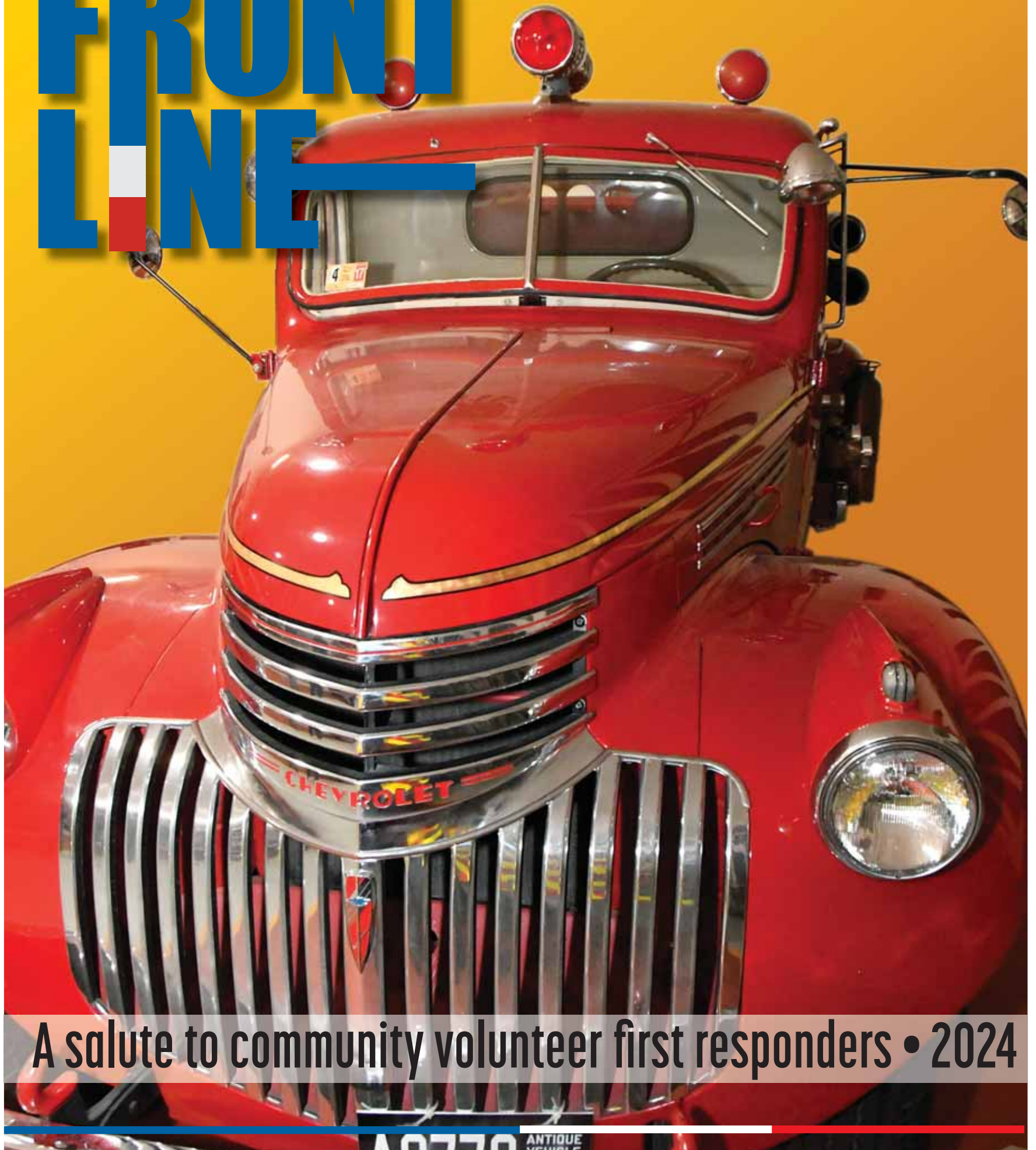


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A salute to community volunteer first responders • 2024

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# FRONT LINE

A salute to community  
volunteer first responders

## Features

### FRONT LINE

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#### On the cover:

Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire  
Department's first firetruck, a  
1946 Chevrolet.

Photo by Tom Chillemi



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# Welcome to **FRONT LINE**

**W**e're privileged, once again, to be able to share stories about the volunteer first responders in Lancaster, Northumberland and Middlesex counties. In this, our second edition of Front Line, we are honoring our neighbors and friends for their unselfish acts, for giving of their time—both day and night—without pay, to keep us safe and run to our aid.

Inside these pages, our reporters have chronicled a brief history of Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department and the first firetrucks in Urbanna and Deltaville. We also talk to some of our youngest first responders, delving into why teenagers choose to volunteer, how to become a junior firefighter and how rewarding it is.

Volunteer firefighting is often in a person's blood, or at least his or her bloodline. The family legacy is strong in all three counties. We introduce you to several generations of volunteers in Northumberland and Middlesex.

We also highlight the community stewardship performed by all the volunteer rescue squads. Beyond answering that emergency call, these volunteers respond to many needs in our communities from offering free medical training to serving in stand-by roles at large functions.

Since we, in this area of the state, are surrounded by water, we can't forget one of our most crucial volunteer organizations—Smith Point Sea Rescue. Celebrating a half-century of service, the organization is based in Northumberland County and responds to distress and emergency calls on our waterways.

We hope that you enjoy reading these stories as much as we enjoy telling them. And although we are ever grateful for our paid responders—police, doctors, nurses, professional EMTs and utility crews—this supplement specifically honors those who give freely of their time without monetary reward. Continue to pray for their safety and thank them for their service.

**Lisa & Susan**

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Harris Clarke of the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department fulfilled training duties at a controlled burn on Ocran Road in White Stone. Photo by Melinda George

# Junior volunteers prove to themselves and others they've got what it takes

by AnnGardner Eubank

High schoolers have a lot on their plates these days. Between maintaining impressive grade point averages, the college application process, competing in athletics, participating in clubs and often holding part-time jobs, down-time for many young adults can range from slim to none.

Where many students are focused on securing a date to prom or figuring out which homecoming party to attend, there's a group of young adults throughout the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula who have even more weight on their shoulders—learning to and helping save lives.

Across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, dozens of young adults, ages 15-20, serve in volunteer fire departments. Attending meetings, responding to fire calls and assisting in fundraisers are just some of the responsibilities they hold as they work towards full member status by age 21.

For some it's a family tradition and for all it's an opportunity to serve the place they call home. Whatever may have been the reasoning for them to consider joining their local department, they all maintain similar core values and determination to positively impact the community.

