

**Falls Church  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



***Annual Report – CY 2009***

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD). During the calendar year 2009, the volunteers orchestrated, led, developed and participated in a broad range of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. This report provides an overview of those incidents and events, as well as a summary of training and other activities that FCVFD members completed in order to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.

The report is organized as follows:

- **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**  
Provides summary data of the personnel strength and hours contributions during incidents, events and training.
- **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**  
Provides a summary of the major incidents and apparatus staffed by volunteer personnel in partnership with the Arlington County Fire Department
- **PUBLIC EVENTS**  
Identifies public gatherings where volunteers provided fire and medical support or participated in the event itself
- **FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**  
Provides an overview of interactions with the community to promote fire and life safety
- **TRAINING**  
Highlights the fire, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical training activities of the membership throughout the year
- **PRESENTATIONS**  
Details the honors and awards received from outside agencies and organizations
- **FINANCES AND PROJECTS**  
Explains fiscal allocations and contributions of funds for acquisition and maintenance of station equipment, apparatus, and other tangible goods that enhance service delivery to the community

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

### **Hours and Emergency Responses**

The FCVFD membership contributed nearly 19,000 hours of service in 2009. Membership contributions are categorized into three major categories – Apparatus Staffing and Standby, Training, and Administration. While the hours total is nearly identical to 2008, the contribution to Apparatus Staffing was up significantly in 2009.

#### Apparatus Staffing and Standby

Members of the FCVFD contributed over 6,600 hours staffing volunteer units and supplementing the career staff during 2009. This number represents a six percent increase over 2008. During those hours, personnel participated in 1,384 incidents. Supplemental staffing to the full-time career units in the Falls Church station included:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unique days with volunteer supplement</u>	<u>Staffing Hours</u>	<u>Incidents</u>
Engine 106	74	1075.5	235
Truck 106	95	1393.5	128
Medic 106	42	480	110

#### Training

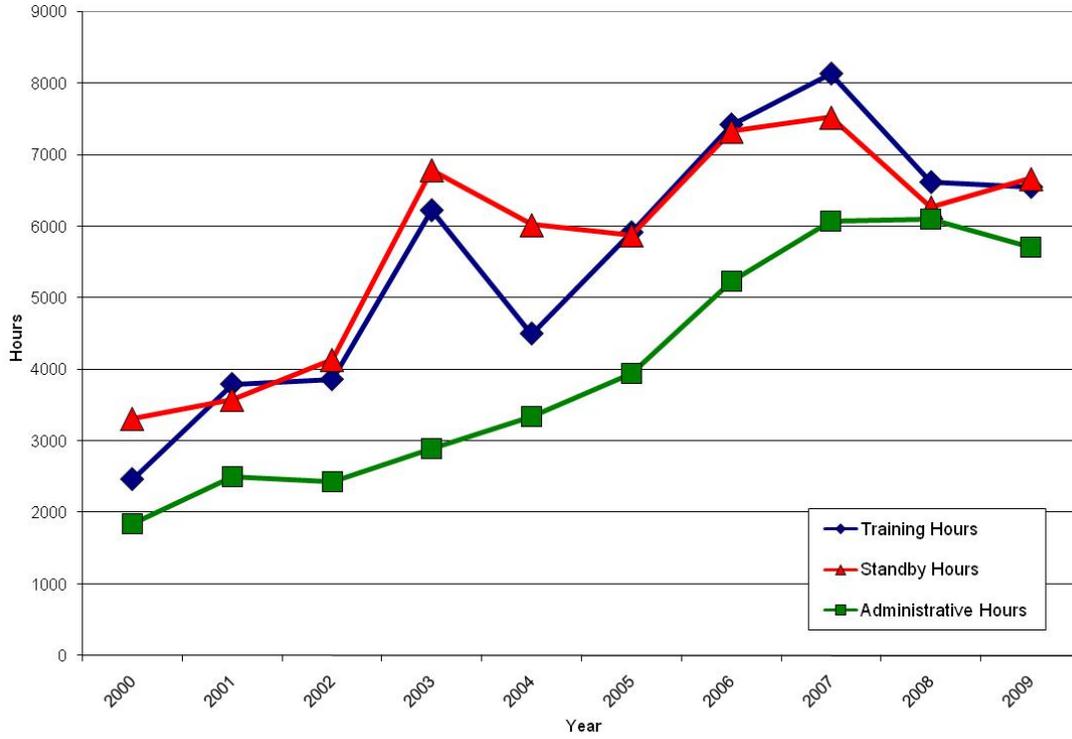
In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in over 6,500 hours of fire and emergency medical services (EMS) training. These hours included both in-station training and training from outside resources. These accomplishments are outlined in the Training section of this report.

#### Administration

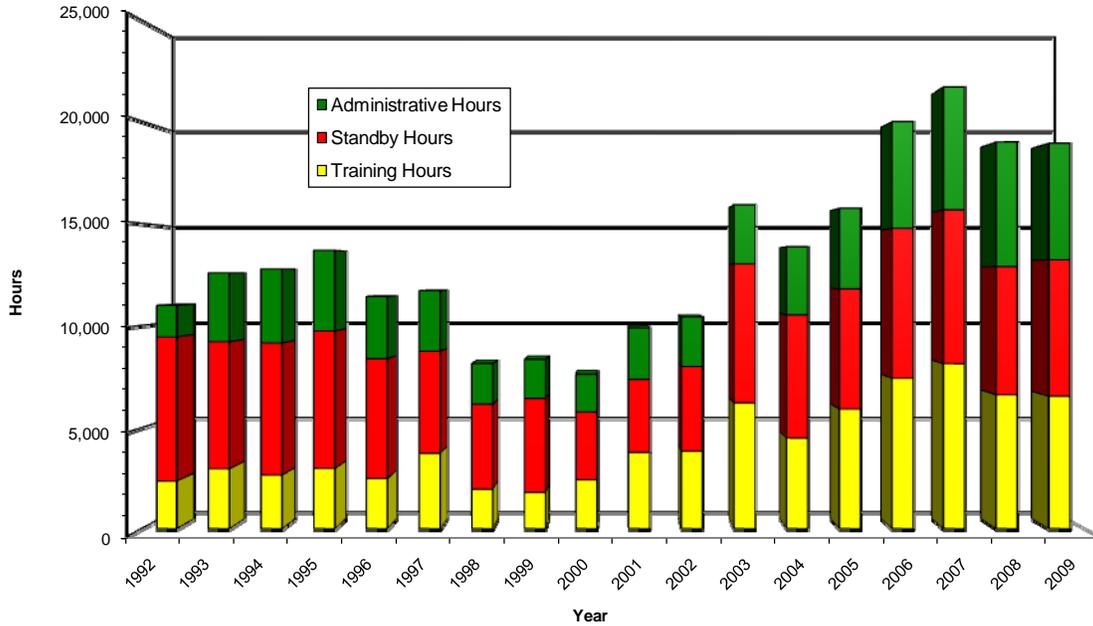
In addition to actual emergency operations and other service-delivery aspects of the Department, members spent over 5,700 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, promote fire safety in the community, raise funds, promote the services of the FCVFD, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

