report highlights key activities of the last year, how members supported the community during this trying time, and how the VFDs planned for the future. In addition, the report provides the Board of Supervisors and the public an introduction to the Fairfax County volunteer fire service as a whole, how the VFDs partner with one another and with the FCFRD, and profiles some of the members who reflect the volunteers who dedicate their time and service to the County and the community.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

FRED BRANDELL



Fred’s involvement as a volunteer was nurtured by career staff at McLean. Butch Carper took an active role in Fred’s development and helped him finish his training. From there, Fred became a firefighter and Basic Life Support Aide, not only riding along with career-staffed units, but also leading volunteer ambulance crews. He shared what he knew as an instructor at the Fire and Rescue Academy and continued his own development by becoming qualified to serve with the Hazardous Materials Response Team and Technical Rescue Operations Team.

In 1992, Fred made the leap from the volunteer fire service, joining the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Throughout his career, as he has advanced, Fred has served in roles which interfaced significantly with the volunteer fire service, from the firehouse to the battalion level of operations, and now in planning, directing, and overseeing resource management and logistics, communications resources, and apparatus services. In this role, Fred continues to work with the volunteer companies to test the latest innovations in the fire service on apparatus and equipment.

Deputy Chief Fred Brandell, head of the Support Services Bureau in the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, got his start in the volunteer system as a teenager. Following in his grandfather’s footsteps, Fred joined the McLean VFD in 1986.

Having vetted new features, functions, or technologies on volunteer-purchased apparatus, the Department is able to make decisions on incorporating these innovations into its own procurement plans – without burdening taxpayers.

More recently, Fred appreciated that the volunteers reduced participation early in the pandemic when it appeared that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was in short supply. This conservation ensured PPE was available to career staff to keep them protected. As PPE became more readily available, volunteers resumed putting Emergency Medical Service (EMS) units in service and helped career staff with rigorous pandemic-related decontamination in the field and in firehouses. Working with the Department, volunteers performed testing with alternative PPE products when supplies were short to ensure the best protection for career and volunteer personnel alike, while saving the county time and money. “We’d be foolish if we did not do what we can to help preserve the combination career and volunteer fire and emergency medical service in the county,” he said.

MAJOR EMERGENCY

POAG STREET

On February 8, 2020, at 9:40 a.m., firefighters responded to one of the largest fires in Fairfax County history. Arriving units on Poag Street in the Groveton area of Fairfax County were met by billowing fire and black smoke fanned by strong winds and found two multi-story buildings, under construction, fully engulfed in flame. With wood construction, limited road access and water supply, high winds, and no sprinkler system yet in operation, adjacent buildings (both occupied and under construction) were at risk. In addition to the challenging conditions, propane tanks on the construction site heightened the danger.

The fire, which started in a second-floor trash chute and was caused by improperly discarded smoking materials, destroyed the main buildings under construction, 14 townhouses, and a trailer. Fire losses exceeded \$48 million and included damage to five apartment buildings, 14 additional townhouses, four single family homes, 29 vehicles, and multiple pieces of construction equipment.

This block-long fire demonstrates the strong partnership between FCFRD and the VFDs. Volunteer units already on duty responded to the fireground. Additional volunteer units were mobilized to assist and to fill-in at other county firehouses while resources were committed for the extended duration of the fire.

BY THE NUMBERS



Four-alarm fire
with multiple special alarms struck.



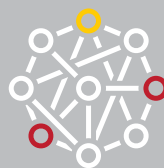
112 Fairfax County and mutual aid units
were assigned to the incident between 9:40 a.m. on 2/8/20 through 9:25 a.m. on 2/10/20.



Of the 112 units,
17 volunteer units were dispatched and covered 25 shifts
over the course of the multi-day incident.



Six of the 17 volunteer units were sent to the fireground for the incident while the other 11 were providing fill-ins
at deployed stations to cover exposed communities and businesses.



