

Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department



Annual Report – CY 2008

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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 2008, the volunteers participated and contributed in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. This report provides an overview of these incidents and events as well as a summary of training and other activities that FCVFD members have completed in order to continue 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.
- **MAJOR INCIDENTS – 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 personnel provided fire and medical support or participated in the event itself
- **FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**
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**
Honors and awards received from outside agencies and organizations
- **FINANCES AND PROJECTS**
Fiscal allocations and contributions of station equipment, apparatus, and other tangible goods that enhance service delivery to the community

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Hours and Emergency Responses

The number of hours contributed by the FCVFD membership totaled nearly 19,000 during 2008. This represents the first year-to-year decrease in the total number of hours since 2004, however still surpasses any totals prior to 2006. Further evaluation of this decrease can be found near the end of this section.

Membership contributions are categorized into three major categories, Apparatus Staffing and Standby, Training, and Administration.

Apparatus Staffing and Standby

Members of the FCVFD contributed over 6,200 hours staffing volunteer units and supplementing the career staff during 2008. During those hours, personnel participated in 1,352 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	68	843	115
Truck 106	67	751	61
Medic 106	28	291	72

Training

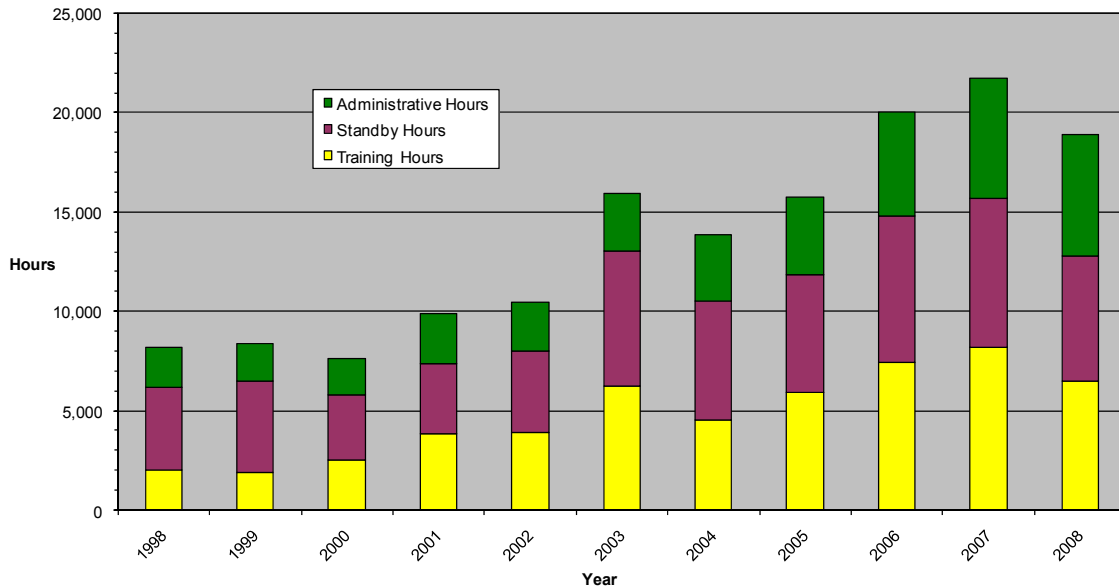
In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in over 6,400 hours of fire and emergency medical services training. This training is both in-station and from outside resources. These accomplishments are outlined in the Training section of this report.

Administration

In addition to the actual emergency operations and service delivery aspects of the Department, members spent over 6,000 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, raise funds, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