See the following charts for a comparison of hours contributed since 2000.

**Hours Contributed to the Community  
2000 to 2009**



**Cumulative Hours Contributed By Year  
1992 to 2009**



## Membership

During 2009, 61 FCVFD and Auxiliary members contributed hours. Of the 61 members, 44 are operational members serving as firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs).



## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

### **Structure Fires**

Throughout 2009, FCVFD firefighters responded with the career staff to numerous working fire incidents. During these incidents, members performed a variety of functions, including placing ladders, ventilating structures, overhaul, salvage, hoseline management, breathing air replenishment, and fire investigation support.

### **Basic Life Support Ambulance**

The Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad is an organization formed as a subsidiary to the Arlington County Firemen's Association. The Volunteer Rescue Squad owns and maintains a basic life support ambulance that is staffed on weekends and select weekdays by fire department volunteers from Arlington and Falls Church.

During 2009, Falls Church volunteers performed over 2,500 hours of service on the Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad ambulance. During those hours, the ambulance responded to 259 calls for emergency assistance.

In addition to responding to emergency calls, the ambulance was placed in service during a number of special events and holidays. This service provides a significant benefit to the community by relieving advanced life support units, which then remain available to respond to more life-threatening situations. In addition to staffing the unit, the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief, Deputy Chief, Apparatus Captain, and all five members of the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Rescue Squad are FCVFD personnel.



During the winter months the base of operations for the ambulance changes from Fire Station 2 in Ballston to the Falls Church Station due to space limitations in Ballston.

## Light and Air 103

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains a unit to provide lighting, salvage, and air cylinder replenishment at the scene of major incidents. During an emergency, staffing is obtained by use of pagers to call in volunteer members, including firefighters from the FCVFD.

In 2009, FCVFD members responded to 18 incidents with Light and Air 103 and spent 168 staff-hours on emergency scenes. Incidents included multi-alarm fires, water leaks, and requests for support from local police. FCVFD members also contributed many hours to staff the unit during training exercises and public events. The vehicle is stored at the Falls Church Station due to space limitations at its previous location in Arlington.



## Canteen 106

The Auxiliary to the FCVFD maintains a stepvan equipped to operate as a mobile kitchen during extended incidents. The unit is capable of preparing hot and cold food and drinks. It is staffed exclusively by volunteers alerted by pager during large incidents.

During 2009, personnel contributed 70 hours supporting a variety of operations.

The unit provided support to the following events and incidents:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 1180 North Vermont Street
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 1523 North Fairfax Drive
- Special Alarm fire – 3134 N Piedmont Street
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 4713 Rock Spring Road
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 1409 North Longfellow Street
- Marine Corps Marathon – Pentagon



## **Severe Weather**

Periodically, severe weather taxes the regular resources of the regional fire and rescue departments. Severe thunderstorms create an increased call volume for the fire department due to downed trees, downed power lines, and lightning strikes. Extreme cold and winter weather cause utility outages, impassable roads, and flooding due to burst water pipes. In an effort to decrease the impact of these weather events on the availability of emergency resources, the FCVFD augments the capacity of the ACFD by staffing auxiliary vehicles, such as Light and Air 103 and Utility 106.

In 2009, the FCVFD provided callback staffing during the following periods:

- January 18 – Utility 106 was in service for 12½ hours overnight with four personnel. They responded to broken water pipe calls related to frigid temperatures. The unit responded to three calls for service, including assisting an ACFD engine company with water removal.
- January 27-28 – Staffing for Utility and Ambulance 106 arranged to assist during a predicted snow and ice storm. Personnel were placed in a callback status pending activation by the ACFD Battalion Chief. Conditions did not develop that required additional resources.
- June 9 – Utility 106 was staffed during severe thunderstorms with two personnel. The unit handled one incident before the crew switched to Light and Air 103 to assist on a house fire.

## **Station Fill at Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD**

On January 17, five FCVFD members relieved the usual volunteer duty crew and staffed Loudoun County Rescue Engine 609 during the annual banquet and installation of officers. During the 6pm to 6am shift, the unit handled five calls for service. The calls were all the result of broken water pipes due to the extreme cold weather. Crew members forced entry into several occupancies, placed ground ladders for access via windows, and controlled fire suppression and domestic water supplies to mitigate the incidents.

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### **New Year's Eve – December 31, 2008**

Despite frigid temperatures and high winds that cancelled most outdoor activities, six volunteers staffed an ambulance and a pumper in support of the New Year's Eve festivities in downtown Falls Church. Additionally, three personnel staffed an ambulance that remained in quarters to respond to emergencies outside of the event. There were no requests for emergency assistance during the event. In addition to their emergency function, members provided tours of the fire engine and information about fire prevention, life safety and the functions of the Department.

### **Presidential Inauguration – January 20**

Seven FCVFD personnel staffed two basic life support ambulances in support of ACFD operations during the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. The ambulances were deployed to Fire Station 5 in Crystal City and the parade staging area at the Pentagon. Both ambulances responded to several calls throughout the day, however none were complicated by the inaugural event.