Mutual aid
was provided by the City of Alexandria and Prince George's County, Maryland.



Every volunteer fire department
contributed resources to the incident.



86 volunteers worked 776 hours
to respond to the event and provide fill-in coverage throughout the incident.

COVID-19 IMPACT

ON THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The impact of the pandemic on people and the economy is widely known, but how the volunteer fire departments were affected is a less familiar story. A national emergency was declared on March 13, 2020. Like county fire stations, volunteer firehouses closed to the public. However, unlike county fire stations, for the VFDs that meant an immediate loss of revenue for the next seven months, as charitable gaming and facility rentals stopped. Personal interactions with the public outside of emergencies stopped; there were no open houses for National Fire Prevention Week, standbys for high school athletics, or outreach at community fairs and festivals such as Celebrate Fairfax, Herndon Festival, and Viva Vienna, typically signature events for volunteer participation. Recruitment was disrupted as applicants could not visit their stations for orientation or be processed for fingerprints and background checks. Business and social functions were canceled, and retention became a concern when volunteer participation fell as members were asked to stay away to limit exposure to career staff and to conserve personal protective equipment (PPE).

Understanding the challenges facing the VFDs, FCFRD Fire Chief John Butler, Jr., allocated budgetary resources to help the VFDs weather the storm and meet essential fiscal obligations related to the operation and maintenance of volunteer stations and apparatus. This concern and unprecedented support reflect the unique partnership between the VFDs and FCFRD. Volunteers staffed additional ambulances and supported paramedics to meet the surge in the summer, fall, and winter as infections spiked.



Volunteer fire companies responded to new calls to action arising from the pandemic: humanitarian assistance and blood drives, helping communities and families recognize achievements by participating in community parades for birthdays, graduations, and retirements, and honoring the sick who needed encouragement or even those who were dying to show they were loved, respected, and missed. Volunteers assisted the Area Agency on Aging by running errands of mercy, such as delivering prescription medications to older residents at-risk and unable to go to the store safely.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

GERRY STRIDER



An operational volunteer for 18 years, Gerry served as a rescue squad officer, Assistant Chief, and attended the county's first EMT certification course alongside career personnel. Gerry has served under eight county fire chiefs and his career has seen the catastrophic Lake Barcroft flooding from Tropical Storm Agnes, the Skyline Towers collapse, the Air Florida crash, the September 11th attacks, the Bailey's 2010 fire station roof collapse and recovery effort, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gerry Strider joined the Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in April 1971. He has served as President since 1977, and will complete his 50th year of service to Bailey's and the county this year! Gerry is the Vice Chair of the Volunteer Fire Commission, serving in that role for more than 25 years and for 40 years as a commissioner.

Gerry has served over 37,000 hours in his volunteer career, raised more than \$2 million in the second half of his career alone, and funded the purchase of ten ambulances, four fire engines, and three utility vehicles. On his watch, Bailey's has recruited over 750 volunteers and he is as passionate a supporter of the county's career fire and rescue personnel as he is of the volunteers.

In recognition of his service to the county, Volunteer Fairfax honored Gerry with the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

When businesses either closed to the public or adjusted work during the pandemic, many once stable and prosperous citizens of Fairfax County found themselves without a job. The Board of Supervisors recognized that many people were experiencing a financial loss and launched an initiative with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food for Families Program to curtail food insecurity. FCFRD-trained citizen Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and VFD members answered the call to provide staffing for an extensive campaign of food distribution to those in need.

Large-scale food distribution events were organized in the Mount Vernon, Lee, Mason, and Sully Districts. Tasks included event planning, coordination, logistics, site management, COVID-19 health screening of volunteers, food distribution, and management of both vehicle and walk-up traffic.