Hours Contribution

1998 to 2008

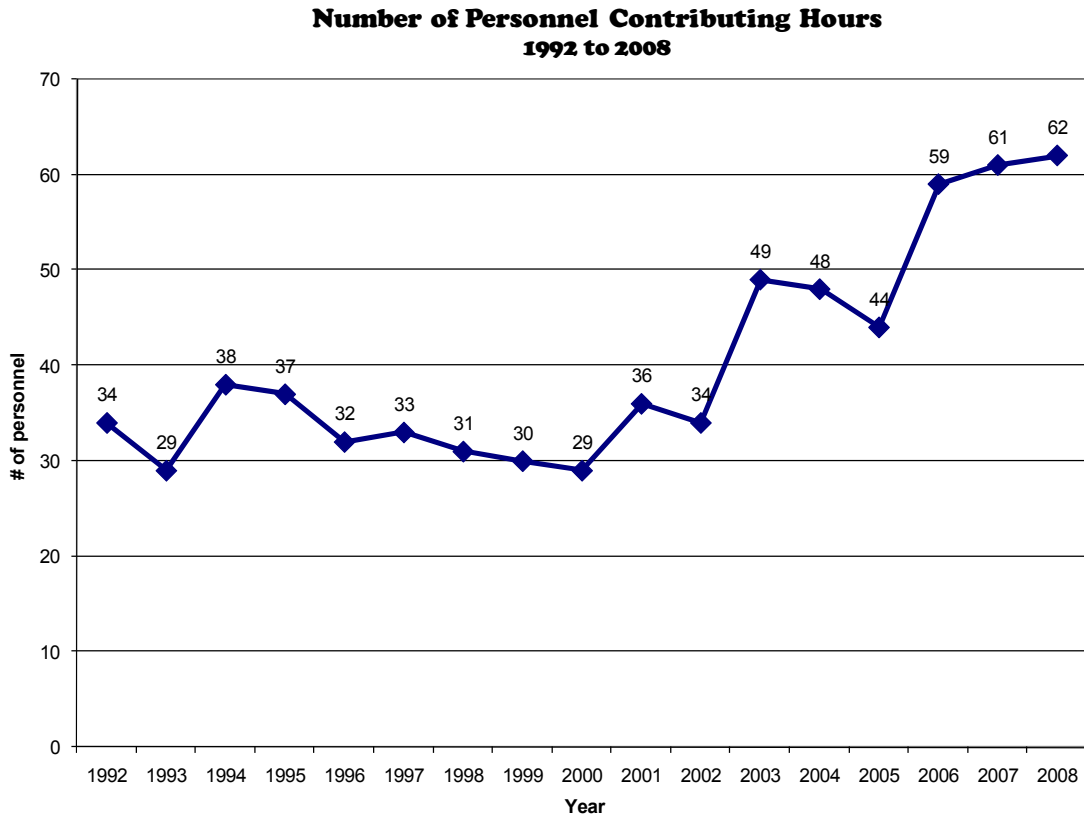


Overall, hours contributed to the community during 2008 decreased by 13% from 2007. This decrease may be attributable to several factors:

- Historically, newer members commit more time during their initial training and more eagerly participate in apparatus staffing than senior personnel. New personnel are stifled by delays in background checks conducted by the ACFD Fire Prevention Division. Background checks are routinely taking 6 months to 1 year to complete with personnel becoming stagnant after completing their initial indoctrination training.
- Once background checks are completed and new personnel are approved for participation, they encounter difficulties obtaining personal protective equipment through the ACFD Logistics Section.
- Apparatus seating at Station 6 is not conducive to additional personnel beyond the minimum levels established for the career staff. In particular, the addition of a fourth career firefighter on Truck 106 has impacted participation by volunteers on that apparatus. Alternatives to staffing this apparatus are limited to the BLS ambulance and other support units during severe weather or special events.
- Several changes in the ACFD station officers presented challenges as volunteer personnel adjusted to different management styles and personalities. The formation and continuity of comfortable working relationships is key to participation in a stressful fire service environment.
- Fewer internally conducted certification courses resulted in fewer training and administrative hours. The Firefighter I/II course accounts for a substantial time commitment from both students and instructors, and there was no such course conducted in 2008. Typically, this course is conducted every two or three years as needed with the next planned for 2009.

Membership

Sixty-two FCVFD and Auxiliary members contributed hours during 2008. Forty-four of these individuals are operational members serving as firefighters and emergency medical technicians.



MAJOR INCIDENTS – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Structure Fires

Throughout 2008, FCVFD firefighters responded with the career staff to numerous working fire incidents. During these incidents, members performed a variety of functions with the career crews, including placing ladders, ventilating structures, overhaul, salvage, hoseline management, breathing air replenishment, investigation support, and overhauling fire areas. Examples of incidents where FCVFD members engaged in operations included:

- 2nd alarm fire – 5515 South 4th Street, Arlington, 3 members
- 2nd alarm fire – 5915 North 15th Street, Arlington, 5 members
- 2nd alarm fire – 124 Rolling Trace, Falls Church, 7 members

Basic Life Support Ambulance

During 2008, Falls Church volunteers performed over 2,400 hours of service on the Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad ambulance. During those hours, the ambulance responded to 324 calls for emergency assistance. 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. In addition to the normal shifts, the ambulance was placed in service on a callback basis during an ice storm in February. The significant benefit to this service is the relieving of advanced life support units 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 2008, FCVFD members responded to thirty incidents with Light and Air 103 spending 185 staff-hours on emergency scenes. FCVFD members also contributed many hours to staff the unit during training exercises and public events. The vehicle is stored at the Falls Church fire station due to space limitations at its previous location in Arlington. Incident responses ranged from greater alarm fires to water leaks to police events.



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. Personnel contributed eighty staff hours supporting a variety of operations. During 2008, the unit provided support to the following events and incidents:



- 2nd alarm fire – 5915 North 15th Street
- 2nd alarm fire – 1130 North Randolph Street
- 2nd alarm fire – 124 Rolling Trace
- Technical Rescue – GW Parkway at Spout Run
- Marine Corps Marathon – Pentagon
- Mass Casualty Exercise – Wakefield High School

Ice Storm – February 12

During an unexpected ice storm, numerous calls for medical emergencies resulting from falls on the ice overwhelmed the normal resources. Within approximately one hour of the onset of the high call volume, two basic life support ambulances were placed in service by five FCVFD personnel who responded to a callback page. The units responded to incidents on a continuous basis for approximately three hours until the situation stabilized. One ambulance remained available for six hours while the second ambulance remained available for fourteen hours until shift change on the following morning.

Missing Person Search – May 26

Following the day-long Memorial Day festivities in the City of Falls Church, six FCVFD personnel responded to the George Washington Parkway near Spout Run to assist the ACFD with a Technical Rescue Operation. A motorcyclist was missing in the woods after losing control and leaving the roadway. Light and Air 103, Canteen 106, and Utility 106 remained on scene providing lighting and logistical support for nearly six hours.

Tropical Storm Hanna – September 4-8

On September 6, 2008, Tropical Storm Hanna impacted the Washington Metropolitan area with up to 8 inches of rain and winds gusting to 40mph. The storm made landfall near Wilmington, NC and moved rapidly north, with the center passing just east of Washington, DC. Units from the FCVFD supplemented the regular contingent of Arlington County Fire Department resources for an operational period lasting approximately ten hours. These units mitigated numerous storm-related incidents while allowing other apparatus to remain available for provision of typical firefighting and emergency medical services. Fourteen FCVFD personnel contributed over 100 hours in activities related to the storm.

Severe Weather

Periodically, severe thunderstorms create an increased call volume for the fire department due to downed trees, power lines, and lightning strikes. In an effort to decrease the impact of these weather events on the availability of emergency resources, the FCVFD augments the standard assortment of units by staffing auxiliary vehicles, such as Light and Air 103 and Utility 106. In 2008, the FCVFD provided callback staffing during the following periods:

May 31: Utility 106 was in service for 3½ hours with three personnel following series of severe thunderstorms and mitigated two incidents.