While several requirements to join the volunteer fire departments throughout the region vary, most localities adhere to fairly similar standards for the application process.

Being in good health and living within a town's postal code are the primary preliminary requirements junior prospects must adhere to when beginning their application.

According to White Stone Volunteer Fire Department (WSVFD) junior volunteer Karson Roop, departments typically have a cap on how many junior members can be involved due to insurance purposes.

As membership interest ebbs and flows, so do the junior member ranks.

Some years there have been waitlists to join and other years they have fewer than the 10-member maximum. For the past several years in White Stone, the junior department has reigned strong. They currently have a seven person junior roster, said Roop.

Junior members are held to high expectations, said Kaela Lee. Each year they're expected to attend at least half of the monthly meetings, participate in six drills and help at every fundraiser. They are encouraged to respond to fire calls as they are able.

"There are so many people in the department that you're able to come as you can. It's no sweat off anyone's back if you're unable to make a call," Roop said.

Once they are at the calls, they can do just about everything the senior members do with the exception of driving the trucks and entering the enflamed structures.

Hunter Sebra, a junior member with the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD), described their duties on the scene as "the clean up crew."

According to Sebra, junior members assist with hoses and helping other volunteers and anyone else on scene with whatever is asked of them.

WSVFD junior members echoed similar on-scene responsibilities.

When training burns are held at planned structure fires, however, junior members are able to become better versed in firefighting, as they're allowed inside controlled burns.

According to KVFD junior member Jameson Scott, they're also expected to participate at training sessions every few weeks, attend at least half of the meetings throughout the year and volunteer each of the nine nights at the annual KVFD Firemen's Festival.

In Kilmarnock, when someone is interested in becoming a junior member, they fill out an application which is tabled for





Community and family values are huge among the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department, including their junior members. From left are Kaela Lee, Harris Clarke, Karson Roop and Matthew Booth. Ethan Hanley and Andrew Fulmer are also WSVFD junior members. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

*"You really learn and experience a lot. As you're learning, if you're not comfortable doing something, you don't have to do it. They'll guide you and ease you into it over time."*  
*—Jameson Scott*

30 days. Meanwhile, the junior prospect is expected to learn a bit about the department and the current members. In order to be accepted into the program a percentage of the current members have to vote to approve the applicant.

Once a junior member, expectations to uphold a positive and respectful reputation are set.

"You're always representing the department everywhere you go and you have to always show respect," said KVFD junior member Keegan Kellum.

Scott added that once you're in the department, you have eyes on you and have to uphold the reputation at all times. With fire tags on license plates, you can easily be picked out of a crowd, he said.

The fire departments expect their junior members to be on the ball in all aspects of their lives. KVFD junior member Trevor Sebra said school still comes first and that their grades are routinely checked.

"If our grades drop we're suspended from the department for 30 days," he said.

The junior members walk the walk. Early in the morning or late at night, if they can make it to the scene, they are there.

WSVFD junior member Harris Clarke said his most notable fire call to date has been responding to the fire in Kilmarnock in April 2022 that destroyed several businesses, displaced several residents and claimed a life.

"Being in the department is a good time. But when it's time to work, it's time to work," he said.

Lee, Roop and Clarke all responded to the Kilmarnock fire.

According to Clarke, they arrived around 3 a.m. and were helping fight the fire for nearly 12 hours.

T. Sebra noted one of his most notable fire calls to date was responding to aid in the Tappahannock fire in July 2022 when he was just 15.

"When the businesses in Tappahannock caught on fire, we fought for six hours straight on the nozzle," he said.

While the sacrifice is immense and the actions can go thankless, the junior members don't join for the praise or notoriety. Although reasons for joining vary member to member, the overarching themes of community and tradition are evident across both departments.

In White Stone, junior member Matthew Booth said he wanted to help give back to his community as well as continue a long line of family tradition of serving in the fire department.

Roop, Booth and Clarke said they've grown up around the department and knew from a young age they would follow in the footsteps of the leadership they were raised around.

While Lee doesn't come from a long line of family working in the department, she said she knew the department was a group of people she wanted to surround herself with. As her time with the department has continued on, she said she's found a sense of family throughout the department.

"Being the only girl, I kind of feel like I'm everyone's daughter," she said.

Clarke added that not only is it rewarding helping the community, but it's great seeing the community support them and



Junior members of the Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department are held to high expectations as they represent the department in school and throughout the community. From left are Jameson Scott, Trevor Sebra, Callee Smith, Hunter Sebra, Wesley Butler, Keegan Kellum and Cameron Carlson. Austin Hesson and Parker Simmons also are KVFD junior members. Photo by AnnGardner Eubank

the department.

In addition to the community aspect of volunteerism, the junior members said they love the adrenaline of it all.

"You never know what you'll be responding to and that can be exciting," Lee said.

In Kilmarnock the sentiments were the same.

Callee Smith grew up around the department, with her brother Cody serving as an active member and her father Johnny as a life member. She said her family lineage played a big role in her deciding to join.

Cameron Carlson and Wesley Butler added since they were just kids they've wanted to help the community in some way.

T. Sebra remembered always seeing firetrucks going through the streets and asking his parents to follow to see where they were headed. He said he had always been interested and wanted to help when he became old enough.

Scott said he, too, grew up around the department and was excited to finally get involved. He and several others said they are considering becoming professional firefighters when they become of age.

While fires can certainly be intimidating, the junior members said over time the initial nerves begin to fade through strong leadership of those in the department.

"You really learn and experience a lot. As you're learning, if you're not comfortable doing something, you don't have to do it. They'll guide you and ease you into it over time," Scott said.

The leadership is as honorable over in White Stone, too.

"If anyone interested in joining is afraid of the work, don't be. They teach you what to do," Lee said.

After putting in the time and work, upon turning 21, junior members can graduate to become full members.

"You have to prove you're an asset to the department to get voted in," Roop said.

As the members of the junior departments begin moving into full membership, they know it's important to continue recruiting and encouraging new members to join.

"This can be an introduction to other kinds of first responder job opportunities too when you're around EMS a lot. If you want to join, don't be afraid to ask questions or to put in work," Lee said.

Fire departments continuously want to maintain their programs and grow their "family."

"We're all friendly people, if you have any questions about joining we want you to ask," H. Sebra said.

There's an honorable group of young adults serving the area communities in the middle of the night, early in the morning, or whenever the call may come.

In Middlesex County there also are dedicated and enthusiastic junior members.

According to Chief Kevin McNamee of the Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department, there are four current junior members. Two previous members recently moved to full member status after turning 18.