The County provided forklift trucks, pallet-handling equipment and qualified operators. Additional staff and resources came from Board of Supervisors’ offices, Neighborhood and Community Services (FASTRAN), and the Animal Shelter. Faith-based partners included the Church of Latter-Day Saints, Journey Church, and Mount Olive Baptist Church, who also supported distribution. This collaboration resulted in safe and efficient distribution processes.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ 43 food distribution events
- ▶ More than 1.5 million pounds of food distributed to nearly 80,000 needy families via home delivery, distribution to community-based organizations, and drive-up distribution events
- ▶ 28,000 pounds of dog and cat food provided to pet owners
- ▶ Over 350 volunteers worked more than 3,800 hours supporting the food distribution events
- ▶ No COVID-19 infections reported among volunteers

This county-wide collaboration has been the largest humanitarian assistance role that the volunteer fire service has played during a national emergency in Fairfax County.

PREPARING FOR RECOVERY

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION GRANT

Recruiting new members to join volunteer fire and rescue departments and keeping them for long careers of public service is more difficult than it has ever been. The challenge is especially acute in Fairfax County and the metropolitan Washington area, where there are a host of competing volunteer opportunities, the population is more transient, and unique risks increase training requirements and time demands for volunteers. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges, dramatically limiting recruiting and training in 2020.

To help attract the number and caliber of candidates to meet the needs of the community, the FCVFRA was awarded a \$367,000 grant through the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA)

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. Recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel is the primary focus of the grant and all 12 VFDs represented by the FCVFRA will benefit.

The SAFER grant funds will complement the strategic plan being developed in partnership with the FCFRD to enhance the combination career-volunteer system in Fairfax County and promote public awareness of the volunteer fire and rescue service and of opportunities to serve.

Among the planned initiatives are an advertising and marketing program to attract prospective members (including outreach to traditionally underrepresented groups), enhancements to systems and tools to develop and track recruitment and retention metrics, and dynamic leadership and career development training to develop future leaders, increase retention, and foster long-term volunteer careers.

SPOTLIGHT ON ...

STEPHANIE FEINBERG



Ever since she was a little girl, she wanted to help others in need like her father, who was also in the volunteer fire service. Her goal was to have a volunteer experience while connecting with the community. Recognizing her skill in connecting with people, she enjoys serving the community and doing small things that help ease citizen's stress or bring comfort, even something as little as holding their hand through a stressful event. She uses problem solving, team management, and leadership skills to serve on the ambulance, teach others important life-saving skills, and serve as President. She credits her abilities, skills, and confidence to both the volunteer and career mentors who have helped her grow into the leader and provider she is today.

"2020 was challenging because of the pandemic and like other organizations we had to rethink how we operated. We provided online training, virtual meetings, adjusted operations to wear and decontaminate personal

Stephanie Feinberg joined the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department in 2015 and quickly accepted committee and leadership assignments. She has served as President for three years and is an ambulance officer/driver and trainer. She works full-time as a Program Analyst for the Department of Justice.

protective equipment, and established protocols to safely restart fundraising activities." Her commitment to the volunteers and patients is stronger than ever and every decision she makes is trying to be in the best interest of her members and the community we serve.

Stephanie was recognized by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department as its 2020 Volunteer of the Year. She is the first volunteer to receive this county recognition. "I'm honored to receive the award and, while I don't seek recognition, it's nice for the volunteer system to be appreciated for all the hard work, hours, and training they put into their stations and the county. I work hard to help volunteers feel comfortable serving and patients feel cared for during their time of need. I appreciate the opportunities and experiences that volunteering has provided me and look forward to the future."

OUR SERVICES

PEOPLE

Our members are our most valuable assets. We provide operational volunteers who respond to fire and medical emergencies throughout Fairfax County. Administrative volunteers manage the business of departments to include fundraising, facilities/hall rental management, recruitment/retention, financial operations, community outreach, and operating canteen units on large emergencies.

Operational volunteers train at the county's Fire and Rescue Academy and operate side-by-side with FCFRD career personnel. Operational volunteers also share administrative responsibilities in the management and operation of the business of the departments.