June 4: Light and Air 103 was in service for 5 hours with two personnel as the area came under a tornado warning. The unit responded to nine incidents that included utility wires down, trees blocking the roadway, and a tree into a house.

June 10: Utility 106 was in service for 3¼ hours with three personnel following a series of thunderstorms and mitigated one incident.

June 16: Light and Air 103 was in service for 4 hours with two personnel following a series of thunderstorms. The unit handled three incidents for downed utility wires and allowed Engine 106 to remain available for a response to a structure fire.

Station Fill – Leesburg VFC

On January 5, four FCVFD personnel were among a group of firefighters who staffed Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company in Loudoun County from 6pm to 6am. Their presence allowed the duty crew to attend the annual banquet without compromising emergency services to the community. Members helped staff Tanker 1, Engine 1, and Truck 1. The evening was quiet with Tanker 1 responding to two incidents.

Station Fill – Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD

On January 26, nine FCVFD members relieved the usual duty crew and staffed a rescue engine and engine during the annual banquet and installation of officers. The fill lasted from 6pm to 6am and there were no emergency responses required in that time period.

PUBLIC EVENTS

New Year's Eve

Six volunteers staffed an ambulance and a pumper in support of the New Year's Eve festivities in downtown Falls Church. 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 the Department.

Memorial Day 3k Fun Run and Parade

Twenty-nine volunteers provided emergency medical services during the annual Falls Church Memorial Day festivities. Members staffed both fixed and mobile assets that included two ambulances, a pumper, two EMS Bike Teams, two first aid stations, and the command post. Despite much improved coordination with the Recreation and Parks Department to implement hydration stations and educate parade participants about heat illness prevention, the high heat and humidity caused numerous emergencies during the festival and parade. In addition to the heat related illnesses, FCVFD crews treated an allergic reaction, injury from a fall, chest pains, and an asthma attack. Despite the large number of emergencies within the event area, only two people required transport to the hospital for further treatment.



Independence Day – Falls Church

Nine volunteer personnel staffed Engine 116, Utility 106, and Ambulance 106 for the annual City of Falls Church Independence Day celebration at George Mason High School. Due to rainy conditions and a tardy contractor, the display started at 10pm and was abbreviated. During setup, personnel from Engine 116 coordinated 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 ordinance had been secured by the fireworks contractor.

Independence Day – George Washington Parkway

In addition to the City of Falls Church activities, eight FCVFD emergency medical technicians, along with one member from the Ballston VFD, assisted the ACFD with emergency medical services along the George Washington Parkway. These personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance and two bicycle EMS teams from 9am until 11pm. Units assisted one patient requiring care beyond first aid during the event.

Marine Corps Marathon and Kids Race – October 25-26

On October 25, two FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run from 9am to 1pm. The crew assisted one person during the event.

The following day, seven FCVFD members, assisted by one Cherrydale VFD member, staffed two basic life support ambulances and one EMS bicycle team for approximately twelve hours in support of the Marine Corps Marathon. Ambulance 106 treated two patients and transported one to Virginia Hospital Center. The bicycle team assisted approximately five patients in and around the 14th Street Bridge. The Falls Church Canteen unit, staffed by two administrative members, was requested by the ACFD to serve refreshments to first responders as they arrived in the pre-dawn hours. Additionally, Light and Air 103, staffed by the members of the bicycle team, provided area lighting for the early morning briefing.

Arlington Police/Fire 9-11 Memorial 5k Race – September 6

Two FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual remembrance event in Pentagon City. In addition to staffing an ambulance, three FCVFD personnel were among the over 2,000 runners who participated in the race. Several more FCVFD runners were registered for the race, however concurrent staffing commitments for Tropical Storm Hanna required them to withdraw.

United States Army Ten-Miler – October 5

Three FCVFD members and one Ballston VFD member staffed a basic life support ambulance and bicycle EMS team in support of the Army Ten-Miler, an annual race sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. Over 25,000 runners participated in the event and making it the largest 10-mile race event in the United States. During the event, volunteer emergency medical technicians treated several patients with minor injuries, however none required transport for further care.

Chinese New Year Celebration – February 9

At the request of Falls Church Police, ten FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance and a reserve engine for the Tet celebration at the Eden Center. This event typically draws a large crowd that results in medical emergencies and accidental fire alarms, however there were no requests for assistance this day.

American Red Cross Basketball Tournament – March 8

Two FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance for approximately 9 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.

ACPD DUI Checkpoint – March 15

Six FCVFD personnel staffed the Cherrydale VFD Light and Air Unit 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. The units were committed to the event from 9pm to 2am.

Mount Daniel PTA Family Party – March 29

Three FCVFD emergency medical technicians staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the Mount Daniel PTA event at the Falls Church Community Center. There were approximately 900 attendees at the party that lasted from 5pm to 9pm.

Iraq War Veteran Transport – April 19 and 22

Former Chief Jim Clarke responded to a request from the ACFD seeking assistance. He transported an Army soldier whose legs were amputated following an IED attack in Iraq from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to Dulles Airport. The soldier was traveling to Boston to participate in the Boston Marathon in the wheelchair division. He also threw out the first pitch during a Red Sox game before returning to Dulles and being transported back to Walter Reed.

Air Force Crystal City Classic – May 4

Three 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, pro women's 50K and pro men's 80K races, which took place over a 2 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.

Rolling Thunder – May 25

Seven FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance and two bicycle EMS teams in conjunction with the ACFD to support this annual motorcycle event. Units provided treatment for several minor injuries, however no patients required transport to the hospital.