McNamee said in addition to mastering safety operations throughout actual fires and machinery, junior members are expected to attend meetings and all functions. They can do almost all things regular members can do with the exception of voting. During their time as junior members, they're steadily working towards completing training programs to earn required certifications, he said.

As current junior members begin to graduate from junior member to full members, area residents should take comfort knowing the next generation is passionate, determined and dedicated to serve and protect their community.

## AGE REQUIREMENTS

### Middlesex-

Deltaville Volunteer Fire Department-16  
16881 General Puller Highway, Deltaville.

Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department-16  
3309 Twigg's Ferry Road, Hartfield.

Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department-16  
330 Virginia Street, Urbanna.

Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department-16  
4583 Water View Road, Water View.

### Lancaster-

Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department-15  
71 School Street, Kilmarnock.

White Stone Volunteer Fire Department-16  
579 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone.

Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department-16  
4508 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster.

### Northumberland-

Callao Volunteer Fire Department-16  
314 Northumberland Highway.

Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department-16  
119 Main Street Reedville.

*"You never know what you'll be responding to and that can be exciting."*

*--Kaela Lee*

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Middlesex County's first firetruck is not much longer than the cab of the modern truck of the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department, located in Urbanna. Photo by Tom Chillemi

# Firefighters recall the "good old days"

by Tom Chillemi

Fire is a good servant, but a poor master. It's alive, breathing air, consuming what it touches, releasing energy instantly, leaving ashes and heartache.

Fire is a force that can be controlled, for the most part, but can instantly turn into a monster to be battled. Sometimes it cannot be stopped. When destruction is eminent, sacrificing the structure and protecting the threatened things

nearby, will at times rein in the beast. It's a hollow victory.

Unlike some natural disasters, fires cannot be predicted. Random lightning strikes free the servant, who becomes master.

Then it's up to firefighters using science, skill, and powerful machines to bring deadly flames under control again.





Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department's first truck, a 1946 Chevrolet, could haul 500 gallons of water. Photo by Tom Chillemi

**F**or Middlesex County, firefighting took a big step in the 1940s. In 1941 the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department, located in Urbanna, took delivery of the county's first firetruck. It was built by the Oren Fire Apparatus Division of Roanoke Welding and Equipment Company on a Ford one-ton chassis. Powered by Ford's famous flat head V-8 with 239 cubic inches (3.9 liter) cranking out 95 horsepower, the standard at the time.

The Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department got its first firetruck in September 1947. It was built by the Oren company in Roanoke on a 1946 Chevrolet chassis with a 216 cubic inch (3.5L) inline six cylinder engine, with overhead valves, churning out 90 horsepower.

### A big step

These old trucks don't look like much compared with the modern firetrucks, but in their day they were a big step up from firefighting equipment they had before, which was nothing.

In the 1940s the community came together to form the Deltaville Improvement Association, recalled Billy Norton, 87, a life-long Deltaville resident. "There were many items on the agenda, there had been several buildings lost to fires, a lodge hall, Stingray Point Hotel, and some residential homes." The association, built a two-bay garage to house the firetruck they would get.

### Buckets

Norton recalled when the home of Melvin Colona caught fire after being struck by lightning, about two years before Deltaville got its first truck. "Word got out quickly that the house was on fire," said Norton. "Urbanna [fire department] got the call to come. Neighbors jumped in carrying buckets of water to fight the fire." By the time Urbanna's firetruck arrived there was nothing standing of the two story farm house, Norton



An "attic ladder" collapses and unfolds into a regular ladder. It's small size allowed firefighters to carry it into small places. They are still used, but made of aluminum, not wood like this one. Photo by Tom Chillemi

*"The sirens on the truck and firehouse, started blowing, I jumped out of the window and ran to all of the excitement. It was the best looking firetruck I had ever seen." -- Billy Norton*

recalled.

Urbanna is almost 20 miles from Deltaville — a long drive when minutes matter.

In time, communities in Hartfield and Water View would form volunteer fire departments in their areas of Middlesex. Volunteer rescue squads were formed in the mid 1950s. Deltaville's rescue squad was one of the first in Virginia.

## Sirens

Norton remembers very clearly the night the first firetruck arrived in Deltaville. He was 13 years of age and worked setting duck pins at the bowling alley next to the firehouse. "The sirens on the truck and firehouse, started blowing, I jumped out of the window and ran to all of the excitement," he recalled. "It was the best looking firetruck I had ever seen. To my surprise, Leonard Wright, owner of the bowling alley, tapped me on my shoulder telling me his customers were screaming for their duck pins to be set up."

Norton would join the fire department a few years later and serve for about 40 years, including 13 years as chief. He has been a trustee since land was purchased for the new firehouse and it was built.

## Pay up

There was some confusion between Oren and the Deltaville Improvement Association about financing of the truck, said Norton. Oren threatened to take back the truck if the balance of \$3,545 wasn't paid. However, three businessmen divided the amount due and each wrote a check for \$1,181.66. Those three checks, dated Sept. 6, 1947, are framed and hanging on the wall of the Deltaville firehouse, a testament to Garland Robins, E.L. "Lee" Deagle and Horace Norton whose generosity ensured Deltaville could have a firetruck.

## Super size

Henry Lackey, 81, of Deltaville joined the Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department in 1974 when he was 22 years old. He estimated their first firetruck carried 500 gallons of water. In comparison a modern tanker carries 3,000 gallons and has a gross weight of 54,000 pounds, that's 3.5 times the gross weight of their first firetruck's 15,000 pound gross weight. A modern pumper pushing 500 gallons per minute could empty the antique's water tank in about a minute.

These first firetrucks were not fast. They were geared to move seven tons. The engines would be revving near redline at 40 miles per hour, any more speed came from gravity on a hill.

Bobby Faulkner, a longtime Deltaville fire department member, estimated that the LMVFD's ladder truck would cost \$1.25 million to replace. He estimates the trucks and equipment in the firehouse would cost \$4 million.



A "bumper pumper" of the Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department illustrates the side of modern firefighting equipment. Photo by Tom Chillemi

## Ice cold

The 1946 Chevy water tank was filled from a creek at "Wilton Bottom" on General Puller Highway (Route 33). The first winter they had the truck, the pump stopped working, recalled Bobby Faulkner, a longtime volunteer Deltaville firefighter. The late Robert Faulkner and the late Ed Deagle drove the Chevy across the state to the builder Oren in Roanoke. They drove into a snow storm. The truck didn't have a heater, and the men had to hang their heads out of the window to see because the windshield was fogged up. The next year, a heater was installed in the truck, said Lackey.

The problem was a rock had gotten past the hose screen sucked into the pump while it was being filled. "We don't have many rocks around here, but she found one," said Lackey.