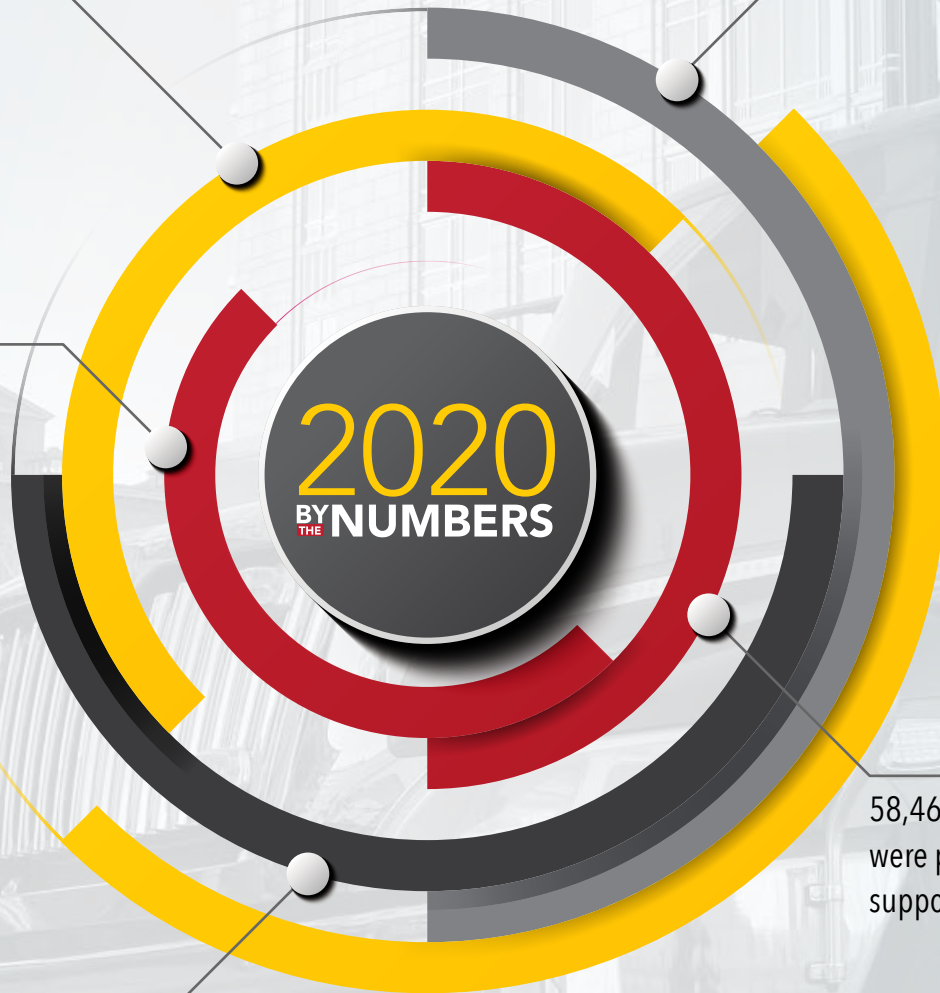
SOME EXAMPLES OF THE MANY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED IN 2020:

- ▶ Provided rehabilitation support at major incidents, training events, and other departmental needs with canteen units.
- ▶ Hosted blood drives, providing enough blood to save thousands of lives during a shortage of blood donations during the pandemic.
- ▶ Provided a strong program of fire safety education within our community through virtual public education programs.
- ▶ Recruited a cadre of individuals from our communities or surrounding areas that are willing to contribute their time and talent.
- ▶ Volunteer fire chaplains provided spiritual support for volunteers, career staff and their families.
- ▶ Though the pandemic forced their cancellation in 2020, in other years volunteers provide community outreach, emergency medical services, incident command, and logistics at community fairs and large festivals such as Celebrate Fairfax, Herndon Festival, and Viva Vienna, typically signature events for volunteer participation.