Clarendon CSC Invitational Bike Race – June 1

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to provide EMS support of this annual 1 kilometer bike race in North Arlington. The crew assisted several cyclists during the event suffering from minor abrasions following falls on the pavement.

Cub Scout Soapbox Derby – June 1

Two FCVFD volunteers staffed Ambulance 106 to provided emergency medical services during the annual festivities on South Oak Street in Falls Church. There were no requests for assistance during 4-hour event.

Crystal City Rocks – June 8

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to provide EMS support for a concert in Crystal City. The concert was a block party style event with several hundred people in attendance. Due to the high heat and humidity, the primary mission was to establish a cooling tent as a preventive measure. The crew assisted with treatment of one patient overcome by heat exhaustion. The patient refused transport to the hospital.

City of Fairfax Independence Day Parade – July 4

Four personnel represented the FCVFD during the annual Independence Day parade in old town Fairfax. The Department displayed its 1918 Model T Ford, Old Tom, as well as its newest vehicle, a 2008 Chevy utility truck. Sparky the Fire Dog participated as a passenger on Old Tom.



Kickball Tournament – August 2

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance from 10am until 3pm for a charity kickball tournament at Arlington's Barcroft Park. Treatment was provided for several injuries although no one required transport to the hospital.

Planet Arlington – August 8

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD for ten hours during a music festival on the grounds of Iwo Jima and the Netherlands Carillion. The event was attended by several thousand people. One event participant required treatment and transport to the hospital following an injury.

9/11 Memorial Dedication – September 11

Two FCVFD members and one Ballston VFD member staffed a basic life support ambulance in conjunction with the ACFD to provide EMS support for the dedication of the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon. There were no requests for assistance during the event.

Taste of Falls Church and Fall Festival – September 13

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance during the annual Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church event in Cherry Hill Park. There were no requests for assistance during the event.

City of Falls Church Schools 5k Run – September 28

Two FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of this annual event sponsored by the Falls Church Education Foundation. The run had nearly 200 participants and wound around the streets of Falls Church ending at Cherry Hill Park. There were no requests for assistance during the event.

Vienna Halloween Parade – October 24

Five members represented the FCVFD with Engine 116 and Utility 106 in the annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade. Old Tom and Sparky the Fire Dog did not participate due to mechanical difficulties with the antique car.

High School Varsity Football Games

The FCVFD was requested to provide emergency medical services by Bishop O'Connell and Yorktown High School during their home football games on Saturday afternoons and Friday evenings respectively. During the course of eleven games in 2008 there were two players transported by the ambulance suffering from a fractured wrist and a fractured lower leg respectively.

Old Tom Activities

Throughout 2008, 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:

- Sully Antique Car Show
Chantilly, Virginia
- Falls Church Memorial Day Parade
Falls Church, Virginia
- Fairfax Independence Day Parade
2nd place Antique Vehicle/Fire Apparatus
Fairfax, Virginia
- Falls Church VFD Open House
Falls Church, Virginia



FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

Fire Prevention Week and Open House

During the week designated by the National Fire Protection Association as Fire Prevention Week, Falls Church volunteer firefighters visited Saint James, Mount Daniel, and Thomas Jefferson Schools to teach approximately 600 children in grades K through 3 about fire safety.

On October 11, the FCVFD and ACFD career staff hosted the annual open house to top off fire prevention week activities. Thirty-two FCVFD members spent 340 hours planning and executing this event. Citizens were invited to visit the fire station and obtain fire safety tips, learn about the equipment, and watch demonstrations of fire and rescue techniques. Volunteer and ACFD career personnel conducted demonstrations that included fire extinguisher use, 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 Auxiliary provided refreshments to visitors throughout the day that included the consumption of 475 hotdogs.



A silent auction fundraiser netted approximately \$2,100 for goods and services donated by local businesses and organizations. Donors included Sonic Car Wash, Papa John's Pizza, Pie Tanza, Clay Café Studios, La Cote D'Or, Browns Hardware, Sisler Stone, Anthony's Restaurant, Pilin Thai, Doodlehopper, Giant, Subway/Baskin Robbins, Georgetown University basketball team, and Cosi.

Also participating in the Open House were deputies from the Falls Church Sheriff's Office assisting parents with child fingerprinting. ACFD Station Commander Snider arranged the participation of a number of agencies that included Washington Gas, Falls Church & Arlington Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), RACES, and the Arlington Animal Welfare League. Each set up their own exhibits displaying the services they provide.

For 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.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

During 2008, FCVFD personnel assisted the City of Falls Church Police conducting two CERT courses graduating 25 participants. In addition to providing a meeting facility for the training, personnel aided with teaching various topics to citizens, including fire suppression, emergency medicine, and search and rescue, for a total of 181 staff hours. 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 leading up to Christmas, the reserve engine was decorated and a chair prepared for Santa Claus to travel atop the hosebed. Santa's travels encompassed the entire City of Falls Church and other neighborhoods on the fringes of the City as time permitted. During the trips, FCVFD members handed out nearly 6,500 candy canes and a case of fire safety literature to citizens. Approximately 200 dog biscuits were provided for our four-legged friends who frequently come out to visit with Santa too. In 2008, Anthony's Restaurant graciously supported this activity by purchasing the candy canes. Twenty-seven FCVFD members donated 275 hours of service during the operation.



EMS Week – May 18-24

In conjunction with National Emergency Medical Services Week in May, thirteen members contributed nearly sixty hours staffing a booth for seven days providing free blood pressure screenings to over 400 patrons of the Ballston Common Mall in Arlington.