## Communication

Faulkner said that when a fire call came in the siren on the firehouse would howl. (The siren was an old air raid siren.) Firefighters had a phone tree where each one would call others to alert them. A chalk board at the firehouse was used to write the location of the fire, for those that got to the firehouse too late to ride the truck.

Faulkner and Lackey recalled one firefighter that rushed from his house in a T-shirt and under shorts. "He was a devoted firefighter," said Lackey. Faulkner added, "If they all weren't devoted, God knows what would have happened to this community."

*"I drove that thing wide open as fast as she would go. She ran good and the brakes were good on her back in the day." --Bill Thrift*





The first firetruck in Middlesex County was delivered in 1941 to the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department. It's back on the road after sitting idle for 30 years. Photo by Tom Chillemi



"Happy" the fire dog was added to Urbanna's first truck as part of its 2023 revival after sitting idle for 30 years. Photo by Tom Chillemi

# Middlesex firetrucks had interesting quirks

by Tom Chillemi

The first firetruck of the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department is a 1941 Ford that is powered by the famous Ford flathead V-8 engine, first sold in 1932 — more than 90 years ago.

It has low RPM torque to move tons, as long as you are not in a hurry. The engine displaces 239 cubic inches (3.9 liters) and boasted 95 horsepower with 170 pound feet of torque in 1941. Torque is the ability to turn something, in this case, the gears of the transmission and eventually the wheels. Torque is what's needed to move this truck that weighs 7 tons when laden with 500 gallons of water.

In comparison, a modern 2.5 liter Toyota Camry engine, with 203 horsepower has more than twice as much horsepower, but just 184 pound feet of torque — only slightly more than the truck engine's 170 pound feet. This means the mighty "flattie" engine can push the truck at a very low RPM. In fact, the speedometer indicates the truck can pull in top gear at 15 miles an hour.

## Part of the machine

The driver must be involved in operating this truck. Some of its idiosyncrasies are fading with the past, and have been absent from vehicles for more than 60 years -- such as a manual "choke" that chokes off the air to give the engine more gas to start it.

The manual transmission is a rarity today. This transmission's gears are not "synchronized," which means the driver must double clutch and rev up the engine when down shifting to avoid grinding gears.

The truck was built by the Oren Fire Apparatus Division of Roanoke Welding and Equipment Company, founded in 1916. Tom Herman, president of the Old Dominion Historical Fire Society, shared a page from the Oren company records showing their truck "162" was delivered to Urbanna.

## "Wide open"

On Route 17, just south of Old Virginia Street, is Nickleberry Hill, a straight stretch that goes

down one side of a steep hill and up the other.

Bill Thrift, 80, joined the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) in 1962 when he was 19 years old. He was MVFD chief for 34 years and drove firetrucks until seven years ago.

He remembers driving Truck Number 1 for all it was worth down Nickleberry Hill. Pulled by gravity the seven-ton truck wound out the engine. "I drove that thing wide open as fast as she would go," said Thrift, recalling younger days when horsepower and speed were his friends. "She ran good and the brakes were good on her back in the day," said Thrift.

## Pump

John Forrer of Stormont has been a member of MVFD for 51 years and said Truck Number 1 was still running when he joined in 1972. He recalled operating the water pump that used the truck's engine to power the firefighting water pump.

Exactly how this pump was operated has been lost to time. But it's not unusual to see Forrer manning the control console of a modern pumper.



How to pursue  
a career as an  
EMS pro

Emergency medical personnel are often first on the scene when someone experiences an accident or a medical emergency. EMS workers are generally trained and certified as certified first responders, emergency medical technicians and paramedics. However, the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians recognizes five different levels of emergency medical service worker. Though similar, the requirements governing each type of EMS worker vary.

Certified first responder

A certified first responder is an integral member of an EMS team. These individuals provide basic medical care at the scene of emergencies, including basic first aid, stabilization of injuries, treating shock, and other tasks. First responders must be certified by the National Registry of Emergency Technicians, according to Learn.org. The American Red Cross offers first responder training courses. Certification requirements vary by state, and each state's EMS office can provide specific details.

Emergency Medical Technician

According to the UCLA Center for Prehospital Care, EMTs complete a course that is a minimum of 170 hours. One does not need to have previous medical experience to become an EMT, but eligibility requirements may vary from school to school and state to state. For example, to be EMT eligible in California, a person must be 18 years of age. In Pennsylvania, one must be 16 years of age and the training course is 240 hours and includes both classroom and practical lab scenarios. Like certified first responders, EMTs must pass the NREMT examination. EMTs can be EMT-B (basic) or one of two EMT-I (intermediate).

Paramedic

Paramedic students complete many more hours of training that may last between six and 12 months. Coursework builds on EMT education and blends additional medical training, including courses in anatomy, cardiology, medication, and physiology. Paramedics will take part in lectures, skills labs and a hospital internship, followed by an EMS field internship before passing the national certification exam. Upon passing, these individuals will receive the highest certification of pre-hospital care in the United States.

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Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department firefighter Whit Walden drives the Deltaville station's ladder truck in the Nov. 4, 2022 Fireman's Parade through downtown Urbanna as part of the annual Urbanna Oyster Festival. In the background, a man at a Polish sausage stand reacts. Photo by Don Richeson

**Bay HealthStyles,**  
*our next supplement, will appear in the February 29 editions of the Rappahannock Record and Southside Sentinel. Call to reserve your spot, 435-1701 or 758-2328.*



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Smith Point Sea Rescue (SPSR) has purchased Rescue IV as part of its golden anniversary as a nonprofit volunteer boating rescue group on the Potomac River. Pictured above are, from left, Charlie Biddlecomb of Marine Installations LLC who is installing electronics on the new boat and Buddy Sylvia, senior captain of SPSR. The boat is currently on the hard at Jennings Marine Railway and is expected to be in operation this spring. Photo by Larry Chowning

# SMITH POINT SEA RESCUE CELEBRATING TURNING 50

*by Larry Chowning*

Smith Point Sea Rescue is 50 years old this year and as part of its golden anniversary the group has purchased a new Donelle Series 35 rescue boat built by Guimond Marine Finishers Inc. of Escuminac, New Brunswick, Canada.

The Northumberland County nonprofit sea rescue organization is the only volunteer unit on Chesapeake Bay and organizational leaders believe it is one of only two such organizations on the East Coast. The

group has been serving the Potomac River region for a half-century — towing boaters who have broken down or become grounded in shallow waters or delivering fuel to those who have run out.

Buddy Sylvia, who has been involved with the rescue group for 30 years and is the group's senior captain, said Smith Point Sea Rescue generally responds to an average of 65 to 70 calls a year.