Over 56,823 administrative hours contributed to running the business of the VFDs

Volunteers provided 153,094 hours of service, an investment with a value exceeding \$5,000,000

Volunteers placed 1,346 additional units in service, 1,018 of which were EMS units responding to calls for medical emergencies



58,469 volunteer hours were provided to support operations

Over 37,802 hours of training to maintain skills and certifications

- ▶ 12 new volunteer firefighters completed an arduous 475-hour training program
- ▶ Two EMT training courses adapted to smaller groups and innovative online instruction methods to graduate 44 new EMTs
- ▶ Five sessions of introductory training for new members with 138 students
- ▶ Two emergency vehicle driver training courses training 60 new drivers
- ▶ 10 CPR training classes with 150 students
- ▶ 11 firefighter continuing education training classes with 134 students
- ▶ 30 EMS continuing education training classes with 475 students
- ▶ Numerous countywide and VFD-level Zoom training sessions on a variety of topics to adapt to limited in-person training opportunities due to the pandemic

Total operational hours in 2020 were 58,469 down 29% from 2019

- ▶ Lowest in the VMS era following 2008 with 65,738 hours
- ▶ Volunteers placed 1,346 additional units in service, down 17% from 2019 and the lowest number of additional units in the VMS era
- ▶ The largest contributors to the decline were members unable to operate in the field due to elevated personal, family, or job-related COVID risk factors, conservation of personal protective equipment due to shortages, and strategic decisions to limit exposure to career personnel and hold volunteer personnel in reserve.

Total volunteer participation in 2020 was the lowest of any calendar year since the 2007 implementation of the Volunteer Management System (VMS), created to track participation.

Total volunteer hours in 2020 were 153,094

- ▶ Down 31% from 2019
- ▶ Lowest in the VMS era following 2008 with 184,963 hours

Total administrative hours in 2020 were 56,823

- ▶ Down 35% from 2019
- ▶ Lowest in the VMS era following 2009 with 76,987 hours
- ▶ The largest contributors to the decline were the cancellation of bingo games for fundraising, cancellation of Fire Prevention Week open house events, and discouraging members from working at the firehouses to limit exposure and virus transmission risks.

Total training hours in 2020 were 37,802

- ▶ Down 26% from 2019
- ▶ Third lowest in the VMS era following 2009 with 35,605 hours and 2008 with 34,771 hours
- ▶ The largest contributors to the decline were temporary interruption to class schedules at the beginning of the pandemic, reduced student capacity in classes to meet safety requirements and allow for social distancing, and the temporary suspension of new member recruiting at many departments reducing the number of new recruits needing introductory training.



THE IMPACT
OF COVID-19 ON
2020 VOLUNTEER
PARTICIPATION

APPARATUS

2020 BY THE NUMBERS:

Volunteer fire departments purchase state-of-the-art fire and rescue apparatus (fire engines, ambulances, canteens, etc.) and equipment; both for front line service (staffed 24 hours a day by career personnel) and for ready reserve service (staffed by volunteers).

- ▶ VFDs own 77 vehicles that are deployed throughout the county
- ▶ In 2020, 7 new vehicles were purchased by volunteers at a cost of \$3,300,000
- ▶ The current replacement value of the apparatus in the volunteer fleet is approximately \$25,600,000



Volunteer fire stations provide a round-the-clock base of operations for the delivery of fire and emergency services. We partner with the County on 14 of the 38 fire stations operated in 2020, with the volunteer corporations owning and operating seven facilities, and in partnership in the operation of an additional seven facilities.

- ▶ The assessed value of seven volunteer-owned facilities is \$26,578,700
- ▶ The total annual operating cost for the VFDs, including both volunteer-owned facilities and those operated in partnership with Fairfax County, is \$3,100,000



SPOTLIGHT ON ...