### **American Red Cross Basketball Tournament – March 7 & 8**

FCVFD EMTs staffed a basic life support ambulance for approximately nine hours during the annual American Red Cross Basketball Tournament conducted at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington. There were 1,500 to 2,000 people in attendance throughout the day and a total of four players received medical attention for orthopedic injuries.

### **War Protest – March 21**

Three FCVFD EMTs staffed a basic life support ambulance for approximately four hours at the Pentagon North Parking Lot. In addition, two FCVFD members staffed a county EMS cart for four hours. No patients required treatment during this peaceful event.

### **Friends of the W&OD Trail 5k Race – March 28**

FCVFD provided EMS support to the annual race that rotates locations on the W&OD Trail each year. The participants – approximately 400 – were shadowed by two EMS bicycle teams and four FCVFD personnel. Additionally, a basic life support ambulance was staffed with three crew members and positioned at Fire Station 6 to assist.

### **Pacers Half Marathon and 5k – May 10**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance for this annual event in Rosslyn. No patients required treatment.

### **Taste of Arlington – May 17**

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance, providing EMS services in conjunction with the ACFD, during this Ballston street fair that attracted 12,000 attendees. One public service call (water leaking from a second story porch) was investigated, but no fire or EMS services were needed.

### **Rolling Thunder – May 24**

To support this annual motorcycle event, five FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance and an EMS bicycle team in conjunction with the ACFD. Volunteer units responded to five emergencies during the event. Units provided treatment for several minor injuries, and one patient required transport to the hospital.

### **Clarendon CSC Invitational Bike Race – May 30**

FCVFD members staffed an EMS bicycle team in conjunction with the ACFD to provide EMS support of this annual one-kilometer bike race in North Arlington. The crew was deployed twice for injuries, however no patients requiring treatment were identified.

### **Air Force Crystal City Classic – May 31**

FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to support the Air Force Crystal City Classic bicycle event. The event included youth and amateur races, as well as pro women's 50K and pro men's 80K races, which took place over a two-kilometer enclosed course in the Crystal City shopping and business district. The crew provided treatment for several minor injuries, however no transport for further care was needed.

### **Memorial Day 3k Fun Run and Parade**

Twenty-three volunteers provided standby support, including emergency medical services, during the annual Falls Church Memorial Day festivities. Members staffed both fixed and mobile assets, including two ambulances, a fire engine, a bike team, a utility vehicle, a gator, a canteen unit, and a first aid station. Although coordination with the Falls Church Recreation & Parks Department to implement hydration stations and educate parade participants about heat illness prevention improves every year, the warm weather contributed to some emergencies during the festival and parade. In addition to two heat-related illnesses, FCVFD personnel treated an injury from a fall. Only one patient required transport to the hospital for further treatment.

### **Cub Scout Soapbox Derby – June 7**

Two FCVFD volunteers staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual festivities on South Oak Street in Falls Church. While at the event, an individual fell on the basketball court at nearby Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and

witnesses flagged down the ambulance crew. The patient had an altered mental status, so an advanced life support unit was summoned to coordinate patient care with the FCVFD EMTs. The advanced life support unit ultimately transported the patient.

### **Tinner's Hill Blues Festival – June 13**

Three FCVFD medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance for 6 hours in support of a small musical event in the City of Falls Church. There were no requests for assistance at the event, however the ambulance responded to two nearby incidents as call volume was high for the surrounding area.

### **Independence Day – Falls Church**

Ten FCVFD personnel staffed Engine 116 and Utility 106 for the annual City of Falls Church Independence Day celebration at George Mason High School. During setup, personnel from Engine 116 coordinated fire prevention measures with the Deputy Fire Marshal from Arlington County. Utility 106 provided area lighting to assist spectators with their exit following the fireworks. There were no requests for medical assistance during the event. Units remained at the school until satisfied that all ordnance had been secured by the fireworks contractor.

### **Independence Day – George Washington Parkway**

In addition to the City of Falls Church activities, five FCVFD EMTs assisted the ACFD with emergency medical services along the George Washington Parkway. These personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance and two EMS bicycle teams from 11am until 11pm. Units assisted with seven emergencies during the event.

### **Twilighter 5k – July 25**

Three FCVFD EMTs staffed a basic life support ambulance at this evening run in Crystal City.

### **Festival Peruano – July 26**

One FCVFD EMT along with personnel from the Cherrydale VFD staffed a basic life support ambulance at Gunston Sports Field. Members responded to one call for assistance for a heat-related incident. The patient was treated and released. No transports were required.

### **AACH Kickball Tournament – August 1**

Two FCVFD medical technicians staffed Utility 106 in support of this annual event, which attracted 150 to 200 people. During the event, personnel provided basic first aid, including treatment of basic cuts, scrapes and bruises. No transports were needed.

### **Arlington County Fair – August 20, 21, 22**

Six FCVFD personnel assisted by three Cherrydale VFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance for the duration of the Arlington County Fair at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. During the event, the ambulance responded to three emergencies.

### **ACPD DUI Checkpoint – August 28**

Three FCVFD personnel staffed Cherrydale VFD's Light and Air 103 as well as Utility 106 in support of the Arlington County Police. The fire department units provided area lighting to enhance officer safety during sobriety interviews and subsequent activities. Personnel also evaluated one patient who refused further medical service. The units were committed to the event from 9pm to 2am. During the evening, ACPD stopped 1,125 vehicles, detaining 56 for DUI investigations with five drivers arrested for DUI and two drivers for not possessing a valid operator's license.

### **Arlington Police/Fire 9-11 Memorial 5k Race – September 5**

Two FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual remembrance event in Pentagon City. In addition to staffing an ambulance, seven FCVFD personnel were among the nearly 2,300 runners who participated in the race. Firefighter/EMT Greear finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the Female Firefighter category with EMT Rowan and EMT Brown tying in 10<sup>th</sup> place.