The organization was founded in

1974, as part of a community response to a near-tragic incident when a father and his two young children were rescued after spending an autumn night hanging onto the side of their sunken boat near Reedville, said Sylvia.

"We respond to all types of calls," said Sylvia who recently worked two calls over the holidays. "Most are routine calls where a boat runs through a gill net or just runs out of gas."

One of his two calls over the holidays was for a boat caught in a gill

net. Sylvia towed the boat back to the owner's dock on Whay Creek. "They got into a gill net near buoy 63," said Sylvia.

The second rescue was a kayaker in a 10-foot long kayak out of Indian Creek that got caught in wind and tide and needed a tow back into shoal waters.

Rescues, however, are not always routine, said Sylvia. Back in April 2023, a 50-foot powerboat began taking on water and eight people



ended up in the water. The Carver yacht called Nauti Dream was sinking when the crew called 911.

Smith Point Sea Rescue volunteers were the first to the scene. Sylvia said that the three women and five men were in states of mild to moderate hypothermia from exposure over an hour in the 49 degree water.

The boaters were taken to Ingram Bay Marina where Northumberland County Rescue Squad EMS crews were waiting. Two were treated for hypothermia, and all were released in stable condition.

For that rescue and others, The United States Coast Guard (USCG) presented the group with the Distinguished Public Service award in May 2023, the highest civilian honor awarded by USCG.

The award stated that “their vigilant crew and well-equipped response boats have conducted over 2,500 missions, often at night and in foul weather, and have saved or assisted hundreds of mariners.”

The organization consists of two stations, a northern and southern station and about 40 volunteers currently man the two stations. One group works out of Reedville on Cockrell Creek where they own a waterfront lot with a boat-house and storage building facility. The lower Potomac group provides services in the northern portion of Potomac River region and in Chesapeake Bay. The other group is housed at Olverson’s Lodge Creek Marina at Callao and that group covers the upper Potomac River.

The new boat, named Rescue IV, is going to work out of the Cockrell Creek station. It is currently up on the hard at Jennings Marine Railway in Reedville and Marine Installations LLC owned by Charles Biddlecomb is installing electronics.

“We are installing the most up-to-date electronics that are available,” said Sylvia. “We can’t send our people out there without the proper equipment and gear to do the job and to come home safely.”

The new boat is being entirely funded through donations and grants. “This is a major long-term investment for our group,” he said. “We hope the boating community will support us with continued donations.”

The organization is planning a dedication and thank you to donors celebration later in the spring when the new boat is ready to go into service. Smith Point Sea Rescue receives no monetary support from any state or governmental agency. All funds are derived from the boating public, local businesses and fund-raising events.



The electronics in the Smith Point Sea Rescue boats are state-of-the-art to provide as safe a situation as possible for rescuers and those being rescued. Photo by Larry Chowning



Smith Point Sea Rescue members rescued eight survivors from the chilly Chesapeake Bay on April 1, 2023, after their 50-foot powerboat sank. Photo courtesy of Smith Point Sea Rescue





The Smith Point Sea Rescue group has two rescue mooring stations. This one houses the Rescue III and is located on Cockrell Creek. The second station is located at Olverson's Lodge Creek Marina at Callao. Photo by Larry Chowning



Senior captain Buddy Sylvia shows off rope and other gear used on the deck of Rescue III, a 42-foot Provincial fiberglass boat owned by the group. Photo by Larry Chowning

The organization is also seeking volunteers as the youngest member of the 40-member group is 52 years old. Most of our members are between 60 and 70 years old and when members age out which is happening all the

time, we need younger people to replace them," said Sylvia. For anyone wanting further information or to make a donation, the organization's address is Smith Point Sea Rescue Inc., P.O. Box 662, Burgess, VA 22432.

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*continued on the next page*

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necessary so alarms and warnings can be heard in every room of the house.

- Hire an electrician to audit your home. Electricians can inspect a home and identify any issues that could make the home more vulnerable to fires. Ask electricians to look over every part of the house, including attics and crawl spaces. Oft-overlooked areas like attics and crawl spaces pose a potentially significant fire safety threat, as data from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) indicates that 13 percent of electrical fires begin in such spaces.

- Audit the laundry room. The laundry room is another potential source of home structure fires. NFPA data indicates around 3 percent of home structure fires begin in laundry rooms each year. Strategies to reduce the risk of laundry room fires include leaving room for laundry to tumble in washers and dryers; routinely cleaning lint screens to avoid the buildup of dust, fiber and lint, which the NFPA notes are often the first items to ignite in fires linked to dryers; and ensuring the outlets washing machines and dryers are plugged into can handle the voltage such appliances require. It's also a good idea to clean dryer exhaust vents and ducts every year.

- Look outward as well. Though the majority of home fires begin inside, the NFPA reports that 4 percent of such fires begin outside the home. Homeowners can reduce the risk of such fires by ensuring all items that utilize fire, including grills and firepits, are always used at least 10 feet away from the home. Never operate a grill beneath eaves, and do not use grills on decks. Never leave children unattended around firepits, as all it takes is a single mistake and a moment for a fire to become unwieldy.

- Sweat the small stuff. Hair dryers, hair straighteners, scented candles, clothes irons, and holiday decorations are some additional home fire safety hazards. Never leave candles burning in empty rooms and make sure beauty and grooming items like dryers, straighteners and irons

are unplugged and placed in a safe place to cool down when not in use.

Fire departments respond to hundreds of thousands of

home fires each year. Some simple strategies and preventive measures can greatly reduce the risk that a fire will overtake your home.

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Looking north on Main Street after the 1952 Kilmarnock Fire. The pile of rubble just beyond the Amoco sign was the remains of the Hazel Building where the fire originated. Photo courtesy of Kilmarnock Museum



Remains of Covington's Service Station and Grill to the left and all that remains of the Hazel Building Hotel and Auditorium on the right. As clean up begins after the 1952 Kilmarnock fire, a truck is parked on the Bank Street entrance (now W. Church St.). Rappahannock Record's own "Shorty" McCrobie is shown directing traffic. Note: downed wires. Photo courtesy of Kilmarnock Museum

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
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# Beyond the call:

## volunteering with a community rescue squad extends beyond 911 emergencies

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Members of Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad load supplies for transport to Ukraine.  
Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

Camp Rescue, hosted by Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad, is a free camp for ages 8-12 introducing youth to various service units and how they help the community.

by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

**V**olunteering as an emergency medical responder is mentally and physically challenging and often means assisting people during the worst moments of their lives, be it a health-related emergency like a heart attack or stroke or rushing to their aid during a car crash.