Fire Station Visits

Throughout 2008, FCVFD personnel interacted with groups from a variety of local schools and churches. Several events were conducted at the fire station that included tours of the facility, fire prevention talks, reviews of equipment, and protective equipment demonstrations. In summary, seventeen FCVFD members educated approximately 135 children and their chaperones during these events.

Tuckahoe Elementary School “Wet Down” – June 19

The PTA at Tuckahoe Elementary School requested assistance with an end of the school year event. Two FCVFD personnel used the reserve engine to create a water curtain for approximately 150 school children to play and escape the summer heat.

Mount Daniel Elementary School – August 15

Two FCVFD firefighters visited approximately fifty children in the summer program at Mount Daniel Elementary School in the City of Falls Church. They provided a fire safety presentation and protective equipment demonstration followed by a spray from the pumper to allow the children to play in the water.

FCVFD Meeting Hall

Through a lease agreement with the City of Falls Church, the FCVFD manages a meeting facility on the second floor of the fire station. 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. During 2008, FCVFD members contributed 719 hours hosting 84 birthday parties attended by 1,312 children. The children’s events included fire safety presentations and tours of the station facility. In addition to the birthday parties, the facility was utilized by a variety of entities:

Arlington County Fire Department	53 dates
Arlington County Police Department	2 dates
Falls Church CERT	16 dates
Falls Church Police Department	5 dates
City of Falls Church Government	8 dates
Private Organizations	11 dates

TRAINING

Falls Church volunteers participated in a wide variety of certification and non-certification courses throughout 2008. The following is a summary of the formal courses completed by our members.

State and Federal Courses

Course	Hours	Location	# of personnel completing
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 Annandale, VA	6
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	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	3
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic recertification <i>Required continuing medical education modules to maintain certification</i>	36	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	4
Emergency Medical Technician – Basic recertification <i>Required continuing medical education modules to maintain certification</i>	36	Online VOEMS	2
Emergency Vehicle Operator – Class 2 <i>Defensive driving for ambulances in both emergency and non-emergency travel</i>	16	Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	3
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	3
HTR Vehicle Rescue <i>Classroom and practical evolutions to develop techniques and tool proficiency for removal of trapped persons from vehicle crashes</i>	16	Top of Virginia Regional Fire School Winchester, VA	4
Hazardous Materials Awareness <i>Familiarizes personnel with defensive tactics to identify the presence and types of hazardous chemicals during emergencies</i>	8	Falls Church VFD	10
Fire Officer III <i>Advanced fire service management course</i>	40	Prince William County, VA	1
Adjunct Instructor <i>Prepares a senior instructor to function as a part-time employee of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs</i>	4	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Academy	1

Course	Hours	Location	# of personnel completing
Officer I – Train-the-Trainer <i>Course to prepare an instructor to teach the Officer 1 curriculum</i>	4	Stafford, VA	1
Basic Pump Operations <i>Classroom and practical skills evolutions with emphasis placed on calculating proper pump pressures, monitoring multiple hoselines, and water supply techniques when operating fire department pumps</i>	16	Falls Church VFD Fairfax Fire & Rescue Academy	5
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
NFA: Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Officer <i>Classroom based course designed to develop management skills for company officers to accomplish assigned tasks at structure fires</i>	14	Albemarle County Regional Fire School Charlottesville, VA	2
Rural Water Supply <i>Practical course to develop a pump operator's ability to conduct water supply operations from static water sources, such as ponds</i>	16	Albemarle County Regional Fire School Charlottesville, VA	1
Farm Machinery Safety and Extrication <i>Classroom and practical course to provide advanced machinery rescue skills</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2
Mayday! Firefighter Down! <i>A physically and mentally intense course to prepare firefighters to self-rescue and rescue distressed firefighters</i>	16	Caroline County Regional Fire School Milford, VA	2
NFA Training Operations for Small Departments <i>Course to identify the basic tools and skills required to coordinate training in small fire/EMS departments</i>	16	National Fire Academy Emmitsburg, MD	1
Strategy & Tactics – FST 235 <i>Principles of fire control through utilization of personnel, equipment, and extinguishing agents on the fire ground</i>	36	Northern Virginia Community College	1

Basic Vehicle Rescue

On March 8, a joint training session was conducted with the Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department at their fire station in eastern Loudoun County. Eleven FCVFD personnel participated in a classroom review of preparation, response, scene size-up, safety, and basic rescue techniques. Following the classroom information, practical exercises were conducted to provide hands-on experience with cribbing of a vehicle, immobilization of a patient, and removal of a patient from a vehicle using a Kendrick Extrication Device. Adding to the challenge of patient removal was the use of a small 2-door sedan that provided limited access.



Live Fire Exercise

On April 19, thirteen FCVFD personnel joined firefighters from the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD and Ashburn VFD to train in an acquired structure at 26690 Gum Spring Road in eastern Loudoun County. Teams conducted thirteen live fire evolutions using the 1-story ranch style house. FCVFD crews performed interior fire attack, rapid intervention team, truck company, and backup team duties. Falls Church instructors participated in supervisory roles as members of the ignition teams as well as the incident commander. After much damage to the interior throughout the day, the final evolution resulted in the complete engulfment of the structure and forced the incident commander, FCVFD Chief Schomburg, to order an evacuation of personnel as conditions deteriorated rapidly. Despite the unexpected fire development, good communications and scene management prevented any injuries.



Live Fire Exercise

On May 18, twelve FCVFD personnel joined firefighters from the Arcola-Pleasant Valley VFD to train using two acquired structures in eastern Loudoun County. The morning exercise was conducted on the site of an abandoned pig farm in Brambleton. A large pig shed was burned while a silo adjacent to it was protected. The afternoon exercise was conducted in a vacant double-wide mobile home in Arcola. Before the home was burned, personnel practiced ventilating windows and overhauling walls and ceilings.

