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The Fifth Street Coalition

Fauquier Volunteer Firefighters | Community Response to Mental Health

Enriching Lives while Saving Them

Fauquier County Volunteer Firefighters and EMT's

by Shirley Allen



Company 3, Marshall Volunteer Fire Department
Courtesy of Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management



Courtesy of Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management

“Fauquier County needs Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs” is a phrase you may be seeing and hearing more and more around the County. These signs, posters and ads are part of a recruitment campaign to encourage citizens to become much needed volunteer firefighters and EMTs throughout Fauquier County. While protecting and preserving our beautiful county and its residents, our volunteer fire and rescue companies, collectively called the Fauquier Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, and career staff, the Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Management, are responsible for fire, paramedic emergency medical services, rescue, hazard mitigation and emergency management. Volunteer recruitment and retention efforts are necessary to reduce emergency response times and to minimize the number of firefighters and EMTs to be hired which therefore decreases taxpayer dollars towards Fire and Rescue.

Years ago, volunteering at a fire station was a way of life for many citizens. It was a lifestyle that got passed down from one generation to the next. It was public service, developing inner strength, an adrenaline rush, camaraderie and another family that you could depend upon. Times have changed and there has been a major decline in volunteerism. This is not because people do not want to spend the time in their communities but for other reasons such as longer commutes, lack of child care due to both parents working or single parenting, no extra money for gas to get to the fire stations, or being too busy with their own or their children's activities.

The Fauquier County's Fire and Rescue System has received state and federal grants which are being applied towards enhancing the volunteer recruitment and retention effort. This includes increasing awareness in the communities about the County's shortage of volunteer firefighters and EMTs and increasing participation by the communities in the volunteer recruitment and retention effort. These volunteers are here to help Fauquier County's citizens in even their worst times of need and they are NOT getting paid. They are using their free time to protect the community instead of pursuing other interests or spending additional time with their families and friends. One day they may even save your life or the life of a loved one!

“Volunteers, a precious resource we cannot afford to lose.” - Denise Penn

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Company 8, Goldvein
 Courtesy of Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management



Company 7, Catlett Volunteer Fire and Rescue
 Courtesy of Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management



Company 1, Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company
 Courtesy of Warrenton Volunteer Fire Company

“In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it.” - Marianne Williamson

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Many businesses, churches, and other organizations throughout the county have graciously allowed Fauquier County’s Fire and Rescue System to display recruitment posters in their windows and inside their facilities. Some stores even offer discounts to volunteers. Other businesses have allowed recruiting on location. The Town of Warrenton has offered the use of their digital road sign to advertise the County’s need. Magazines and newspapers have provided discounted or free advertising. The communities’ efforts are starting to show results and Fauquier County’s Fire and Rescue System will be grateful for additional advertising which the citizens and businesses can provide.

There are many success stories that have come from volunteering in the County’s Fire and Rescue System. One of the current Battalion Fire Chiefs started as a volunteer at the age 14. He was mentored by some of the best leaders during his impressionable days of high school. This leadership helped distract him from normal adolescent mischief. Upon graduating high school, he spent four years serving our country in the United States Marine Corps, while still coming home to volunteer when he could. Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management’s administration noticed his dedication to service and offered him a full time job where he has worked for the last 13 years. There are similar stories like this one throughout our system. Many of the career staff members began volunteering and eventually got hired by the Department of Fire and Rescue and Emergency Management, the Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office, or other surrounding fire and EMS departments. Many of them have not forgotten where they got their start and have continued to volunteer.

Times may have changed but volunteering as a firefighter or EMT still has many benefits. Personal benefits include the satisfaction of helping others and making a difference. Volunteers develop skills and relationships that last a lifetime. Many volunteers would even refer to their peers as a second family.



Company 3, Marshall Volunteer Fire Department
 Courtesy of Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management

Other benefits:

- Free training. Fire classes are Monday and Wednesday from 6-10:30 PM and every other Saturday for 3 months. EMT classes are Tuesday and Thursday from 7-10 PM and every other Saturday for 3 months.
- Special personal property tax rate
- \$25 registration exception for one vehicle
- \$10,000 life insurance policy
- Workers compensation and accidental/health insurance benefits
- Physical exam
- Hepatitis B series
- Several area merchants provide discounts to volunteer firefighters and EMTs
- Eligibility to join the Northern Piedmont Credit Union

Fauquier County's fire and rescue stations are located in Warrenton, Remington, Marshall, The Plains, Upperville, Catlett, Goldvein, New Baltimore, Orlean, and Lois. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Each company is independent so people who are interested in volunteering or assisting with advertising or providing volunteer incentives should contact Shirley Allen at 540-422-8808 or Shirley.Allen@FauquierCounty.gov.

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