But beyond that 911 call, rescue squad volunteers are also stewards of the community, quietly present where there are large gatherings of people like sporting events and festivals, offering free life-saving training courses and in some cases, even feeding the needy or elderly. Their service goes beyond that emergency call.

"I've never seen such a dedicated group. They are really hard-core dedicated people," said Tina Menne with the **Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad**. "It never ceases to amaze me, all they want to do. That's why I decided to [volunteer]."

Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad (MCVRS) covers all of Middlesex County with a squad building in Urbanna and the main building in Deltaville.

The squad accomplishes a lot with its 20 active members. Menne is an associate member and chairs the Rescue Regatta, which she says "is filling the gap that was left behind by the leukemia cup. Last year was successful and this year should be

even bigger. It's a two-day, family-friendly event, really a festival. Not only are we raising money for the rescue squad, but we're putting good family fun out there."

Last August, the squad held its first Rescue Regatta—a weekend-long event which drew about 200 guests each evening and 35 racers. Plans are already in the works for a bigger event July 12-13.

Middlesex's volunteer squad seems ever present in the community, offering and assisting with events year round, from coordinating the volunteers for standby at the annual two-day Urbanna Oyster Festival to hosting CPR training courses.

"If anybody calls up and says they





In Lancaster, Northumberland and Middlesex counties, volunteer rescue squads are on standby at high school football games.

are having an event, like the Polar Plunge, we will try our best to be there,” said Mennett.

Wings, Wheels & Keels, football games, trunk-or-treat events, Chesapeake Croquet Club tournaments and Groovin’ in the Park concerts are among the events where the squad is present. They also assist with several blood drives a year, the most recent of which was January 9.

“For the blood drives, we turn the building over for the event,” said Mennett. “Seems like a small thing but it involves volunteers coming down to meet them and help with the setup and breakdown.

“It’s a great building [in Deltaville] and we try to put it to good use. We open it to the public as often as we can,” she added.

Each year, the building is the site of Camp Rescue, a one-day, free camp for ages 8-12 introducing them to multiple service agencies such as LifeEvac, U.S. Coast Guard Milford Haven, Virginia State Police K-9 unit, the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office and the Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department.

“The objective is to create a great learning space for the kids and to demonstrate what each service does and how they help the community,” said Mennett.

The building is also where the squad hosts CPR and EMT recertification training to the community. The classes are free.

The squad also hopes to institute a Community Paramedicine/Mobile Integrated Healthcare for the county. It’s a program offering non-emergency assistance to those in the community in need. For instance, said Mennett, “there are people our paramedics and EMTs know need

help, just with things like checking vitals. Often they call us for an emergency visit when really what they need is a welfare check. It’s something we’re going to put to the membership for feedback and hopefully start.”

In Lancaster County, Capt. Teresa Rock with **Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad (ULVRS)** said the 10 active members in her squad serve often as “standby” at large functions like the popular mud bog fundraisers for the Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department and has offered free blood pressure checks and stand-by service at various events held at Yankee Point Marina in Ottoman. A few have even done ‘career day’ at an elementary school.

“Our membership is dwindling quickly,” said Rock. “So we’re spread very thin but try to do what we can.

“Volunteering is rewarding and gives you a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment when you impact the lives of others. It’s a wonderful way to give back to your community and build strong, lasting relationships while impacting the lives of the people you are providing care,” she added.

The squad also rotates a schedule with **Kilmarnock Volunteer Rescue Squad (KVRS)** for stand-by service at all of the Lancaster High School home football games. According to Capt. Craig Thompsen KVRS also supports large community gatherings and can be found on standby at the annual Memorial Day Service at Christ Church in Weems, the Northern Neck Family YMCA’s annual Polar Bear Plunge and at all of the Music on the Half Shell concerts at Kilmarnock Town Centre Park. The squad is also pres-



Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad members Nina Bhat (left) and Charles Howard demonstrate equipment at the annual St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Strawberry Festival.



Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad president Valerie Barton displays a few of the Cook Squad’s events. The Cook Squad prepared and served over 100 meals, most of them free, for Thanksgiving.





Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad and Northumberland County Rescue Squad joined forces with other first responders last year to send outdated equipment to the Ukraine. Photo by Lisa Hinton-Valdrighi

ent every night of the Kilmarnock Voluteer Fire Department Firemen’s Festival.

The squad hopes to restart its free community CPR classes and holds an open house every April to offer free health screenings. The open house also includes other volunteer service agencies like the Coast Guard, fire departments and police.

“We have 24 members, but a lot are associate members, so that limits our abilities to do other things,” said Thompsen. “The number of people willing to volunteer has dropped off. But in the past six or eight months, the number of younger people volunteering has increased so that’s hopeful.”

In Northumberland County, **Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad** president Valerie Barton said the volunteers in her squad are present at almost all the major events in the county—the farmers markets, parades, high school graduation, high school athletic events like swim meets and the annual St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church Strawberry Festival. Volunteers also participate in school career days and the National Night Out event. Mid-County, the youngest of the three Northumberland County volunteer rescue squads, rotates stand-by service at Northumberland High School football games with **Northumberland County Rescue Squad** and **Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad**.

“Our primary focus, of course, is to answer rescue calls, but we perform many other community interactions, especially when there are a large number of people gathered at events,” said Barton.



Most area volunteer rescue squads offer free CPR classes to the community.



Volunteers gather for pre-festival prep at the Urbanna Oyster Festival. Middlesex Volunteer Rescue Squad organizes volunteer EMTs from Lancaster, Middlesex, Mathews and Gloucester for standby at the annual two-day event.



Her squad has 26 active members, while Callao has only four or five. “All three of us do what we can in the community,” she said. “We, of course because of where our squad is located, do standbys for most of the school and county events in Heathsville. But those squads will do other things in their areas if they are asked.”

Mid-County also offers blood pressure checks at many of these functions and is there to answer basic first aid questions.

CPR/AED (automated external defibrillator) classes are offered at the squad building in Heathsville and at various churches and homeowner association meetings throughout the county.

“Anywhere we are asked to be present, we try to be,” said Barton.

“Dessert with the Doc” is an in-house seminar held in the late spring and early fall for seasonal-related injuries like heatstroke, frostbite, snake bites, tick bites and jellyfish stings. Mid-County also has one general first aid session offering information on “knowing what to do or at least the first steps to take for a stroke or heart attack,” said Barton.

For the past two years, Mid-County’s Cook Squad has offered over 100 free full Thanksgiving dinners for the elderly, “something we’re especially

proud of,” said Barton. “You can either pay for the meal or if you’re over 75 you get it for free.