JAIME NGUYEN



Jaime Nguyen is a Firefighter/EMT, Engine Driver/Operator, and Life Member at the Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Company 422. An engineer for the U.S. Navy, Jaime is also a mother to a new son, Jameson.

A volunteer for 10 years, Jaime grew up in Fairfax County and is a graduate of Oakton High School. Her interest in emergency services dates to her time in college at Virginia Tech, and after graduating and returning to the area, Jaime heard a radio advertisement recruiting fire department volunteers. Living in Company 422's response area and commuting to the District of Columbia, the Greater Springfield VFD was the perfect place for Jaime to serve her community doing something she had always wanted to do.

After completing the challenging initial training, Jaime rose quickly through the ranks. She completed the emergency vehicle operator training program and became an ambulance driver. She learned to develop lesson plans and deliver training, becoming a fire and emergency services instructor. She studied

fireground hydraulics, pump operations, and became a fire engine driver/operator.

In addition to her active operational role, Jaime served as Training Officer, and currently serves as President, responsible for a \$1.5M fundraising program and a \$350,000 annual operating budget. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce honored Jaime with a Unit Citation Valor Award in recognition of her service to the community and her role as an engine driver with a volunteer crew on the Poag Street fire in February 2020.

Asked about her experience in the Fairfax County volunteer fire service, she said, "We are proud to serve our community and ready, willing, and up to the challenge. We appreciate the Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support."

OUR GOVERNANCE BODIES

Good governance and leadership are critical for any organization. While we are 12 independent volunteer fire companies, each a non-profit corporation chartered by the Virginia State Corporation Commission, managed by dedicated citizens and operated for the good of the communities we serve, it was recognized long ago that having umbrella organizations to provide high-level governance, policy, procedure and practice would bring consistency across the organizations.

Today, we have two such umbrella groups as described below:



FAIRFAX COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE ASSOCIATION

With a history dating back to 1929, the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (FCVFRA) is a linchpin for collaboration on leadership and the delivery of emergency services. The FCVFRA is an independently chartered non-profit organization representing the partnership of the 12 VFDs in the areas of planning, operations, training, community outreach, and administration. While all volunteers are members, the FCVFRA supports the junction between corporate interests and the line officers. It is the place for presidents and chiefs to cooperate and communicate on common matters and manage county-wide initiatives. The FCVFRA provides a common, public face for the volunteer fire service in Fairfax County.

2020 FCVFRA LEADERSHIP

CHIEF MIKE WENDT, *President*

Centreville Volunteer Fire Department, Company 17

CHIEF THOMAS WARNOCK, *Vice President, Operations*

Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, Company 14

CHIEF SHAWN P. STOKES, *Vice President, Administration*
Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Company 13

NATALIA DURR, *Secretary*

Greater Springfield Volunteer Fire Department, Company 22

CAMILLA MORRISON, *Treasurer*

Fair Oaks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, Company 21

CODY COLLINS, *Director*

McLean Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1

TONYA McCREARY, *Director*

Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Company 14

ROBERT MIZER, *Director*

Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Company 14

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMMISSION

The Volunteer Fire Commission history dates to pre-World War II and the Commission was reorganized by the Board of Supervisors in 1983 as a component in a sweeping plan to standardize fire and rescue services.

Commissioners are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, based on input from the VFDs, and members are drawn from their ranks. The Commission is a policy-making body providing assurance that the VFDs, FCFRD, and Fairfax County remain mutually committed to excellence in service. Mechanisms established to achieve this mission are a comprehensive Volunteer Policies and Procedures Manual, oversight of the management agreement between the VFDs and Fairfax County, review of all FCFRD standard operating procedures and general orders, review of officer candidate credentials for annual certification to supervise response crews or to serve as command officers, and serving as a resource to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission works directly with the

VFDs and FCFRD through the Volunteer Liaison to the Fire Chief.

The Volunteer Fire Commission is composed of seven elected commissioners reaffirmed by the Board of Supervisors. The VFDs are divided into four zones with one commissioner representing each zone.