### **Taste of Falls Church and Fall Festival – September 12**

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church event in Cherry Hill Park. One patient presented with a minor medical emergency but refused service.

### **Race for Grace & Fireman Chase – September 13**

In coordination with ACFD Captain Bennett, three FCVFD personnel traveled to Spotsylvania with Engine 116 and FCVFD's antique fire truck (known as "Old Tom"; see page 14 for more details) to participate in a fundraiser for the Grace Oughton Cancer Foundation. The foundation aims to develop a full-service pediatric field clinic in the Fredericksburg region. FCVFD members, along with firefighters from various departments, ran the one-mile Fireman Chase in their protective equipment with the children.

### **City of Falls Church Schools 5k Run – September 13**

Two FCVFD members staffed Utility 106 in support of this annual event sponsored by the Falls Church Education Foundation. Nearly 200 participants lined the course, which wound through the streets of Falls Church and ended at Cherry Hill Park. There were no requests for assistance during the event.

### **Navy 5 Miler Race – September 20**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the Sixth Annual Navy 5 Miler. The race included over 1,000 runners that started and finished at the North Parking Lot of the Pentagon. There were no requests for assistance during the event.

### **Marymount 5k Race – September 26**

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the third annual Marymount 5k challenge. The race started and finished at the Marymount Ballston facility and included 500 runners. No one was treated.

### **High School Varsity Football Games**

The FCVFD was requested to provide emergency medical services by Yorktown High School and Bishop O'Connell High School during their home football games on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, respectively. During the course of ten games in 2009 – six at Yorktown and four at O'Connell – there was only one incident. At a November O'Connell game, a five-year-old fell from the stands but refused transportation to the hospital.

### **Marine Corps Marathon – October 25**

Eight FCVFD members staffed two basic life support ambulances and one EMS bicycle team for approximately 14 hours in support of the Marine Corps Marathon. Ambulance 106 responded to two emergencies and transported one patient to INOVA Fairfax Hospital. The bicycle team assisted approximately four patients, including following a distressed runner to the end of the race. Ambulance 102 assisted numerous patients in the area of the Rosslyn Metro and transported two patients to Virginia Hospital Center. Near the end of the day, Ambulance 102 was assigned to coordinate medical operations at the Rosslyn Metro until overwhelming requests for assistance required escalation of the resources on scene. The Falls Church Canteen unit, staffed by two administrative members starting at 3am, served refreshments to first responders as they arrived for their assignments in the pre-dawn hours. Additionally, Light and Air 103, staffed by the crew of Ambulance 106, provided area lighting for the early morning briefing.

### **Vienna Halloween Parade – October 28**

Nine members represented the FCVFD with Engine 116, Utility 106, and the Department's antique fire truck (known as "Old Tom"; see page 14 for more details) in the annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade. Sparky the Fire Dog also visited with the spectators as units moved through the parade route.

## Turkey Trot 5k – November 26

Two FCVFD EMTs spent Thanksgiving morning in Clarendon with Engine 116, providing support to the Turkey Trot 5k race. There were no requests for assistance during the event, however personnel provided tours of the fire truck and delivered fire and life safety information to several citizens.

## “Old Tom” Activities

Throughout 2009, the 1918 Model-T Chemical Fire Engine known as “Old Tom” represented the FCVFD at public events. Through the generosity of a private citizen, the unit continues to be housed in a garage in the City of Falls Church.

Public events and awards included:

- Shenandoah Apple Blossom Parade – May 1  
Winchester, VA
- Falls Church Memorial Day Parade – May 25  
Falls Church, Virginia
- Fairfax Independence Day Parade – July 4  
*2<sup>nd</sup> place Antique Vehicle/Fire Apparatus*  
Fairfax, Virginia
- Neighborhood Parade – September 12  
Arlington, Virginia
- Race for Grace – September 13  
Spotsylvania, Virginia
- Falls Church VFD Open House – October 10  
Falls Church, Virginia
- Vienna Halloween Parade – October 28  
Vienna, Virginia
- McLean Winterfest Parade – December 6  
McLean, Virginia



## **FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

### **Fire Prevention Week and Open House**

Surrounding the week designated by the National Fire Protection Association as Fire Prevention Week, FCVFD members visited Saint James, Mount Daniel, Thomas Jefferson, Little Falls Presbyterian Church, and Higher Horizons Headstart Schools to teach approximately 1,000 children ranging from pre-school to third grade about fire safety.

On October 11, the FCVFD and ACFD career staff hosted the annual open house to conclude fire prevention week activities. Forty-three FCVFD members spent more than 395 hours planning and executing this event.

Citizens were invited to visit the fire station and obtain fire safety tips, learn about the apparatus and equipment, and watch demonstrations of fire and rescue techniques. Volunteer and ACFD career personnel conducted demonstrations that included kitchen fire response, structure fire attack, vehicle rescue, aerial ladder operations, and emergency medical procedures. Displays of fire and EMS equipment were available for close examination by visitors and blood pressure screenings were offered. The FCVFD Auxiliary provided refreshments to visitors throughout the day that included the consumption of 500 hotdogs.

A silent auction fundraiser netted approximately \$2,100 for goods and services donated by local businesses and organizations. Donors included La Cote D'Or, Dogwood Tavern, Clay Café Studios, Browns Hardware, Sisler Stone, Massage Envy, State Theatre, Pie Tanza, Pilin Thai, Doodlehopper, H&R Block, Sonic Soft Car Wash, Papa John's Pizza, Alexandria's Hotel Monaco, Hilton Old Town and Pampered Chef.

Also participating in the Open House were deputies from the Falls Church Sheriff's Office, who assisted parents with child fingerprinting; the Falls Church Police Department with their dog and handler; Falls Church Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); and National Capital Area Poison Control Center. Each group set up an exhibit displaying the services they provide. During the week prior to the event, the local office of the Virginia Department of Transportation provided a large programmable sign board that directed traffic on Lee Highway to the event. The Sheriff's Office also provided the use of their traffic control trailer to assist in maintaining an orderly parking lot and traffic flow during the event.