“We have a lot of folks who have parents or a parent that live here and they’ll come in and pick up the meals for themselves and their parents or parent because it’s hard and time consuming to cook a whole Thanksgiving meal for just two or three people. And it’s a complete meal, nine items, from cranberry sauce to dessert.”

The meals are offered on a first-come-first-serve basis. The plan this year is to also offer Easter dinners, said Barton. “It’s a community-service but it also becomes a fundraiser for us because even though the meals are free to the elderly, lots of people make a donation.”

Mid-County donated an AED, cabinet and signage to Northumberland Middle School in 2021.

And sometimes the squad’s outreach is far-reaching, like in July 2022 when the squad joined with volunteers from Northumberland County Rescue Squad and the Northumberland County Sheriff’s Office to donate an estimated \$60,000 worth of medical supplies for victims of the war in Ukraine.

“I’m very proud of all the things we accomplish,” said Barton. “And I want others to know how rewarding volunteering can be.”



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# Waterfowl Show set for March 16-17

The 43rd Rappahannock River Waterfowl Show will be March 16-17 at the White Stone Volunteer Fire Department (WSVFD) firehouse, 579 Chesapeake Drive, White Stone.

The event features artisans specializing in waterfowl and related crafts from up and down the east coast.

Tickets are \$10 per person, with children 12 and under free, on show days, Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

A preview night gala will be March 15. Advance tickets are required.

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# Linked by family, together through a love for community service

Just a few of the names of  
firefighters.

*by Jackie Nunnery*

**A**mong countless photographs, parade trophies and memorabilia at the Callao Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) firehouse, a special bright red plaque hangs on the wall, a testament to the original 19 charter members who stepped up to protect their neighbors and the community nearly 76 years ago.

When the community banded together to create the volunteer organization in 1948, times were very different. The original—and comparatively tiny—red brick firehouse across the street housed its one and only firetruck, a 1921 Brockway LaFrance, donated by local sawmill owner, Fred Haislip. This fully restored antique still runs and is a regular sight at fire department events.

While firefighting may have changed drastically, one can still find some connection to those original 19 on the current roster. From charter member Edwin “E.J.” Deitz, four generations of the Deitz family have carried on the tradition



Three generations of the Deitz family with the department’s first firetruck. From left are Phillip E. Deitz, Phillip H. “Pop” Deitz, and Captain 3 Jason Deitz. Photo by Jackie Nunnery





**The Packetts—Christopher, Dylan and Jennifer—keep volunteer firefighting all in the family.**  
 Photo by Judy Taylor

*"My livelihood and my life is literally the firehouse, the sheriff's office (where she is the communications supervisor) and the paid (EMS) career staff that I volunteer with. It's my enjoyment in life helping everyone I can whenever I can. It's a good feeling to me to help someone in their time of need and it's what my dad would have wanted me to do."*  
*—Jennifer Packett*

and commitment to the community. Second generation Philip H. Deitz has 67 years with the department, still serving as assistant treasurer alongside son, Phillip E. Deitz, who is treasurer and has been with CVFD for 44 years. Fourth generation Jason Deitz started as a cadet at 14 and has served in the department for nearly 20 years, currently as a captain.

"I just wanted to take part," the elder Deitz said of following in his father's footsteps at 18 years old, adding that his father had to pull back little because "he had business to attend to." The statement is a reminder that this is a volunteer organization, with members often holding full-time jobs in addition to completing the required training and running calls.

Jennifer Packett, president of the board of directors, is also part of four generations of volunteer firefighting. Her grandfather Thomas Neale was a charter member and her father Thomas Bowie Neale served as chief from 1972 until he passed away in 2000. Packett's husband, Chris, and son, Dylan, are also active members, while brother Chris Neale is on the honorary roll.

"My livelihood and my life is literally the firehouse, the



**A plaque memorializes the charter members of Callao Volunteer Fire Department.** Photo by Jackie Nunnery



**This undated photo shows a Callao firefighter at a house fire.** Photo courtesy Callao Volunteer Fire Department



sheriff's office (where she is the communications supervisor) and the paid (EMS) career staff that I volunteer with," she said, adding, "It's my enjoyment in life helping everyone I can whenever I can. It's a good feeling to me to help someone in their time of need and it's what my dad would have wanted me to do."

Like many before him, Dylan Packett started at a young age. "I always wanted to be a firefighter." In the beginning he "helped out any way I could with fundraisers or with training." He became a member at 16 and used his volunteer experience to become a professional. Now at 19, he works for York County as a firefighter, while "doing what I can" to still run calls with Callao.

### Changing times for volunteer firefighting

While generations have answered the call in Callao, the time commitment necessary to do that has changed drastically. "It's a lot of work," Chief James Brann said of the state mandated training. "You have to have a certain training level to go into a burning building. You would at least have to have Firefighter I and to do that you're looking at 154 hours of training and a lot of it is at night and on weekends. It's changed the dynamics of volunteering. We've gone from farmers and mechanics coming from their jobs to the firehouse to drive a firetruck and put water on a fire to now have EVOC (emergency vehicle operator course) certification to drive a firetruck and Firefighter I to go in and fight a fire."

Brann said that while currently there are more volunteer firefighters than there are paid nationwide, he expects that to change "with the training demands and lack of interest. Counties are going to be forced to hire staff to be firefighters."

Then there is the changing economics of firefighting equipment. The first fire engine purchased was in 1951 at the cost of \$5,242 and a small brush truck purchased in 2008 was \$140,000. The price tags on modern fire engines are easily 10 times that according to Brann.

"We still fundraise because we can use the additional money, but the time has come to where you can't sell enough chicken dinners to pay for a million dollar firetruck." This on top of what Brann estimated to be a \$40,000 to \$50,000 expense if one of the diesel engines has to be replaced on existing equipment or the turnout gear that has to be replaced every 10 years at a cost of roughly \$4,000 for each member, not including boots, helmet and gloves.

### Enduring willingness to help

While volunteer fire departments may become a thing of the past, those that take part today, do it for the community aspect of it. "Most everybody around here, you grew up with or are friends with," Phillip E. Deitz said.

That concern for others extends beyond emergency services, with the department adopting families every holiday season. "My mom has been collecting money for about 45 years," Packett said. She added that donations go toward toys, clothing and food, or "whatever is needed." Then there are the Halloween, Santa and Easter Bunny events at the firehouse, and parades that are all important because "you've got to support the people that support you," said member Dennis Kues.

According to Judy Taylor, vice-president of the



Three generations of Burches have been a part of the Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) in Urbanna. They include, from left, Patrick, Ray Jr. (who recently retired as fire chief) and Ben. Both Patrick and Ben are firefighters.