ZONE I: Companies 2 (Vienna), 8 (Annandale), and 10 (Bailey's Crossroads)

ZONE II: Companies 5 (Franconia), 19 (Lorton), and 22 (Greater Springfield)

ZONE III: Companies 14 (Burke), 17 (Centreville), and 21 (Fair Oaks).

ZONE IV: Companies 1 (McLean), 12 (Great Falls), and 13 (Dunn Loring).

One commissioner represents the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association (FCVFRA) by virtue of election to the FCVFRA Vice President of Administration. One commissioner represents the volunteer fire chiefs by virtue of election to the FCVFRA Vice President of Operations. The seventh commissioner is elected at-large by the members of all of the VFDs.

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMMISSION 2020 MEMBERS

CHIEF SHAWN P. STOKES, Chair
Commissioner representing FCVFRA as Vice President of Administration
Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Dept.,
Company 13

GERALD B. STRIDER, Vice Chair
Zone I Commissioner representing Companies 2, 8, and 10
Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Dept.,
Company 10

CHIEF JOHN MORRISON
At-Large Commissioner
Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., Company 2

CHIEF THOMAS WARNOCK
Commissioner representing FCVFRA as Vice President of Operations
Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept.,
Company 14

ROBERT MIZER
Zone III Commissioner representing Companies 14, 17, and 21
Burke Volunteer Fire & Rescue Dept.,
Company 14

CHIEF TIMOTHY FLEMING
Zone II Commissioner representing Companies 5, 19, and 22
Franconia Volunteer Fire Dept., Company 5

MICHAEL J. MASCIOLA
Zone IV Commissioner representing Companies 1, 12, and 13
Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Dept.,
Company 13

FEBRUARY

8-9 - The largest fire in 21st century Fairfax County occurs in a high-rise apartment and townhome complex occurs on Poag Street in the Groveton area of Fairfax County.

29 - For the first time since 1968, a kitchen renovation project is completed at the Dunn Loring VFRD. The project brings the facility up to compliance with new health and fire safety codes at a cost of \$300,000.

29 - Dunn Loring commissions a newly delivered \$640,000 fire engine for service as Engine 413.

MAY

28 - A campaign to stem food insecurity begins when the County Board of Supervisors and agencies and suppliers partner with CERT and the VFDs to hold food distribution events for families in need. This effort continues almost every week somewhere in the county through December.

SEPTEMBER

18 - The last of six replacement heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units are replaced at Franconia, wrapping up a \$91,000 investment in physical plant infrastructure.

23 - Franconia signs a contract for the construction of a new fire engine, with delivery expected a year from the day.

24 - The last of two major building projects is finished, providing a new roof and renovated fundraising facilities for the Centreville firehouse at a cost of \$221,000.

JUNE

30 - Volunteers from McLean, Vienna, and Dunn Loring work with Voice of America on a Russian language video production highlighting volunteer fire service as a part of life in America. (<https://www.golosameriki.com/a/voa-journalist-visited-volunteer-fire-department/5505742.html>.)

MARCH

25 - The first in a series of blood drives is conducted at the Vienna VFD. Blood drives are also conducted at the Greater Springfield, Centreville, Burke and Dunn Loring firehouses throughout the year.

30 - An extensive rehabilitation of the elevator system at the Vienna firehouse is completed at a cost of \$100,000.

JULY

2 - A new \$743,000 pumper enters service as Engine 417 in Centreville.

OCTOBER

5 - After a four-month delay because DMV is closed, license plates and registration arrives, and a new \$143,000 canteen enters service as Canteen 417, replacing a 48-year-old unit based in Centreville.

10 - Open house for National Fire Prevention Week is canceled, but the County and several volunteer fire companies post virtual content to maintain a public fire education effort.

23 - After a production delay attributed to the pandemic, Vienna commissions a new 2019 Ford/Demers ambulance to replace its aging frontline medic unit.