These two exercises, while conducted without the benefit of any interior fire attack, provided several valuable opportunities for learning. Personnel reviewed rural water supply operations, hoseline placement and management, building construction, overhaul, ventilation,



and exposure protection practices. One of the most important aspects of the training was the observation of fire behavior in two very different structures. The effects of compartmentalization, varying structural components, ventilation, and interior finishes all showed their effects on the two fires.

Vehicle Extrication and Firefighting Skills

On May 3, the FCVFD conducted a day-long joint training session with personnel from the Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department in eastern Loudoun County. During the morning, firefighters practiced vehicle rescue techniques that included stabilization of a vehicle on its side, roof removal, door removal, 3rd door creation, and dashboard lifts using a variety of tools and methods.



In the afternoon, the firefighters joined a group of FCVFD recruits at an acquired structure in the Arcola area to conduct practical exercises under simulated smoke conditions. Teams used the large 2-story house to advance hoselines, search and remove non-ambulatory victims, and practice Mayday procedures.

Fireground Tactics Course

Two FCVFD personnel attended a one-day seminar in Charlottesville, Virginia hosted by the Charlottesville FD Local 2363. Retired FDNY Assistant Deputy Chief John Norman presented strategy and tactics information regarding fires in private dwellings and commercial structures.

Vehicle Rescue Seminar – September 18

Two FCVFD personnel attended an evening seminar sponsored by the Washington Metropolitan Auto Body Association in Alexandria, Virginia. The seminar reviewed the impact of technological advances in automobiles on the first responder. The hazards associated with hybrid vehicles, air bags, vehicle body construction, vehicle safety features, and methods for avoiding the hazards were covered.

Professional Development Seminar – October 2-3

One FCVFD member attended the 6th annual Fairfax County Professional Fire & Rescue Officers Association Professional Development Seminar in Tysons Corner. The seminar focused on initial incident operations, risk assessment, major incident case reviews, and leadership. There were numerous presenters from across the United States including the Assistant Administrator from FEMA.

Lancaster Fire Exposition

In May, twelve 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.

BLS Provider

Three personnel completed the 16-hour course required to qualify as an Attendant-in-Charge when staffing a basic life support ambulance. This course is a requirement associated with the volunteer-staffed ambulance that operates within Arlington County and is the adopted standard of the FCVFD for its own ambulance operations. It is in addition to the emergency medical technician curriculum offered by the local colleges and fire academies. Participants are also required to complete a supervised internship program to complete the process. During 2008, two FCVFD members became authorized as vehicle operators and two completed the requirements to receive Attendant-in-Charge status.

Light and Air Orientation

Personnel staffing the Cherrydale VFD Light and Air Unit must complete a 12-hour course to ensure proficiency. This training includes a review of response procedures, typical response scenarios, and features of the unit. Students are required to pass a written and practical evaluation at the completion of the course. In May, eight FCVFD personnel became qualified to staff the Light and Air Unit through a series of practical exercises completed at an acquired structure in Loudoun County.

Indoctrination and Orientation

During two 4-month sessions, FCVFD instructors conducted indoctrination and orientation training for recruits from Falls Church and the six other volunteer departments within Arlington County. Eleven FCVFD recruits completed their indoctrination in 2008. 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 2008 consisted of:

- January: Apparatus Snow Chains
Captain Fortner, Lieutenant Vilpors, ACFD Firefighter Marr, and ACFD Firefighter Goddard provided instruction on the proper installation, maintenance, and use of ice breaker and cable snow “chains”.
- February: CERT Train-the-Trainer
Chief Schomburg and Captain Fortner provided training to prepare personnel to teach the Community Emergency Response Team program to citizens.
- March: Ladder and Small Tool Maintenance
Captain Fortner and ACFD Firefighter Marr provided instruction on the proper care and maintenance of small tools and ground ladders.
- April: Fireground Simulation
Firefighter/EMT Schloss organized a series of evolutions at the Arlington Fire Training Academy to simulate responses to typical fire incidents.
- May: EMS Scenarios
Firefighter/EMT Lowry with the assistance of Firefighter/EMT Schloss and Firefighter/EMT Lyons-Quirk organized skills stations to practice patient removal using the Kendrick Extrication Device and evaluating medical emergencies.
- June: Arlington Emergency Communications Center
Firefighter/EMT Lowry arranged for two evening tours of the newly opened Emergency Communications Center where 911 calls are received and dispatched.
- August: Fireground Simulation
Deputy Chief McCarry organized a simulation exercise using the Arlington County Fire Training Academy to reinforce basic firefighting skills such as SCBA use, hoseline selection and management, search, and ladders selection and placement.
- September: Bloodborne Pathogens/HIPAA
Captain Fortner conducted annual refresher training regarding first responder infection control and the legal requirements for patient confidentiality.



- October: Firefighter Rescue
Firefighter/EMT Schloss supervised practical exercises to remove a downed firefighter from a confined area.
- November: Bloodborne Pathogens/HIPAA or Hose Loads
To ensure all personnel completed annual refresher training, Captain Fortner again taught a Bloodborne Pathogens/HIPAA class while Firefighter/EMT Lowry reviewed various attack hoses for those had already completed their Bloodborne Pathogens/HIPAA training.