**Special Recognition** – The ACFD awarded Station 6 the Mary Jo Brickheimer Award. This award is given each year to the station with the finest fire prevention open house.

## **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**

During 2009, the FCVFD transitioned from a training and leadership function into an advisory and logistical role for the established Falls Church and Arlington CERT. The Falls Church team participated in the Annual Open House with a display in the fire station. An initiative of the Department of Homeland Security, CERT is a neighborhood-based program that prepares citizens to augment first responders during a natural or manmade disaster.



## **Operation Enduring Claus – December 15-23**

In the weeks prior to Christmas, the Engine 116 was decorated and a chair prepared for Santa Claus to travel atop the hose bed. Despite missing three evenings due to a 20-inch snowfall, Santa's travels encompassed the entire City of Falls Church and surrounding areas on the fringes of the City. During the trips, FCVFD members handed out 3,200 candy canes and 3,000 fire safety flyers to citizens. Approximately 150 dog biscuits were provided for our four-legged friends, who frequently come out to visit with Santa. In 2009, Anthony's Restaurant and Curry's Auto Repair graciously supported this activity by purchasing the candy canes. Thirty-four FCVFD members donated 243 hours of service during the Enduring Claus operation.



## **EMS Week – May 17-23**

In conjunction with National Emergency Medical Services Week in May, nine members contributed over 60 hours preparing and staffing a booth for seven days. The booth provided free blood pressure screenings to approximately 360 patrons of the Ballston Common Mall in Arlington.

## **Webelos First Aid Session – August 1**

On August 1, Firefighter/EMT Schild taught 25 children first aid, which is one component of their Webelos Readyman badge. Part of Boy Scouts of America, Webelos is a 20-month program for fourth and fifth grade boys to prepare to join a Boy Scout troop. Webelos is an acronym meaning "We'll Be Loyal Scouts." The Readyman badge is one of 20 different activity badges available to Webelos, and first aid is just one of many requirements to obtain the Readyman badge.

## **Saint James School Cub Scouts – November 19**

Six FCVFD personnel presented fire safety information to 72 scouts and 88 scout parents during an evening visit to Saint James School in Falls Church. Firefighters reviewed the importance of orderly behavior during fire drills, the

importance of identifying two exits from every room, using fire extinguishers, and basic first aid for bleeding. The firefighters also demonstrated their personal protective equipment and breathing apparatus, and set up a hoseline from a hydrant so the children could spray water with the firefighters. The ACFD career staff brought Truck 106 and demonstrated the aerial ladder.

### **Mount Daniel Summer Daycare – August 14**

Five FCVFD firefighters visited approximately 75 children in the summer program at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in the City of Falls Church. They provided a fire safety presentation and protective equipment demonstration, followed by a water spray from the pumper for some fun outdoor time with the children.

### **Boy Scout Visit – November 12**

Three FCVFD firefighters provided a station tour, protective equipment demonstration, and fire extinguisher training to 15 Boy Scouts.

### **Cub Scout Pack 657 – November 15**

Following a bicycle ride on the W&OD Trail, approximately 50 scouts and their parents received a fire safety presentation, protective clothing demonstration, and station tour from three FCVFD personnel.

### **Falls Church Community Center Pre-School – November 18-19**

On two consecutive days, three firefighters discussed and/or demonstrated key fire prevention activities to 30 pre-school children at the Falls Church Community Center. Activities included exit drills; the stop, drop, and roll procedure; firefighter protective clothing; proper handling of matches and lighters; and a tour of the pumper.

### **FCVFD Meeting Hall**

Through a lease agreement with the City of Falls Church, the FCVFD manages a meeting facility on the second floor of Fire Station 6. In addition to being a classroom and meeting room for the FCVFD, public safety agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens reserve the room throughout the year.

The most frequent use of the FCVFD Meeting Hall is for children's birthday parties. During 2009, FCVFD members contributed 775 hours hosting 82 birthday parties, which were attended by 1,245 children. Each birthday party included a fire safety presentation and tour of the station. The service has become widely popular and drawn many accolades in the past year. Below are some examples:

*“Our party on Sunday really exceeded all expectations. The kids were still talking about it this morning. And all the parents agreed it was a fantastic added bonus*

*to get the safety demonstration so that the kids won't be scared of fire fighters should they ever need one."*

*"The boys had a ball and have been talking about it all week. I was so impressed with how educational it was as well as FUN! I have a feeling with two little boys in our family, it won't be our last birthday party with you all!"*

*"The party was a lot of fun and it was so easy because of all you did to help me prepare. I really appreciate your getting back to me each time I had a question. I am sure that we'll be doing my son's parties at the FCVFD until he's 20."*

In addition to birthday parties, the facility was utilized by a variety of entities:

Arlington County Fire Department	52 dates
Arlington County Police Department	2 dates
Falls Church CERT	2 dates
Falls Church Police Department	1 date
City of Falls Church Government	1 date
Private Organizations	17 dates

## TRAINING

Falls Church volunteers participated in a wide variety of certification and non-certification courses throughout 2009. The following is a summary of the formal courses completed by members.

### State and Federal Courses

Course	Hours	Location	Number of Personnel
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic <i>Classroom, practical, and clinical rotations covering all areas of human body systems and initial care for a wide range of medical conditions.</i>	121	Training 911 Pimmit Hills Adult Education	2
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic <i>Classroom, practical, and clinical rotations covering all areas of human body systems and initial care for a wide range of medical conditions.</i>	121	Northern Virginia Community College Springfield, VA	1
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic continuing education <i>Required continuing medical education modules to maintain certification</i>	24	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Class 2 <i>Defensive driving for ambulances in both emergency and non-emergency travel</i>	16	Falls Church VFD	3
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Class 3 <i>Defensive driving for pumpers in both emergency and non-emergency travel</i>	16	Falls Church VFD	2
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Train-the-Trainer <i>Course to prepare instructors to deliver the VDFP Emergency Vehicle Operator Course</i>	4	Prince William Fire Training Center Nokesville, VA	1
Driver/Operator – Pumper Train-the-Trainer <i>Course to prepare instructors to conduct the VDFP Driver/Operator-Pumper course</i>	4	Loudoun Fire Training Center Leesburg, VA	2
Driver/Operator – Aerial <i>Four module practical and classroom course with detailed instruction on operations, maintenance, and design of aerial ladder apparatus</i>	32	Albemarle County Regional Fire School Charlottesville, VA	3