## Burch family firefighters span three generations

*by Larry Chowning*

The Burch family is a generational family of firefighters. Back in the day, Ray Burch Sr., an Urbanna resident and firefighter for many years, raised a family – a daughter and a son. That son, Ray Jr., began following in his father's footsteps to the Urbanna firehouse on a regular basis as a young boy. At age 16, he joined the department as a junior firefighter.

He and his father were faithful to the calling for many years working side-by-side until his dad later retired and then passed away leaving his son to fill his shoes.

Ray Jr. worked steadily and hard as a dedicated firefighter would, all the while making his father proud of him as

he worked his way up the "ladder" holding many officer's positions until he reached the rank of chief which he held for 20-plus years.

During this time, Ray Jr. started a family of his own having two sons, Patrick and Benjamin (Ben). Like father like sons, they too found the love of fire suppression service and after playing the role of firefighters in their youth, joined the real fire departments as adults.

Patrick married and moved to Water View where he joined the Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department and also became a professional firefighter with the City of Hampton, earning the prestigious award of Firefighter of the Year.

Ben remained with his father at the Urbanna fire station working his way up as a lieutenant and president for many years. He married and moved to Water View as well and has now joined the Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department working alongside his brother.

Both Patrick's and Ben's young sons are involved with the fire department helping where needed and one day plan to join the force as well.

Meanwhile, Ray Jr. recently retired from the department the end of 2023 and has since passed the baton as chief after 50 years of firefighting service to Middlesex County. He is a member-at-large and still plans to help out where and when he's needed.

board of directors it is also important to acknowledge the work that goes into those events. "People just see the finished product, but lot of hours are spent here planning too."

Chief Brann also shared a story "that gives you a good idea of what kind of people we have in this department." Brann said that after a member passed away from cancer without a headstone, "all the firemen got together and got to talking and took money out of their own pockets" to make that happen. "We all communicate back and forth. We check on each other and make sure everybody's taken care of. If we have a bad call, we check on each other. This is a second family for a lot of us," he said.

### Change on the horizon

As you come into Callao, a sign on a vacant lot announces the "future home of Callao Volunteer Fire Department" but like everything else, a lot

of work lays ahead to make that future a reality. Brann says "there's a lot of hoops that we have to jump through. You have to work from the road in. We've got to put a commercial entrance in—and we're hoping to start on that anytime now—we'll prep the site work, and once we get that straight we'll look at the design of the building." Plans could potentially include a pavilion to host events that would help offset the cost of the building.

Meanwhile, the growing pains are evident at the cur-

rent home of the department. The now seven firefighting vehicles are very carefully and very strategically parked—there are only six bays in the main part of the firehouse—in order to fit them in. The building has already been expanded several times since they moved into the former Central Concrete building in the early 50s, to the point that there is simply no more space on the 3.5-acre lot.

"We're hoping to make a lot of progress on this this year. One step at a time," said Brann.

*Thank you, first responders!*

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## Support Spot

The area's fire departments and rescue squads depend on donations, fundraisers and volunteers. For those who may wish to make a donation or volunteer, a listing of fire departments and rescue squads in Lancaster, Middlesex and Northumberland counties with their contact information is provided. Email and websites have been provided for those that have them. Some use PayPal.

### LANCASTER

#### ***Kilmarnock Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 1295  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482  
804-435-1332  
readylanaster.org

#### ***Upper Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 205  
Lively, VA 22507  
804-462-5404

Location:  
5170 Mary Ball Road  
Lancaster, VA 22503

#### ***White Stone Volunteer Fire Department***

579 Chesapeake Drive  
White Stone, Virginia, 22578  
804-435-3801

#### ***Kilmarnock-Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad***

P.O. Box 333  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Location:  
61 Harris Road  
Kilmarnock, VA 22482  
804-435-1474

#### ***The Upper Lancaster Volunteer Rescue Squad***

P. O. Box 176  
Lively, VA 22507  
804-462-7375  
upperlanasterrescue@  
yahoo.com

Location:  
123 Norris Road,  
Lancaster, VA 22503

### MIDDLESEX

#### ***Hartfield Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 205  
Hartfield, VA 23071  
804-776-6880  
hartfieldfire@gmail.com

Location: 3309 Twiggs  
Ferry Road  
Hartfield, VA 23071

#### ***Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 6  
Deltaville, VA 23043  
804-776-7104  
lmvfd.com

Location: 16881 General  
Puller Highway  
Deltaville, VA 23043

#### ***Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 71  
Urbanna, VA 23175  
804-758-2320

Location: 330 Virginia St.  
Urbanna, VA 23175

#### ***Upper Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 75  
Churchview, VA 23032  
804-758-5200  
waterviewfire23180@yahoo.  
com

Location: 4583 Water View  
Road  
Water View, VA 23180

#### ***Middlesex County Volunteer Rescue Squad***

P.O. Box 98  
Deltaville, VA 23043  
804-776-6875  
Provides Emergency Medi-  
cal Service (EMS) for the  
entire county.

Deltaville Station  
17684 General Puller  
Highway  
Deltaville, VA 23043

Hartfield Station  
10946 General Puller  
Highway  
Hartfield, VA 23071

Urbanna Station  
391 Hilliard St.  
Urbanna, VA 23175

### NORTHUMBERLAND

#### ***Callao Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 39  
Callao, VA 22435  
callaovfd.org  
Email info@callaovfd.org

Location  
314 Northumberland  
Highway  
Callao, Virginia, 22435  
804-529-6211

#### ***Fairfields Volunteer Fire Department***

P.O. Box 656  
Burgess, VA 22432  
fairfieldsfire.com

Location: 119 Main St.  
Reedville, VA 22539  
804-453-4055

Glebe Point Fire House  
Location:  
90 Firehouse Road  
Burgess, Virginia, 22432  
804-453-6390

#### ***Callao Volunteer Rescue Squad***

1348 Northumberland  
Hwy.  
Callao, VA 22435  
804-529-6630  
callaoVRS@gmail.com

#### ***Mid-County Volunteer Rescue Squad***

7990 Northumberland Hwy,  
Heathsville, VA 22473  
804-580-8615

#### ***Northumberland County Volunteer Rescue Squad***

412 Reed Ave., Reedville,  
VA 22539  
804-453-3174

#### ***Smith Point Sea Rescue***

P.O. Box 662  
Burgess, VA 22432  
smithpointsearescue.com  
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service for the mid-Chesa-  
peake Bay

# Thank You!

Lancaster County expresses tremendous gratitude for its local first responders and front line workers. From day-to-day operations to large scale events, your sacrifice and commitment to keeping the community safe touches countless lives every day. We are forever grateful for your service!



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