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 2008 consisted of:

- January: Truck Company Tools
Assistant Chief Evinger, Captain Fortner, Captain Sisler, and Lieutenant McCarry led personnel through a classroom and practical review of hand and power tools carried on Truck 106.
- February: EMS Skills Stations
EMT Byron organized skills stations for backboarding, splinting and bleeding control, START Triage, patient assessment, and traction splint application.
- March: Fire Extinguishers
Lieutenant McCarry reviewed the selection and application of the various portable fire extinguishers carried on the apparatus.
- April: Warm Weather Medical Emergencies/Memorial Day Plan
Captain Fortner and Lieutenant Vilpors reviewed typical medical emergencies encountered during warm weather and the action plan for the Falls Church Memorial Day activities.
- June: Safety Week
In accord with a national initiative, Assistant Chief Evinger presented information on risk management principles, lessons learned from live fire training, defensive driving, and severe weather response hazards.
- August: Sports Injuries
In preparation for high school football season, Firefighter/EMT Schild, Yorktown High School Athletic Trainer Bruce Ferratt, and O'Connell High School Athletic Trainer Don Tillson 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: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
Assistant Chief Evinger reviewed the conditions requiring breathing apparatus, methods for donning and doffing, and pre-use inspection.
- October: Canteen Operations
Deputy Chief McCarry and Life Member Bob Evinger reviewed the response procedures, features, and capabilities of Canteen 106.
- November: Utility Operations
Assistant Chief Evinger presented classroom and practical exercises to familiarize personnel with the new utility vehicle.

Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad Drills

The AFCVRS conducts training meetings to keep members updated on developments in delivery of emergency medical services in Arlington County. The drills in 2008 consisted of:

- June: Equipment & Patient Care Reports
Deputy Chief Lowry and Captain Lyons-Quirk provided feedback to ensure quality in patient care reporting and organized practical reviews of the operation of the Ferno cot and Stryker stair chair.

PRESENTATIONS

Arlington County Volunteer Appreciation Reception

FCVFD Chief Paul Schomburg was selected as one of Arlington County's Outstanding Volunteers for 2007. The ceremony was held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building in Ballston. In addition to Chief Schomburg, 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

For the first time in many years, the FCVFD held an annual banquet to recognize its members for their participation and contributions. The event was held on March 1 in the banquet room at PJ Skidoos in Fairfax. The following awards were presented:

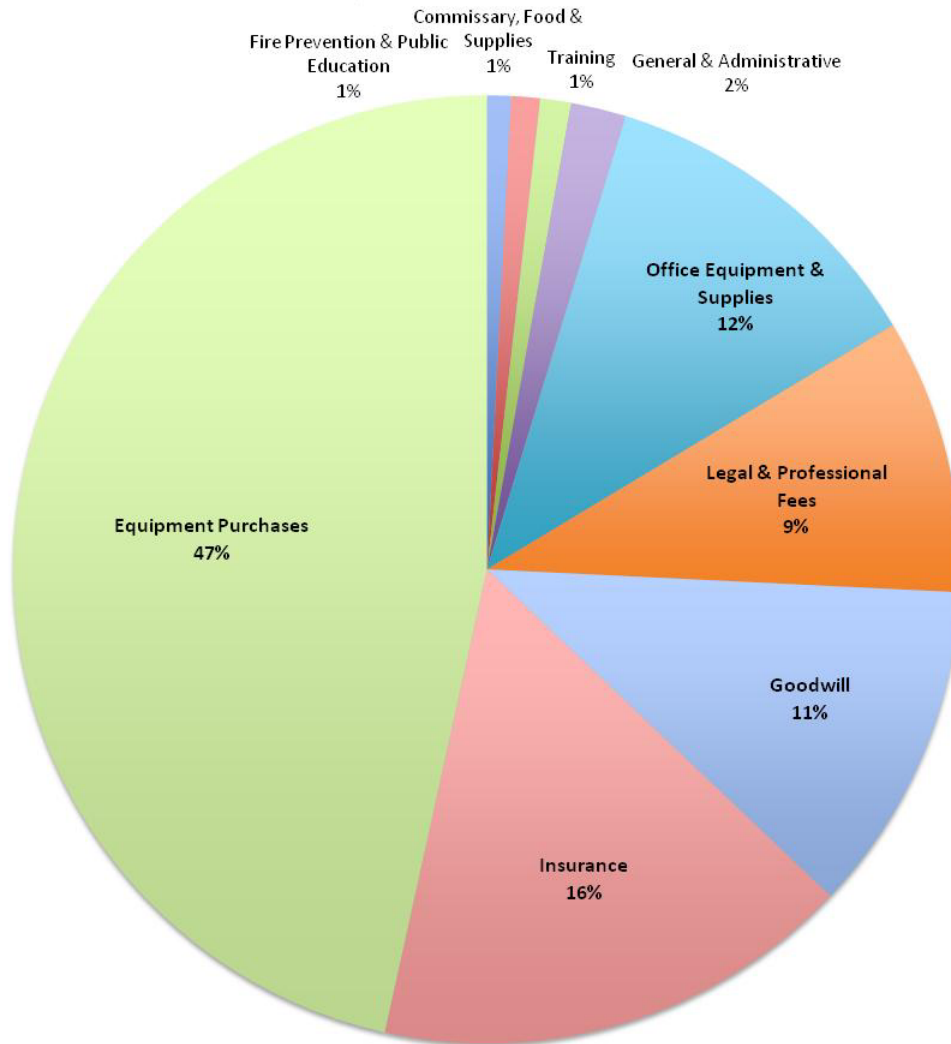
Firefighter of the Year: Jim Clarke
EMT of the Year: Susan Audet
Officer of the Year: Steve Sisler
Administrator of the Year: Tanya Riley
Most Standby Hours in 2007: Tony Schloss
Most Training Hours in 2007: Jason McCandless
Most Administrative Hours in 2007: Tony Schloss
Most Fire Calls in 2007: Tony Schloss
Most EMS Calls in 2007: Anna Ailstock

FINANCES AND PROJECTS

Budget and Expenditures

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. During fiscal year 2008, expenditures were made in the areas as noted below:

Expenditures - FY2008



Advanced Life Support Unit

In the summer of 2008, a new advanced life support ambulance was delivered to the Falls Church VFD. This unit replaced a 1997 ambulance that was serving as a reserve. The vehicle was purchased from Singer Associates of Gainesville, Virginia using an existing Arlington County specification as a basis. During the acquisition, two FCVFD officers traveled to the manufacturing plant in Goshen, Indiana to complete the final inspection of the vehicle. After some final adjustments, the new ambulance was placed in service by the ACFD career staff as Medic 106 in July 2008. During fiscal year 2008, the FCVFD paid approximately \$50,000 against the final cost of \$203,000 with the remaining balance financed over 5 years in a low-interest loan.