DECEMBER

1 - Volunteers at several companies continue the annual tradition of carrying Santa Claus on a fire engine to tour their communities, albeit using pandemic safety guidelines. In a twist on the NORAD Santa Tracker, Dunn Loring develops an amateur radio-based tracking tool that allows the community to "see" where Santa is traveling and know when he is coming close to their homes.

AWARDS

On September 2, 2020, the Volunteer Fire Commission honored the recipients of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Awards for their service in 2019.

On September 25, 2020, Chief Butler presented the inaugural Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Volunteer of the Year Award alongside the department's annual awards for Career Officer, Career Firefighter, Civilian Employee, and Team of the Year.

Each of these volunteers demonstrated extraordinary commitment to Fairfax County through hundreds of hours providing fire and emergency medical services or through other roles that support the goals of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

2019 VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE AWARDS

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Volunteer Firefighter	Jack Prudence Vienna Volunteer Fire Department
Volunteer Operational Officer	Al Wolf Centreville Volunteer Fire Department
Volunteer EMS Provider	Gus Sawatzki McLean Volunteer Fire Department
Volunteer ALS Provider	Barry Brown Burke Volunteer and Rescue Department
Volunteer BLS Provider	Kerin Hamel Great Falls Volunteer Department
Administrative Member	Valentin Neacsu Vienna Volunteer Fire Department
Administrative Officer	Kelsey Lanza Vienna Volunteer Fire Department
CERT Member	Susy Ledgerwood Dranesville District
Special Recognition Award	Dave Presson Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department
Fire Chief's Award	John Hootman McLean Volunteer Fire Department
Fire Chief's Career Achievement Award	Timothy Fleming Franconia Volunteer Fire Department
2020 Volunteer of the Year	Stephanie Feinberg Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

CONCLUSION



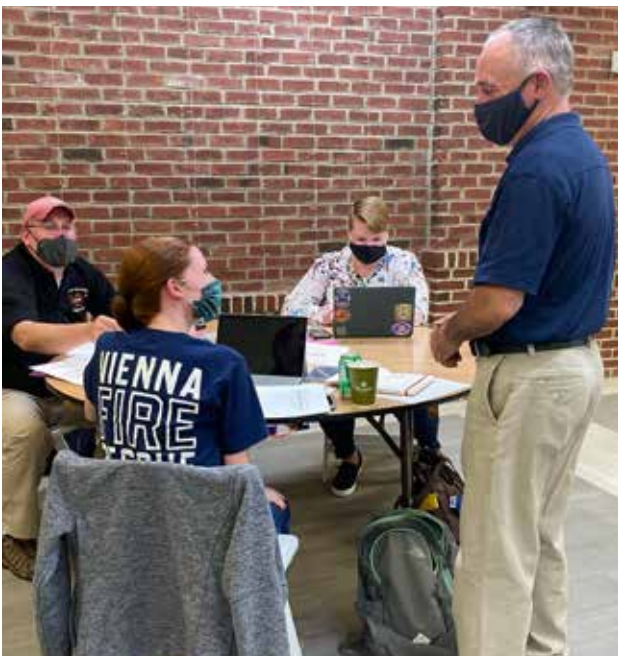
As in all aspects of life, the pandemic forced us to conduct business differently. For the volunteer fire service in Fairfax County, this has meant:

- ▶ amended recruiting, training, meeting, and retention processes utilizing remote technologies to ensure member safety;
- ▶ leveraging resources to ensure our neighbors' basic needs are met; and
- ▶ taking advantage of ways to build goodwill in our communities.



Looking ahead, vaccinations are being administered and our operational volunteers were able to take advantage of vaccines for first responders. And as more and more of our friends and families are vaccinated, there's a sense of hope that we will begin to return to normal.

In the meantime, the volunteer fire system in Fairfax County will continue its work to make our community a great place to live, work and serve.



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