Course	Hours	Location	Number of Personnel
Truck Company Operations <i>Practical course designed to provide students with hands-on experience performing a variety of truck company functions</i>	16	Albemarle County Regional Fire School Charlottesville, VA	3
Driver/Operator – Pumper <i>Four module practical and classroom course with detailed instruction on operations, maintenance, and design of pumping apparatus</i>	64	Sterling VFD Sterling, VA	1
NFA Arson Detection for First Responders <i>Course provides firefighters with basic skills in identifying fire origin and determining if the cause was accidental, suspicious, or incendiary</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	6
NFA Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success <i>Course provides company officers with basic leadership skills and tools</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	3
NFA Leadership II: Strategies for Personal Success <i>Course provides company officers with basic leadership skills and tools</i>	16	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Academy Leesburg, VA	1
NFA Leadership III: Strategies for Supervisory Success <i>Course provides company officers with basic leadership skills and tools to manage subordinates</i>	16	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Academy Leesburg, VA	1
LP Gas Emergencies <i>Classroom and practical sessions to review the properties of liquefied petroleum gas, its use and storage</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	3
NFA Intro to Unified Command for Multiagency and Catastrophic Incidents <i>Course designed to familiarize officers with the application of ICS when multiple agencies are involved</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2
FEMA Master Exercise Practitioner <i>Course designed to prepare emergency services personnel to manage incident exercises</i>	120	Emergency Management Institute Emmitsburg, MD	1
Mayday Awareness Train-the-Trainer	.75	VD FP Online Knowledge Center	10
NFPA 1403 Awareness	2.25	VD FP Online Knowledge Center	10
VD FP Adjunct Instructor In-Service	2.5	VD FP Online Knowledge Center	10
Firefighter I/II Train-the-Trainer	3	VD FP Online Knowledge Center	10

Course	Hours	Location	Number of Personnel
<b>Instructor 1</b> <i>Course designed to prepare firefighters to organize and deliver basic training programs</i>	32	Sterling VFD Sterling, VA	2
<b>Firefighter I/II Train-the-Trainer</b>	4	Frederick County Fire & Rescue Winchester, VA	2
<b>ICS-300 Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Events</b> <i>Provides training on and resources for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System.</i>	16	District of Columbia Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency	1
<b>NFA Methods of Enhancing Safety Education</b> <i>Planning and organizational practices for developing community safety education programs</i>	16	National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD	1
<b>IS-700 National Incident Management System, An Introduction</b> <i>This course introduces and overviews the National Incident Management System (NIMS).</i>	3	FEMA Emergency Management Institute Online	12
<b>IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System</b> <i>This course describes the history, features and principles, and organizational structure of the Incident Command System.</i>	3	FEMA Emergency Management Institute Online	13

## **Ladder Company Operations**

On January 10, 13 personnel attended a one-day seminar in Orange, Virginia, presented by retired FDNY Assistant Chief John Norman. The seminar addressed ladder and rescue company operations in a variety of occupancies. The material focused on size-up and survival survey, search and rescue, forcible entry techniques, portable ladder placement and use, ventilation and roof operations, aerial ladder placement and use, and elevating platform placement and use.

## **Beyond Hoses and Helmets**

On November 14 and 15, three members attended a leadership seminar hosted by the Fairfax County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association at the Dunn Loring fire station. This International Association of Fire Chiefs course covered a variety of topics that impact the combination career/volunteer fire and rescue community. The focus was on methods of marketing to obtain maximum results in recruiting and retaining members, recognition and funding in a combination department, and developing present and future leaders. Instruction included problem solving, marketing, recruitment, retention, leadership, team building, training development, conflict resolution, principles of negotiation, and verbal communications techniques.

## **SCBA Maze**

On March 1, nine FCVFD personnel, joined by two Cherrydale VFD personnel, participated in a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) confidence course at the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD. Firefighter/EMT Tony Schloss, who is also the Assistant Chief at the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD, arranged for use of the maze trailer and instructed participants during the event. Personnel were monitored for time and air consumption as a performance measure.

## **Multi-Company Drill**

On March 22, the ACFD A-shift at Fire Station 6 organized a multi-company exercise using a donated ranch-style home at 6630 North 29<sup>th</sup> Street. Included in the event were Engines 106, 102, 108, and 101, Truck 106, and Safety 114. To augment the career-staffed apparatus, the FCVFD was invited to staff an engine company. Volunteer personnel operated both as an independent engine company and within the career crews through a variety of scenarios conducted under simulated smoke conditions.

## **Live Fire Training**

On October 3, eleven FCVFD personnel joined firefighters from Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD and Middleburg VFD at the Loudoun Fire Training Center for a day of scenario-based training. Six Falls Church personnel were divided into two teams for rotation through engine company and special services operations in a single

family dwelling and garden apartment environment. Three FCVFD instructors were assigned with Middleburg personnel to the two interior ignition teams with two serving as the safety officers for their respective teams. Two FCVFD recruits performed a variety of logistical support functions. These functions included replenishing SCBA cylinders and moving fresh fuel materials into the burn building. SCBA replenishment was accomplished utilizing a fixed refill station belonging to the LCFR Academy.