Utility Vehicle

In the early fall of 2008, the project to replace the 17-year old utility vehicle was completed. The unit serves a wide variety of emergency and non-emergency roles, including response to weather emergencies, supporting training exercises, transporting equipment and personnel, and towing the Department's vehicle trailer. The base vehicle, a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado with a Reading body, was purchased through Koons Chevrolet in Vienna, Virginia. FastLane Emergency Vehicles completed the installation of the warning lights and auxiliary equipment for the vehicle. Preston Signs, a Falls Church business, applied the lettering and striping. The \$105,000 cost of the vehicle was funded entirely by the FCVFD. A significant portion of the cost of the vehicle was defrayed by a grant received from Firemen's Fund Insurance Company in 2007.

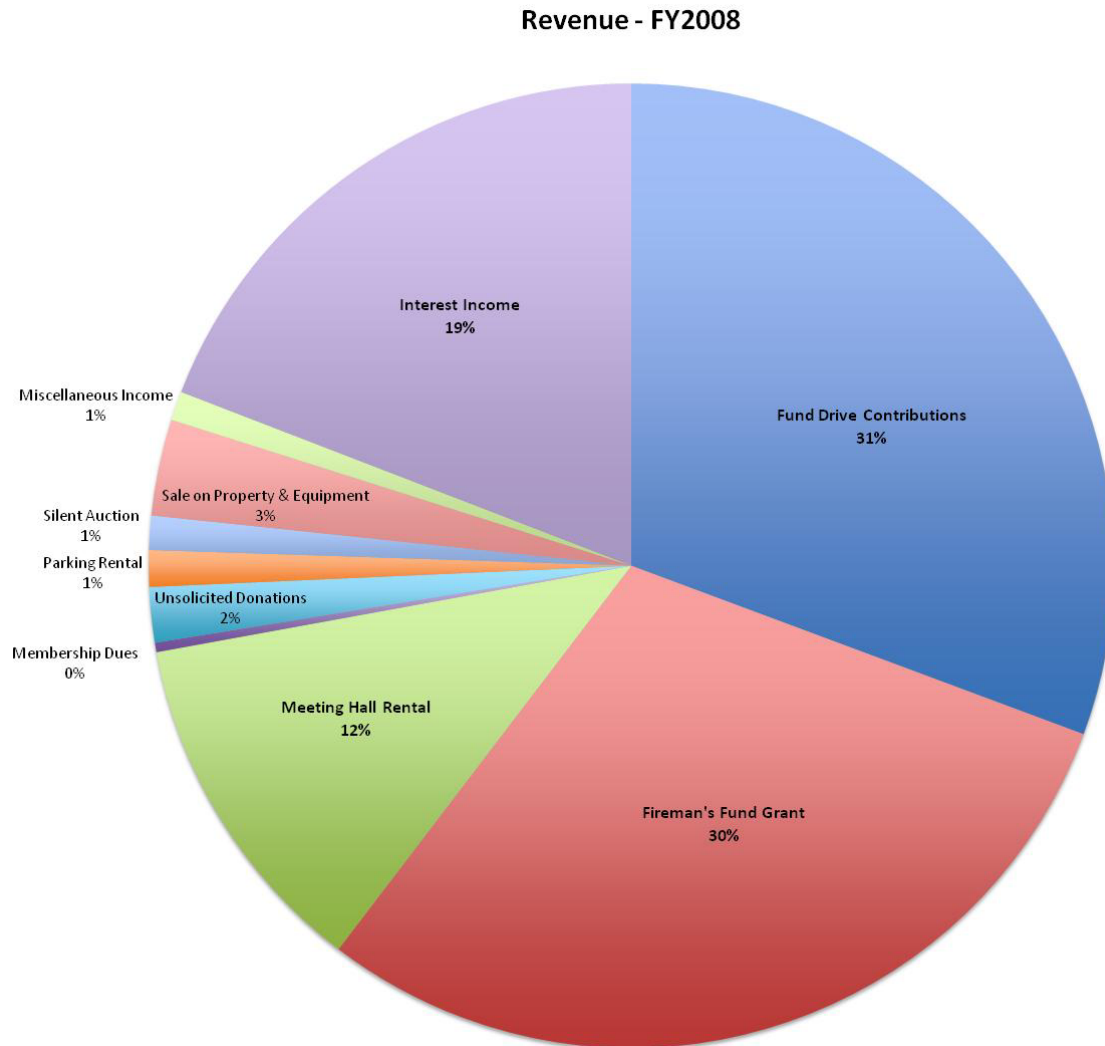


Fitness Equipment

In early 2008, the FCVFD purchased several pieces of fitness equipment for the fire station gym. This included weight racks, new flooring, exercise mats, and body bars. The total expenditure was approximately \$1,200.00.

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, 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:



Firemen'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 \$6,180.00, received in fiscal year 2009, will be utilized to offset the costs associated with the acquisition of breathing apparatus facepieces and regulators required to maintain compatibility with the ACFD.

Clare & Don's Beach Shack Fundraiser

On June 3 and July 31, 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.