### **Scenario-Based Training**

During 2009, a new initiative was started to organize scenario-based training exercises to aid personnel with developing their skills in a realistic environment. Emphasis was placed upon using full protective equipment and breathing apparatus during all evolutions. The following exercises were conducted:

- April 11 – Eleven recruits practiced ladder selection and placement, hoseline management, PPE donning and doffing, and completed one fire scenario.
- May 30 – Seven members used the ACFD Training Academy to deploy attack hoselines, don and doff PPE and SCBA, establish water supply to a pumper, and raise ground ladders. A new method of a single person ladder raise was also introduced and practiced.
- September 26 – Twelve FCVFD firefighters completed a timed relay that required them to don their PPE, assemble a 2 ½” attack hoseline, deploy and use the 200’ crosslay hoseline to knock down targets, raise and climb a 24’ extension ladder, carry a bundle of hose to the top of the hose tower, and drag a mannequin. Following the relay, members were placed in a limited visibility environment and required to follow a charged hoseline to safety.
- October 19 – Five personnel used a donated house at 5700 North 36<sup>th</sup> Street to practice roof ventilation, self-rescue techniques, forcible entry, and review building construction features.
- October 24 – Six personnel used a donated house at 1403 North Hudson Street to conduct vent-enter-search, ladder placement, window removal, overhaul, and forcible entry practice.

### **EMS Symposium**

Four EMTs attended the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia Emergency Medical Services Symposium in Norfolk, VA. The week-long symposium offered a wide range of training opportunities in both operational and administrative areas. Training included topics such as trauma patient assessment and treatment skills, tactical wound care, infection control, hands-on anatomy, and leadership development.

## **Lancaster Fire Exposition**

In May, eight members attended one of the largest fire department trade shows in the United States in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Members took the opportunity to research the latest technology in tools and fire apparatus, particularly breathing air systems and vehicle generators.

## **Basic Life Support Provider Course**

Ten FCVFD personnel completed the requisite 16-hour course to serve as an Attendant-in-Charge when staffing a basic life support ambulance. This course is managed by the volunteer rescue squad that operates within Arlington County. It is the adopted standard by the FCVFD for its own ambulance operations. The course equips EMTs with procedural and administrative skills beyond the EMT curriculum offered by the local colleges and fire academies. Following the course, candidates participate in a supervised internship program to complete their qualification process. During 2009, two FCVFD members became authorized as vehicle operators for the ambulance and one completed the requirements to achieve Attendant-in-Charge status.

## **Indoctrination and Orientation**

During two four-month sessions, FCVFD instructors conducted indoctrination and orientation training for recruits from Falls Church and the five other volunteer departments within Arlington County. Eleven FCVFD recruits completed their indoctrination in 2009. Most of the training occurred at the meeting facility at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. The orientation program consists of a comprehensive 2-tiered system that trains new volunteers in fire and rescue administration and operations. Topics range from cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cultural diversity, and Fire Department organization to personal protective equipment, managing hoselines, and placing ground ladders. Recruits must pass both written and practical exams before being permitted to participate in emergency operations.

## **County Drills**

In order to ensure proficiency and comply with government requirements for education, countywide training is conducted on a monthly basis. FCVFD instructors organized and supervised many of the drills. The drills in 2009 consisted of:

- January: Rapid Intervention Team Operations  
Firefighters Lowry and Schloss organized a classroom review of the RIT procedures followed by practical scenarios covering drags, carries, and SCBA buddy breathing techniques.

- February: Scott 75 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus  
ACFD Firefighter Gorman familiarized members with the new SCBA going into service on the frontline apparatus. The two nights of training included information about the NFPA standards for SCBA, features of the new SCBA, and troubleshooting.
- March: EMS Skills at Automobile Crashes  
Deputy Chief McCarry, EMT Audet, and Firefighter/EMT Schild supervised scene size-up, Kendrick Extrication Device, and rapid patient removal skills stations using donated vehicles.
- April: Automobile Fires  
Assistant Chief Evinger conducted a classroom review of hazards and tactics during passenger vehicle fires and a practical review of forcible entry techniques for engine compartment fires using a donated vehicle.
- May: Fire Scenarios/HIPPA & Bloodborne Pathogens  
Captain Fortner conducted annual refresher training regarding first responder infection control and the legal requirements for patient confidentiality. For those not requiring the refresher, Lieutenant Blake simultaneously coordinated a series of fire scenarios utilizing the facilities at the ACFD Fire Training Center.
- June: Engine Company Operations  
Lieutenant Blake and Firefighter/EMT Frey rotated personnel through three skills stations to review large diameter hose operations, 150' preconnected hoseline deployment and storage, and setup of a portable monitor.
- July: BLS Protocols Refresher & Albuterol Administration  
ACFD Captain Gowen presented information impacting field practices and protocols for emergency medical technicians.
- August: Football Injuries  
In preparation for high school football season, Firefighter/EMT Schild and Yorktown High School Athletic Trainer Bruce Ferratt reviewed basic life support procedures for traumatic injuries encountered at sporting events. Personnel practiced removal of protective sports equipment to facilitate treatment of an injured player.
- September: H1N1 Virus & Pandemic Flu Planning  
ACFD Paramedic Crooke educated responders concerning the prevention and response procedures during the H1N1 pandemic.
- October: Marine Corps Marathon & Mass Casualty Response  
Firefighter/EMT Lowry and Firefighter/EMT Schild reviewed the operational plan and START Triage system with emphasis placed on operations during the Marine Corps Marathon.

- November: CPR Recertification  
EMT Byron, EMT Fortner, and EMT Audet instructed the annual recertification course for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

## **Company Drills**

The FCVFD conducts training meetings on the fourth Monday of each month to provide continuing education on fire and EMS topics. The drills in 2009 consisted of:

- January: WMATA Operations and SOP  
Deputy Chief McCarry led a discussion of Metro system terminology, operations, fire department tools, and fire department response procedures.
- February: Scott 75 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus  
ACFD Firefighter Gorman familiarized members with the new SCBA going into service on the frontline apparatus. The two nights of training included information about the NFPA standards for SCBA, features of the new SCBA, and troubleshooting.
- March: EMS Scenarios & SCBA Review  
Personnel were split into two groups by their primary operational function within the FCVFD. EMS personnel participated in trauma and medical scenarios led by EMT Byron. Led by Assistant Chief Evinger, fire personnel conducted daily checks, donning and doffing, and emergency procedures with the new SCBA using a donated home.
- April: Memorial Day Event Plan & Heat Emergencies  
Assistant Chief Evinger, Captain Fortner and EMT Neumann reviewed typical medical emergencies encountered during warm weather and the action plan for the Falls Church Memorial Day activities.
- June: Risk Management /CPR Recertification  
In accord with a national initiative, Deputy Chief McCarry presented information on risk management principles and safety for the fire service. For those needing recertification, EMT Byron and EMT Audet simultaneously conducted a CPR course.
- August: Air Bag System & HotStick AC Detector  
Attendees rotated through two topics with ACFD Firefighter Marr reviewing the new air bag system carried on Truck 106 and Assistant Chief Evinger outlining operations and applications of the HotStick AC voltage detector carried on Utility 106.
- September: Delivering Fire Safety Education  
Assistant Chief Evinger and Firefighter/EMT Schild provided topics and facts to personnel in preparation for fire prevention week and open house.

- October: Basic Rules of Engagement for Firefighting  
Assistant Chief Evinger presented some cardinal rules of fire service operations regarding hoselines, ladders, accountability, and ventilation.
- November: Basics of Building Construction  
Assistant Chief Evinger identified common building construction terms and how they relate to firefighting strategy and tactics.
- December: Fire Station & Hose Maintenance  
Assistant Chief Evinger, Captain Sisler, Captain Fortner, and Firefighter LeNard organized personnel to inspect and organize a variety of tools and equipment in the fire station.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Arlington County Volunteer Appreciation Reception**

In April 2009, FCVFD Lieutenant Jason McCandless was selected as one of Arlington County's 2008 Outstanding Volunteers. The ceremony was held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building in Ballston. In addition to Lieutenant McCandless, several volunteers from the Department of Human Services, Police Auxiliary, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Parks and Recreation were recognized. County Board members presented the awards with approximately 200 people on hand. Twenty-seven FCVFD members contributing over 250 hours of volunteer service to Arlington County also received certificates recognizing their participation.

### **FCVFD Annual Banquet and Awards**

The second annual FCVFD banquet was held at the Fort Myer Officers' Club in early March. The event, organized by Lieutenant Blake and Secretary Riley, featured dinner, awards presentations, and a slide show. The slide show, which was assembled by EMT Audet and Lieutenant Blake, displayed the wide variety of events and functions served by FCVFD members during 2008.

The following individuals received recognition for their achievements in 2008:

Firefighter of the Year – Charles Frey

EMT of the Year – Joe Lowry

Administrator of the Year – Joe Lowry

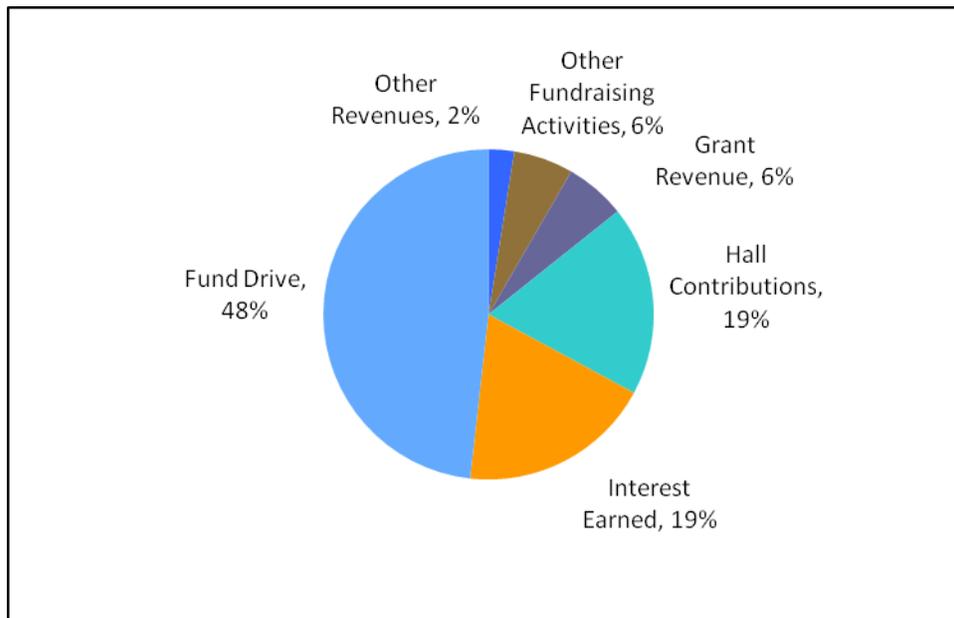
## FINANCES

### **Budget Management**

To ensure proper handling of funds and sound financial practices, the FCVFD Board of Trustees establishes an annual operating budget for the Department. The fiscal year for the FCVFD ends July 31 each year.

### **Operating Revenue**

During fiscal year 2009, revenues were generated from the following sources and activities:



### **Fundraising**

The majority of funds that support FCVFD operations are obtained through donations and fundraising. Fundraising activities include an annual fund drive mailing, fees from meeting hall rental and children's birthday parties, special events at local businesses, grant solicitations, and a silent auction conducted during the open house. During fiscal year 2008, income was derived from the following sources and included the special events noted:

### **Fireman's Fund Insurance Company Grant**

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company established the Heritage Program to assist fire departments nationwide with obtaining equipment to improve service delivery to the community. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products are able to direct these grants to support fire stations in their

communities. Through a series of relationships, the Falls Church VFD was chosen by Early, Cassidy & Schilling to receive an allocation of funds. The grant of \$6,180, received in fiscal year 2009, will be utilized to offset the costs associated with the acquisition of breathing apparatus face pieces and regulators required to maintain compatibility with the ACFD.

### **Clare & Don's Beach Shack Fundraiser**

On June 7, the owners of Clare & Don's Beach Shack at 130 North Washington Street generously opened their restaurant for a unique fundraiser. The FCVFD was invited to provide guest bartenders and servers for the evening with all tips and a portion of the evening's profits being donated to the FCVFD. Twenty personnel were on hand to provide tours of the pumper and antique fire truck, conduct a raffle with items donated by the owners of Clare & Don's, and sell novelty FCVFD t-shirts.

## Operating Expenditures

During fiscal year 2009, expenditures were made in the areas as noted below:

