

Virginia Beach Fire Department Transition from Volunteer to Career



Retired Volunteer Fire Chief Stuart Buxbaum

- Merger
- 12 Volunteer Fire Department
- Stations
- Chief Bubba Bayne
- Chief Harry Diezel
- First Paid Recruits
- CPR/EMT Classes
 - Cardiac Technicians



FIRE DIVISION
486-1234

City of Virginia Beach

P.O. BOX 2203
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452

March 24, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: Volunteer Fire Chiefs
FROM: E. B. Bayne, Fire Chief

Please send me, as soon as possible and no later than April 7,
a list of all your qualified volunteers who are not only interested
in but really want a job as a paid fireman for the City of Virginia
Beach.

Please state their age, height, weight, education and number of
years service in the volunteer fire department.

E. B. Bayne

EBB/mc



FIRE DIVISION
486-1234

City of Virginia Beach

P.O. BOX 2203
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452

May 10, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: Volunteer Fire Chiefs
FROM: E. B. Bayne

It has come to my attention that there is a rumor circulating stating that after July 1st equipment will be removed from one fire station and assigned to another. This is to advise everyone that this definitely is untrue. There will be no transferring of fire equipment whatsoever.

EBB/mc

E. B. Bayne
m.c.

cc: Mr. Roger M. Scott, City Manager



City of Virginia Beach

FIRE DIVISION
486-1234

P.O. BOX 2203
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23452

June 30, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEFS
FROM: E. B. BAYNE, FIRE CHIEF

Please send to me, by Monday, July 10, the names of two qualified men you would recommend for a position of District Chief for the Fire Department.

Please, also, send me the serial numbers of ten monitors for payment.

If there are any departments who do not have thirty monitors and desire the city to purchase monitors for them, please let me know.

EBB/mc

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE SQUADS, INC



March 19, 1969

Mr. Robert L. Smith, President
Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, Inc.
5144 Princess Anne Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

Dear Mr. Smith:

Let me take this opportunity to welcome your Squad into the Association.

Enclosed is a copy of our Constitution and By-Laws and a Membership Certificate.

If I can be of any service, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

William B. Pitcock

William B. Pitcock

WBP:cb

Enclosures



City of Virginia Beach

June 27, 1972

C

MEMORANDUM

TO: VOLUNTEER FIRE CHIEFS
FROM: E. B. BAYNE, FIRE CHIEF

O

The decision is now unanimous to turn the titles of your fire equipment over to the City of Virginia Beach. Please turn in your titles to my office by July 1.

P

Your monthly check will be delayed until all the titles have been turned in and City Council gives their official approval on July 10.

Y

EBB/mc



KEMPSVILLE VOL. FIRE DEPT.

VIRGINIA BEACH BEACON

Sunday

March 29, 1970

Published Twice Weekly With the Ledger-Star and The Virginian-Pilot

Vol. 8, No. 78

Volunteer Fire Department Study Due for Completion in Six Months

By JACK DORSEY

VIRGINIA BEACH — The long-awaited study on the city fire department's capabilities and needs will get under way

within 30 days and is to be completed within five months from then, according to Assistant City Manager Dave Norman.

The Chicago-based firm of National Loss Control Service Corporation has been formally notified of City Council's decision Monday to begin the

study. It was hired to conduct the \$19,200 survey and will project the city's fire needs to 1990.

"We can start almost immediately," Norman said. "The contract calls for them to begin within 30 days and to complete the study within 150 calendar days."

The study has been either planned for or promised since August, 1968, when city offi-

cials decided they wanted to take a close look at the future of the fire department.

The delay has occurred because officials first wanted the planning department to complete a land-use survey which will be needed by the firm. Although the land-use study is still unfinished, Norman said enough information is now available so that the fire study can begin.

Virginia Beach has one paid fire department and 12 volunteer departments. Although present indications are that the city wouldn't do away with the volunteer departments, the city does intend to review equipment needs and the possibility of having a certain amount of paid firemen.

(Continue on Page 4)

Fire Needs Study Due in 6 Months

(Continued from Page 1)
at each station, especially during the day.

Norman spoke highly of the professional fire consultant firm coming to Virginia Beach. It is headed by Gerold L. Maatman, a professor and former chairman of the Department of Fire Protection and Engineering at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Together with a staff of fire protection engineering gradu-

ates, the firm performs several services for cities.

"It's a rather professional staff in the field of fire protection," said Norman. "They offer quite a few different services including the evaluation of fire insurance classifications and fire prevention bureau operations."

Norman said the firm has conducted several similar studies for cities across the nation, including one which was completed in February, 1969, for Chicago. The study

resulted in a \$3.2 million savings for that city's fire department after the firm recommended certain changes in administrative and departmental operations.

The job Virginia Beach officials have given to the firm is multi-fold, Norman said, but initially involves a broad review of existing facilities and the projection of future ones.

A few of the answers city officials want include:

- Where future fire stations will be located to provide the most adequate fire protection and how Rescue Squad units would fit in with the entire fire department?

- Whether or not the city should have a paid ambulance service?

- What are the equipment and manpower needs?

Norman said the firm will also be asked to evaluate certain existing features among the fire department and to come up with solutions and recommendations. He said the study will also be used to:

- Evaluate fire training for present and future needs.

- Evaluate the communications system and study the possibility of having a public fire alarm system (street alarm boxes).

- Analyze progress of the Fire Prevention Bureau.

- Determine fire limits or fire districts. (Certain types of buildings, such as frame or mason construction, can only be constructed in certain areas under a fire district).



Fire Volunteers Call for City Aid

VIRGINIA BEACH — The Virginia Beach Fire Council passed a resolution on a 9-3 vote during a Monday meeting stating their problems in providing daytime fire protection and called on the city to help provide answers for correcting the situation.

Representatives of London Bridge, Princess Anne Court-house and creeds did not vote for the resolution which will be forwarded to City Manager Roger M. Scott.

Fred E. Quist Jr., chief of the monthly council meeting Chesapeake Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, brought the subject up before the gathering of chiefs and representatives of the city's 12 volunteer fire departments, the paid Virginia Beach Borough Department

Knott Island Volunteer Fire Department and the City Fire Inspector's Office.

"I feel it is time we should have paid personnel during the day," Quist said during (Continued on Page A)

9 to 3 Vote

Volunteers Call for Aid of City

(Continued from Page 1)

p.m. during the day."

The assistant chief in the City Fire Inspector's Office remarked how city officials have been talking more about industrial development for the city.

He feels the fire department situation will be a big stumbling block if there aren't paid men during the day.

The area covered by Chesapeake Beach includes the Virginia Beach Industrial Development Authority's new 183-acre industrial park at Little Creek and adjacent to the Norfolk Regional Airport.

This problem that Quist mentioned seems most acute in the volunteer departments in the city's suburban belt.

During the period from 7 to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., many of these departments don't have personnel in their immediate community.

Robert Smith, assistant chief at Kempsville station, said his department now serves 6,600 homes; it will serve 8,000 homes in two years.

"In the last six months we

have had two or three calls at one time," he said. "We've been lucky to get help."

"One of these days we're not going to be that lucky," Smith said. "When we lose a house and two or three kids we're going to be sorry."

He went on to say what a lonesome feeling it is to ride down the road in a fire truck seeing smoke ahead and realizing you are by yourself in answering a fire.

London Bridge Chief I. B. George was critical of the newspaper publicity.

"This is the second year of a diverse publicity and they print what the public wants to read," he said.

George contends the publicity has hurt the fund drives, which the volunteers officially hold during the month of May.

Commissioner of Revenue Ivan D. Mapp, council president, said he was in agreement with many of the statements made during the meeting. He said recent improvements in the department's buildings and equipment indicated the city was readying

for the move. "I agree the time has come when it necessary to have paid men," Mapp said.

Quist originally asked that a committee be established to look into how each department feels on the subject and then report back to council.

But Mapp said, with council agreement, that a resolution might be a better avenue to take.

City Councilman Larry Marshall brought up the situation at the Monday briefing session before the regular 2 p.m. City Council meeting.

In August, 1969, council during an informal meeting, decided to take a close look at the needs and future of its fire department setup, with some chance of making changes.

Indications were the study would not call for doing away with the volunteer departments, but instead it would review equipment needs and the possibility of having a two or three man core of paid firemen at each station during the daytime.

City Manager Scott reported last Monday his staff has stud-

ied several consultants reports on fire departments and they have narrowed their talks down to one consultant.

It was noted he will do a full study. But the city needs to have an existing land use study completed. The planners are still working on that project.

But Scott said, rather than do that, it had been decided to wait on the report of Frederick Bair, an ordinance specialist who is now revamping all the city ordinances.

The city manager said he called the fire department consultant who said he could go ahead on the study of the local situation, excluding that portion dealing with the actual location of departments.

The council, in the Monday meeting, decided it would rather wait and take a total look at the city's fire protection system.

By taking the longer route, the city will be able to determine what it wants to do administratively with the departments and where it might want to relocate or build new departments.

VIRGINIA BEACH BEACON

March 13, 1969

Published Twice Weekly With the Ledger-Star and The Virginian-Pilot

Vol. 7, No. 73

Rescue Volunteers At Beach Keep Up Training Efforts

VIRGINIA BEACH—You're lucky that your local rescue squads are sticklers on training out to avert any "ambulance crisis."

Virginia is one of only four states that require at least one ambulance service crewman to be trained in standard and advanced first aid. City squads go beyond that.

The crisis exists, Parade Magazine reported recently, in many areas where emergency medical and ambulance services "are archaic inefficient, uncoordinated and inadequate."

Parade cited these deficiencies: Lack of training, almost no radio communication between ambulance and hospital, lack of adequate equipment to meet any contingency, lack of proper tools and skills for extricating trapped crash victims.

This just isn't the case in Virginia and, in particular, in Virginia Beach, says Ray Robinson, a vice president of the Virginia Association of Rescue Squads (VARS).

Former president of the

At the state and district level, there is even more extensive training, according to Robinson. Training sessions are conducted on first aid and advanced first aid and light, medium and heavy rescue work. At the last district meet-

(Continued on Page 12)

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Letter To the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to extend a few well-earned words of

Parade cited these deficiencies: Lack of training, almost no radio communication between ambulance and hospital, lack of adequate equipment to meet any contingency, lack of proper tools and skills for extricating trapped crash victims.

This just isn't the case in Virginia and, in particular, in Virginia Beach, says Ray Robinson, a vice president of the Virginia Association of Rescue Squads (VARS).

Former president of the Princess Anne Plaza Rescue Squad, Robinson, as a VARS officer, is head of the association's 2nd District, of which Virginia Beach is a part.

"Virginia has one of the best ambulance systems," he says. "It is one of four in the country that requires ambulance attendants to be trained."

Robinson says that for local rescue squads, the ambulance attendant has to have at least a standard and advanced first aid card from the American Red Cross and must be licensed by the state.

"Most squads have monthly training nights for additional first aid and rescue training," he says. "It requires a minimum of 25 hours of training to be an attendant. Most have more."

(Continued on Page 12)

* * *

Letter To the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to extend a few well earned words of praise and appreciation to the Kempsville Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Recently on the morning of Jan. 24 I developed severe and uncontrolled bleeding from the nasal area.

My call to the volunteers for assistance was answered in less than 15 minutes and they delivered me to the emergency room of the Virginia Beach Hospital in about the same amount of time, where I received prompt and highly professional aid. As a result of the excellent services provided by the volunteers and the hospital staff, I was released in one hour.

Our volunteers give unstintingly of their time in order to develop superior skills and also to serve all of us whenever the need arise. In view of this, the failure of many residents of this area to support their local volunteers during their annual fund drive is reprehensible to say the least.

Emergencies can arise for any of us at any time, and they take little note of whether the individual or family involved is a long-time resident or transient military.

In closing, it is suggested that those of us who are privileged to reside in this excellent community, evaluate our individual contributions to the community welfare in the past and get behind our civic and volunteer organizations in the future.

Willbur E. Teeters
5428 Princess Anne Road

Patient complementing Kempsville Volunteer Fire Department

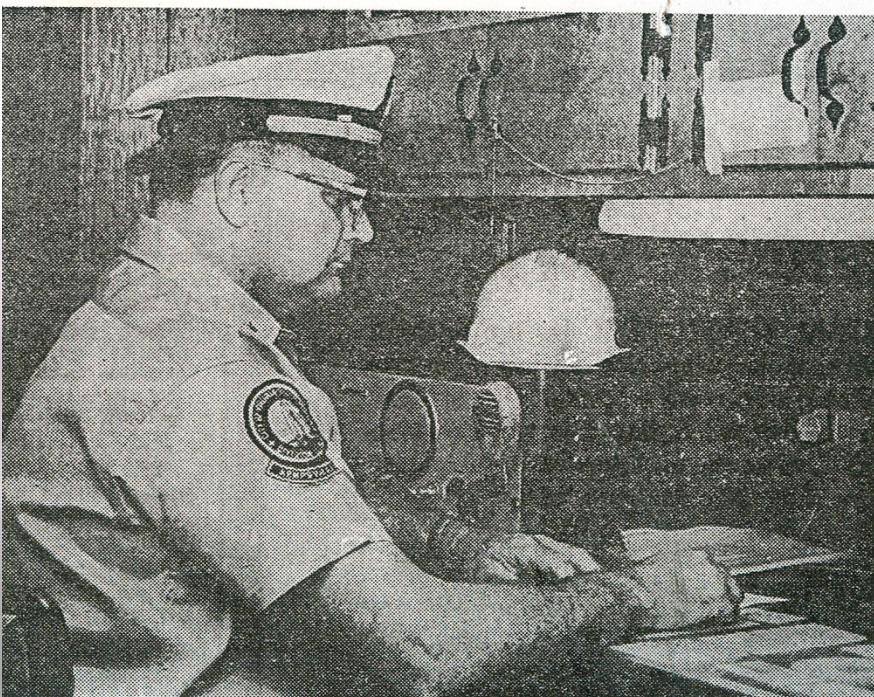
VIRGINIA BEACH BEACON

Vol. 9, No. 91

Published Twice Weekly With the Ledger-Star and The Virginian-Pilot

May 20, 1971

Kempsville Volunteers Look Ahead



Beacon Photo by Robert Becker

Chief Eldon Swartzentruber

(This is one of a series of articles on the men who protect Virginia Beach against the ravages of fire—her volunteer firemen.)

By ROBERT BECKER

KEMPSVILLE — The men at the Kempsville Volunteer Fire Department were two years ahead of the National Loss Control Service Corp.

NATLSCO, in the Municipal Fire Protection Study, recommended construction of a fire house in Woodstock, at Indian River Road and Providence Road.

Two years ago the Kempsville volunteers offered to set up a subsidiary station in Woodstock if volunteers would come to the main station for drills.

At the time Kempsville had a new pump truck on order. The men told residents of Woodstock that, when the engine arrived, an old pumper and an ambulance could be moved to their area.

The offer was contingent on a showing of interest by the

residents. They would have to find a shelter for the equipment and attend drills. The new volunteers never materialized.

Under this arrangement, according to Eldon Swartzentruber, fire chief, Kempsville would be the parent station and would back up the smaller unit when necessary.

Swartzentruber is a believer when it comes to the study. "The fire study is a worthwhile thing," he said.

He admits, however, that if his station was to be combined with another he might not agree so willingly.

"This project," according to Swartzentruber, "has got to be understood into the future. The individual departments will blend and lose their individual status."

He believes that this is a step toward forming a city-wide, cohesive firefighting system.

"As the population grows and the city expands the fire study will fit into the picture," he said.

At Kempsville the volunteers have also initiated some pre-

fire planning. The project is designed to help firemen when they try to extinguish structural blazes.

The plan is to survey all commercial structures. A folder is prepared for each building showing the location of flammable materials, electrical fixtures and standpipes.

The folder includes directions to the building, the location of fire hydrants and lists problems firemen might encounter.

Several copies of the folder will be made up. One will be on file at the station, one at the dispatcher's office, a not other will be kept on the pumper and the fourth will be kept by the company which must answer the second alarm.

This company seems to be ahead of the game in other respects. It is, according to the chief, the only one equipped with three-inch hose for fire trucks. The fire study recommends that the others convert to either two and half or three inch hose.

Some stations, such as

Continued on page 28.



Fire Station Has Full-Time Residents

Beacon Photos by Roger Becker



The Country Store

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THE



*OUR HERO

New People Must Learn

Continued from page 1.

Creeds and Blackwater, are not likely to make the change-over because they have few fire hydrants to work from.

These stations use the smaller one-and-a-half-inch hose because it helps conserve water which they must carry to the fire by truck.

Where hydrants exist, more water can be delivered faster

through the large hose.

In addition, several companies are now converting from cannister type breathing apparatus to self-contained units similar to an aqua lung.

According to Swartzentruber, the Kempsville company made this switch several years ago.

He feels that the old equipment is inferior and obsolete. His company has eight units now and hopes to acquire more of the self-contained equipment in the future.

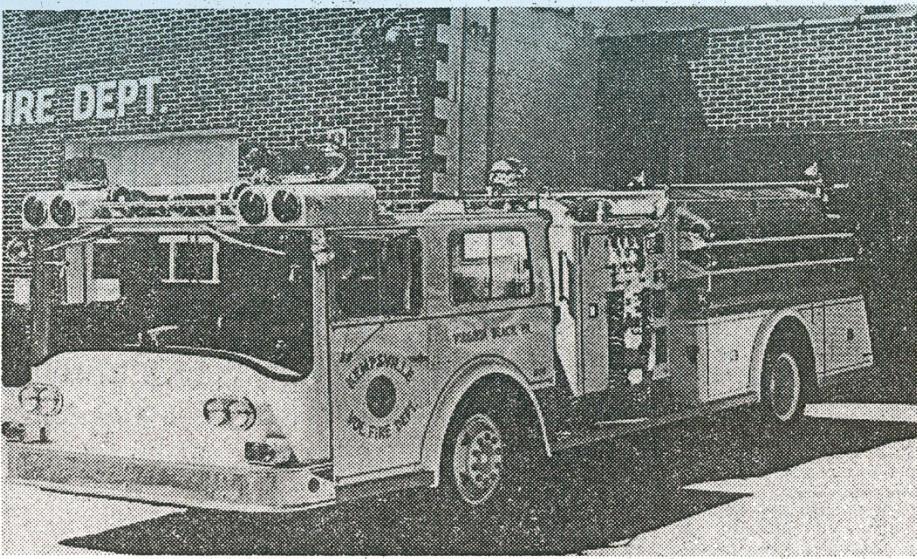
The company does have a manpower problem during the daytime hours. However, the fire study recommended placement of two paid men at the station from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The other problem is getting area residents to donate money to support the organization. **Stuart Buxbaum**, the first assistant chief, said that 2,300 families out of 7,000 in the area contributed last year.

The volunteers raised \$15,000. This year the group bought two new ambulances. The men hope to raise \$32,000 to pay off the apparatus this year.

The company mails out envelopes to each home in their

One of Two New Ambulances



Engine With Wide Angle View

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the
DOOR**

To An Exciting, High
Paying Position

with training at

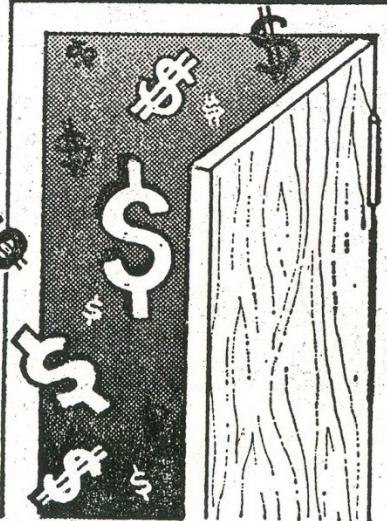
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velopes to each home in their area. There are too many homes for the men to solicit funds door to door.

Buxbaum attributes part of the lack of interest to the fact that many new people move to the area each year. A lot of them come from areas where fire, protection and ambulance service is provided by the city.

They don't realize that in the Beach these services are funded almost entirely by contributions, according to Buxbaum.

On the other hand, if the envelopes aren't sent out on time some of the long-time residents wonder where they are.

The ambulance picked up a person last week and the man asked the attendant why he hadn't received his envelope yet.

They were to be mailed out this past weekend.

Chief Swartzentruber has been a fireman for 25 years. "It's in my blood I guess," he said. He became chief in 1963 when George Held, the chief dispatcher, went to work for the recently merged city.

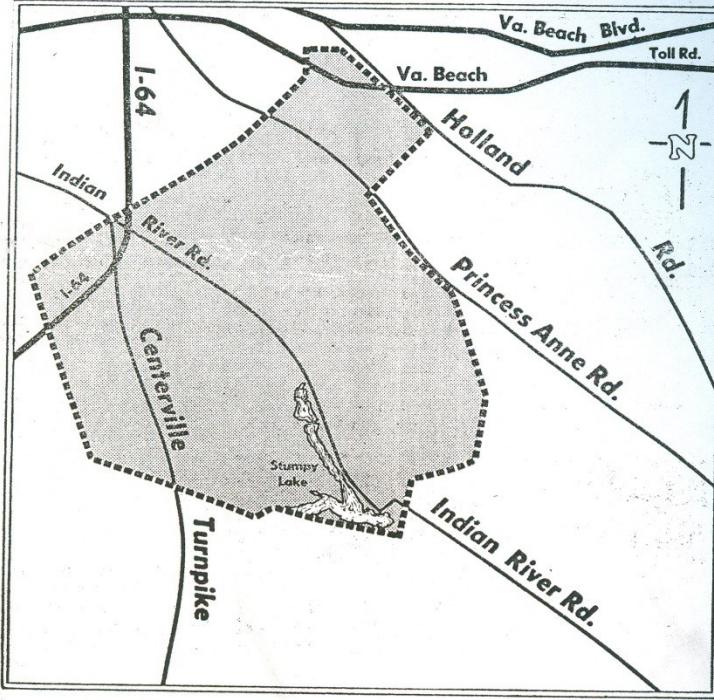
Swartzentruber started his fire fighting career at the Davis Corner station. He switched in 1950 when the Kempsville station opened.

Buxbaum has been with the company since 1963. He is a partner in Buxbaum-Waranch Realty Co. He became a fireman because he had an office fire and there weren't many firemen to fight the blaze.

Buxbaum complained about poor fire protection and was told that if he wanted more adequate protection he should join.

Continued on page 29.

**Dr. Charles B. Rollins
Chiropractic Physician**
1756 Laskin Rd.
Virginia Beach
PHONE 425-5345



Area of Primary Responsibility

Chased Engines

Continued from page 28.

Now he says that "there is a need for the people in the community to do this thing. That's why I do it. I get a lot of satisfaction out of it."

Bruce Brinkley, first captain, has been with the company for six years. He lives across the street from the station and used to chase the fire engines.

"He was the kid we always had to chase out of the station," Buxbaum said.

Brinkley has an associate degree in fire science technology. He hopes to get a B.A. in public administration.

Earl Stanton is a student at Tidewater Community College. He hopes to become a policeman. At present he lives at the

fire station. "I enjoy going on ambulance runs and fires," he said. Stanton has been in the company for six months.

Another resident of the firehouse is Joe Becker, "I happened to see the ambulance go out and I thought it was a good thing," he said. Becker is taking up pre-pharmacy curriculum at ODU.

Ed Brinkley, Bruce's father, has been with the company for 14 years. He joined because the group was short of help.

Gary Painter has been a firefighter for two years. "I've been around here since I was 12 years old. My brother and brother-in-law are in it, he said. Painter is a machinist on the USS Amphion.

The other officers at Kempt-

ville are: Robert Smith, second assistant chief; Paul Hershberger, third assistant chief; Douglas Sawyer, second captain; and Jim Chambliss, third captain.

Among the firemen are: Elmore Barnes, Al Basnight, Ray Bogert, Jack Brinkley, Daryl Carpenter, Bob Casey, Joe Christian, Linwood Culpper, Woody Edwards, Ira Fisk, Joe Hershberger, Chuck Hoag, Dan Humphries, Bill Lackey, Ray Long, Al Lawrence, Walter Lyons, George Moss, Bob Mullins, John Perry, Ralph Record, Mike Redin, Jim Richard, David Swartzentruber, Len Thorpe, Walt Wales, Graham White, Keith White, Elwood Whitehurst and Bob Ziembka.

We were growing

Kempsville Area Gets Second Fire Station

By RON KEEL
Beacon Staff Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH—A second fire station to serve the Kempsville area opened last Thursday.

The Providence fire station, lo-

cated at Providence Road and Beryl Avenue near the Avalon Hills section, is the city's 15th fire station. It was built to alleviate the work load of the Kempsville station, and it will operate as a satellite of the

Kempsville department, said Jim Kellam, public relations officer for the Virginia Beach Fire Department.

"It will improve response time and efficiency and give the citizens better service," Kellam said.

The three-bay station is being manned by three shifts of three paid firefighters. One pumper has been moved from the Kempsville station, and Kellam said the Providence station will eventually have three trucks.

Basically the Providence station will be responsible for 12.5 square miles of the Kempsville area which has over 16,000 residents.

The areas of concentration are College Park, Lakeville Estates, Barrett's Corner, Level Green, New Light, Brandon, Brigadoon, and Avalon Hills, Kellam said.

The old Kempsville station's

area of general responsibility will cover 18.5 square miles with a total population of over 18,300.

Kellam noted, however, the responsibilities of the two satellite stations will overlap.

In the future, the Kempsville station will house one pumper and most of the rescue squad equipment. One ambulance will be moved to the Providence site.

There are also plans to recruit a force of volunteer firefighters for the Providence station, but until a volunteer force is available, volunteers from the Kempsville station will be used. Stewart Buxbaum is the volunteer fire chief at the new station.

After opening for business Thursday morning, the firefighters did not have to wait long for work to develop. Kellam said an accident occurred near the station the first morning, and they also responded to a minor

fire later in the day.

The two stations are located approximately two-and-a-half miles apart, and Kellam said it

will mean "quite an improvement" in the response time, especially to such areas as College Park.

Nine men have been reassigned from other stations to Providence, but Kellam noted it does not mean a shortage of work force elsewhere.

Eleven men completed the latest probation school in February, and their services actually mean the fire department is ahead two firefighters now, he said. The next probation school will start around the first of May.

The station was built through the Capital Improvements Project and monies received through revenue sharing.

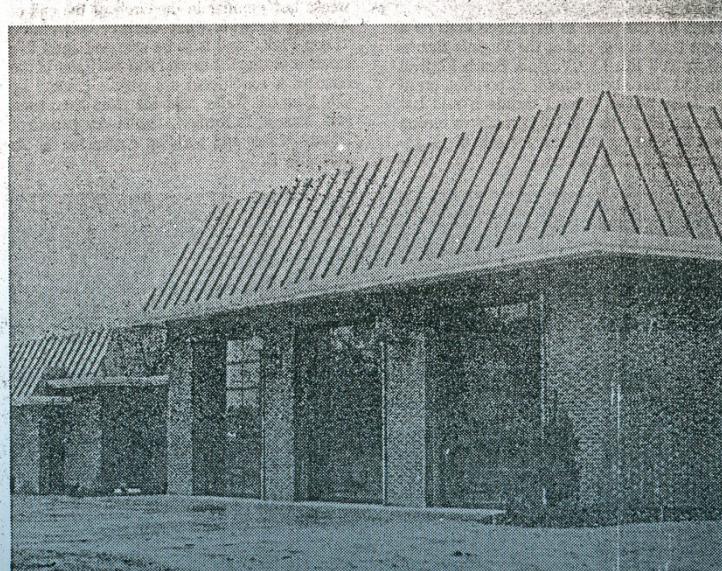
In addition to the Providence station, work is also underway

on the construction of the temporary fire station at Sandbridge. Work is expected to be completed within 30-60 days.

The Sandbridge Volunteer Fire Station is being built through a \$16,000 appropriation from city council. It is a temporary structure designed to "last three to five years." A permanent fire station is eventually planned.

A group of Sandbridge residents has already undergone extensive training, including a recent house-burning exercise, and they will be ready to man the station once it is completed. It is being built at the corner of Sandbridge and Sandpiper roads.

The group of about 25 active volunteers includes about 10 women, Kellam noted. Once the station is finished, they will work along with the men as actual volunteer firefighters.



Change of Command



Hail to the chief

The Kempsville volunteer fire department's new chief, Stuart Buzbaum, left, presents a plaque and wrist watch to the department's outgoing chief, Eldon Swatzentruber, who'll be opening a new restaurant

in South Carolina. With the department for 20 years, Chief Swatzentruber has held the top post for the past six. Behind them is the department's newest pumper.

9-24-09

FIRE HOUSE | WITCHDUCK ROAD

Old Station No. 9 building gives way for larger intersection

By Staci Dennis
Correspondent

KEMPSVILLE

A bulldozer and wrecking crew are making way for progress.

But for a handful of firefighters, progress means saying goodbye to an old station where careers were started and lives were saved.

The old Station 9 on Princess Anne Road is now a thing of the past. Several stores and businesses in the area are being demolished to make room for road construction and a larger intersection at Witchduck Road.

"That building holds a lot of memories," said Stuart Buxbaum, 74, who served with the Virginia Beach Fire Department for 22 years. "We all know things must change, and at least it is being torn down in the name of progress."

The old station, which was built in 1955, actually replaced a wooden barn structure that was the original fire house. The Station 9 crew was moved in 1981 when a newer station was built. That station is just behind

the old one.

When the fire crews moved out, Harmon Auto Glass Company occupied the building for many years.

"Back then, we didn't stay at the station all day and night like they do now," said Buxbaum, who retired as a chief. "We heard the sirens and had to stop what we were doing to get to the trucks."

One alarm siren meant there was a need for an ambulance, and three sirens were a call for a fire truck. Each time the alarms would sound, dogs would howl, Buxbaum said.

"The whole neighborhood was alerted," he said. "The dogs would howl for blocks."

The first person to the station would write the name and address of where the crew was working on a blackboard so late-comers would know where to go.

"It was a crazy system, but it worked," Buxbaum said. "Some of the volunteer firefighters included Mennonite farmers, the pastor of the local Presbyterian church and people who worked in the neighboring buildings."

Keith White, who started at Station 9 as a volunteer, says working there was like home for him.

"The area has changed a lot, but the building was always a reminder of where we came from," said White, 61, a retired captain. "It's hard to believe the new station has been there so long. They have seen a lot of change too."

Because Station 9 is one of the older stations in the city, a lot of the senior staff have either worked or volunteered there.

"The Kempsville station has seen a lot of firefighters come through its doors," said Wayne Black, captain in the Virginia Beach Fire Department. "There's a lot of tradition and talent that has come through this area of the city."

Black has been with the department for 30 years and has worked at various stations throughout his career. A majority of the time was spent at Station 9, he said.

"We grew up there," he said. "Our families were a part of it, and we made friends that have lasted a lifetime."

Staci Dennis, sdennis@cox.net



STACI DENNIS

Demolition crews get working on the building, which was built in 1955 to replace the original fire house.



Old Timers return for demolition day.





Troubled Times

VIRGINIA BEACH BEACON

Aug. 22, 1968

Published Twice Weekly With the Ledger-Star and The Virginian-Pilot

Vol. 7, No. 15

Changes May Be in Offing

Council Orders Probe Into Fire Protection

BAYSIDE — The city plans to take a close look at the needs and future of its fire department setup with the possibility of making some changes by the 1969-70 fiscal year.

A study of the entire operation will be made, City Council decided at an informal meeting Monday.

City Manager Roger M. Scott said he and his administrative assistant David Norman would have a recommendation on the study for council soon.

It is not expected that the city would, in the light of such a study, abandon its volunteer

department operation since, as one councilman put it, converting to a full force of paid firemen would cost \$1,500,000 a year.

But Scott and the council agreed that an indication of equipment, manpower and fire districts needs was needed to meet rapid city growth.

Councilman J. Curtis Payne said the city should look at the prospect of having two to four paid firemen at each department.

At present, the Virginia Beach Borough Fire Department has the only paid staff in the city. The station has been that way since the 1930s

and carried over after the merger.

Scott said a private consultant may be hired to conduct the survey, a practice of other state cities.

According to the city manager, plans are under way already for a study of equipment needs. Those plans, he said, will be accelerated and expanded.

Scott said a study would be useful in correlating equipment needs of the individual departments to over all needs of the city.

Councilman Lawrence E. Marshall said he had suggested that the city start looking

to retire some of the equipment that is outdated or costly to maintain. An equipment retirement schedule is expected to be included in the study.

Scott said the study and any subsequent changes could mean an improvement in the fire insurance rate here. Now there are a number of rates, depending on the home or building location, the availability of water and the size

(Continued on Page 15)

Troubled Times

Council Orders Probe

(Continued from Page 1)

and type of fire department serving the locality.

There is some degree of urgency in the need for the study, especially where equipment is concerned.

The council considered a request from the Plaza Fire Department for two pumper trucks. It also discussed the need for a ladder truck there since the department serves an area where there is already some high-rise building and where more building of this type is scheduled.

"They cover an area of extreme responsibility," Scott said of the Plaza Department.

"and an area that is growing faster than others."

A local survey, he said, indicated that the department has some old equipment.

The Fire Council, an organization made up of representatives of the city's 12 volunteer and one paid fire departments, had recommended that the city approve Plaza's request.

Commissioner of Revenue Ivan D. Mapp, who is president of the fire council, in the past has estimated that it would take more than 100 men to bring Virginia Beach a paid department.

Mapp has also estimated that for the city to purchase

volunteer-owned stations could cost as much as \$100,000 for one building.

The 1966-67 operating budget for the Virginia Beach Borough department alone was \$124,663. Residents of that borough pay for the service through a special tax.

This department has 16 paid men, 35 volunteers and 22 civil defense workers. The paid firemen are on duty 24 hours a day in three shifts, with five men to each crew.

The inadequacy of the present system, in addition to equipment and manpower needs, is in a geographical imbalance created by the city's rapid growth.

Eight of the 13 departments are located in areas of close proximity to Virginia Beach Boulevard, once the Main Street of the city.

There's a new Main Street now—the Virginia Beach-Norfolk Expressway, and the suburban building boom is shifting south, southwest and southeast.

At present this area is served by the fewest departments, and these are great distances apart.

To cope with this situation, the departments now overlap in some instances by sending two departments into each other's territory.

The toll road has also set up a sort of barrier for departments to the north of it.

Another difficulty is the funding of the local departments. The volunteers depend largely on an annual fund drive to provide finances for purchasing equipment.

This year, as of the first of the month, the drive was about \$50,000 short of the overall goal. And while some departments are making headway in their drives, others are falling way short of the needed funds.

The city now pays the insurance on the firemen and their equipment. Loans and grants are made for equipment, land acquisition and building programs. The departments receive aid for general operating expenses.

All of this presumably will be touched on in the study.

Troubled Times



Fireman's Dwelling Damaged

VIRGINIA BEACH — A fire early Thursday extensively damaged the trailer home of Kempsville Volunteer Fireman Jim Chambliss at 4904 Landola Drive in County View Trailer Park.

Stuart Buxbaum, assistant chief of the Kempsville Volunteer Fire Department, said Chambliss' wife and 1½-year-old son escaped from the trailer without injury. Buxbaum estimated that at least 50 per cent of the trailer was destroyed.

Chambliss, a sailor, had gone to work when the fire broke out in the furnace section of the trailer about 9:30 a.m.

Buxbaum said all of the family's clothes were damaged and that members of the department secured clothes for the baby Thursday night.

Walter Wales, a new member of the Department, took the family to his home Thursday night.

The cause of the fire had not been determined, Buxbaum said.

Buxbaum said he called for help from the Davis Corner Volunteer Fire Department to extinguish the flames.

Troubled Times

VIRGINIA BEACH BEACON

June 5, 1969

Published Twice Weekly With the Ledger-Star and The Virginian-Pilot

Vol. 7, No. 97

Fire Volunteer Ranks Grow Short As Beach Expands

By RODGER PROVO

BAYSIDE—There is a thin line in this sprawling city of 170,000 people in the ranks of the 440 part-time firemen and

rescuemen that man the 12 volunteer fire departments.

And it seems to be strained at times in a city that has doubled its population in the last six years.

The thinness of the line comes to light if you listen to the police radio and hear of the problems that sometimes arise in trying to raise a department to make a call during the day.

It's obviously impossible if there's nobody there.

Just recently, on June 2, the police answered a two-vehicle accident call with injuries at Independence Boulevard and Jeanne Street.

They called for an ambulance at 8:34 a.m. that morning.

One of the injured parties—a 15-year-old boy—was stretched out on the front lawn of a home on the northeast corner of the intersection while first aid was administered.

Meanwhile, the chief dispatcher at the Princess Anne Plaza Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department was trying to get someone at the Davis Cor-

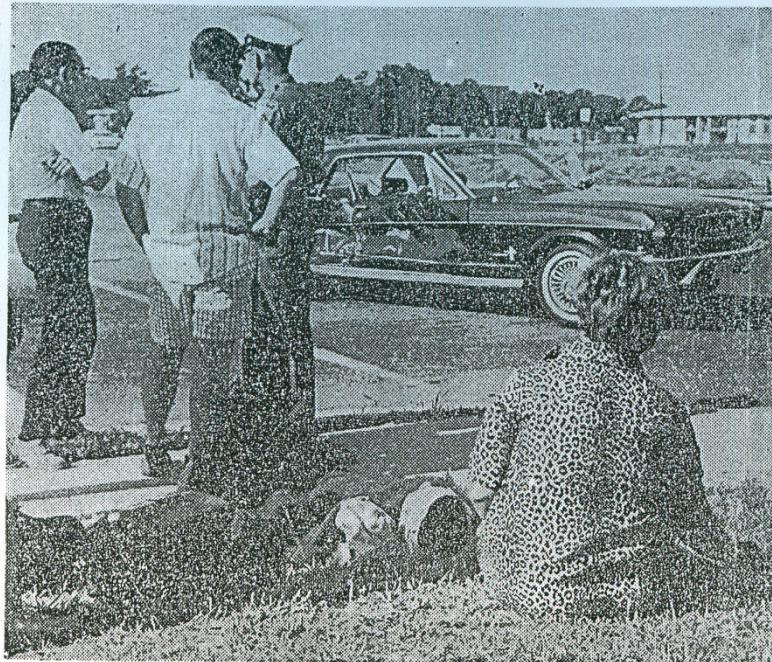


Photo by Rodger Provo

Accident Victim Waits for Assistance

It took 17 minutes for help to arrive

"The time has come, my friend, that it is going to take a personal tragedy or a loss of some consequence—like a major commercial structure—for the people to wake up."—Kempsville Assistant Chief Stuart Buxbaum.

Troubled Times

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The Beacon

Thursday, June 5, 1969

Fire Volunteers' Ranks Run Short As Population of Beach Expands

(Continued from Page 1)
hand to answer the call. It was 8:51 a.m.

The injured boy in this case was only slightly hurt during

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the mishap in which the car he was riding collided with a pickup truck.

The 16-year-old driver failed to heed a stop sign.

These weren't "moments of life ticking away" for the young boy who needed an ambulance ride to Norfolk General Hospital.

But the situation points hard at the fact the volunteers line is thin during hours when

most of their members are working at their regular jobs.

In August, 1968, City Council, during an informal meeting, decided to take a close look at the needs and future of its fire department setup with some possibility of making some changes by the 1969-70 fiscal year, that starts on July 1.

City Manager Roger M. Scott said then he and his assistant David Norman would have a recommendation on the study soon.

Indications were the study wouldn't do away with the volunteer fire departments.

But instead it would review equipment needs and the possibility of having a core of paid firemen at each station during the daytime.

Last winter, the City Planning Department was to gather basic information for the city manager's office about what would be needed for such a study.

Then this basic data was to be turned over to a professional consultant.

As it often happens, the planners were swamped last winter with various studies

and the fire department review got covered by a bank of paper.

City officials now say the review of the departments hinges on various land-use studies to be made of different sections of the city.

One such study has been done in the Great Neck Road area while another is in the works for Virginia Beach Borough.

As these studies are being done, according to Timothy Barrow, advanced planning chief for the city, reviews can be made of some departments' problems.

But he says it will be a long time before an entire study could be made of the whole city's system.

Stuart Buxbaum, Kempsville's assistant chief, says, "The time has come, my friend, that it is going to take a personal tragedy or a loss of some consequence—like a major commercial structure—for the people to wake up."

Buxbaum, as well as many other department officials in the suburban areas where the manpower is not around during the day, sees the need for change now.

He estimates that 80 per cent of his department's people are working and not in the area during the daytime.

"We were lucky to have a couple of fellows with a day off who answered that call this morning," Buxbaum said of the June 2 ambulance call.

peake Beach Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue squad, is in agreement with Buxbaum and Garrett.

"When we have fires," he said, "we're in trouble."

He feels the city has got to have paid men during the day for fires.

Quist thinks two or three paid men would do the job.

The city doesn't have to provide ambulance service. The volunteers will always do that.

But the chiefs note if they had paid help during the day all calls could be answered more promptly.

All that is up in the air, however.

Volunteers keep pushing along—dropping what they're doing at home, on the job and at play—to run to assist those in need of help.

Those in need are growing and the thin red line of protection sags in the middle, it seems, from the weight of a heavy population.

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SEASIDE

He said last week his department responded to a trailer fire in a Kempsville Borough trailer park and he was the only man to show up.

Davis Corner also responded, and they only had three men.

And to top the situation off there was a two-vehicle accident at the entrance of the park, with injuries. It also had to be serviced with the limited manpower.

Bill Garrett, Davis Corner chief, agrees that the daytime manpower situation for the volunteers is "chronic at times."

"We have times when we don't have people available," he said.

In regards to the June 2 case, the department didn't have its normal duty man available at that time of the morning.

Garrett says two men from the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the afternoon "would mean all the difference in the world."

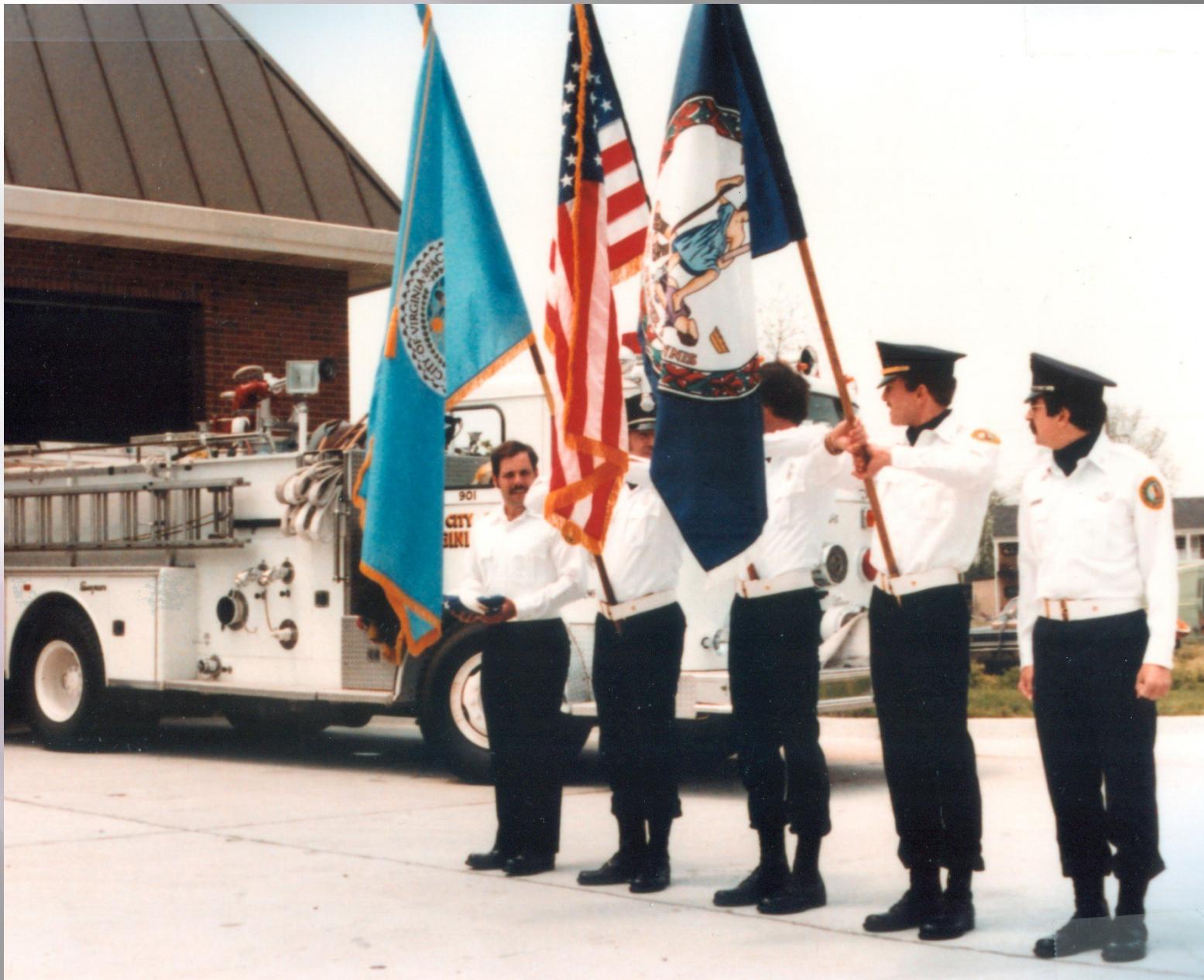
When a department is called on to fight a fire—city policy calls for two departments to answer a fire call—it is far more crucial to have personnel on hand to quickly answer the call.

"The first five minutes are critical on fires," Garrett said.

The chief said one problem departments are now faced with is that many Naval personnel are out to sea.

His department is composed of 50 per cent of military personnel. And they provide 90 per cent of the manpower for Fred Quist, chief at Chesa-

Dedication of New Station 9 (1982)



Dedication of New Station 9 (1982)



Dedication of New Station 9 (1982)



Dedication of New Station 9 (1982)



July 1983 Parade Washington, DC



Proud Trophy Winners



Chief testing new pumper



New Rescue Truck on display Washington Monument



The new Station 9 is finished Time to take a break!



KEMPSVILLE VOLUNTEERS OF THE VBFD

Ashby, Jasper Master Firefighter (Retired)

Barber, Alan Master Firefighter (Retired) **Deceased**

Beiler, Paul Master Firefighter (Retired)

Black, Keene Captain (Retired)

Black, Wayne Captain

Blount, Mike Master Firefighter (Retired)

Briggs, Donald Master Firefighter

Brinkley, Bruce Fire Engineer with the city (Retired)

Cohoon, Robin Master Firefighter (Retired)

Cooper, Vance District Chief

Coyner, Ed Master Firefighter (Resigned)

Darden, Robert Captain

Ehle Pat Captain (Retired)

Ehle, Perry Battalion Chief

Foster, Ronnie Master Firefighter (Retired)

Foster, Stanley Battalion Chief **Deceased**

Fulghum Jr, Billy Master Firefighter (Retired)

Grosse, Richard Captain

Held, George (Dispatcher) (Retired) **Deceased**

Howard, Mike Master Firefighter

Humphries, Patrick Battalion Chief

Hutcheson, David Deputy Chief

Liebold, Chuck Master Firefighter (Retired)

Liebold, Kirk Master Firefighter (Retired)

KEMPSVILLE VOLUNTEERS OF THE VBFD continue

Lilley, Elvin Captain

Lyons, John Master Firefighter

Maples, Larry Captain (Retired)

McAndrews, Ed Master Firefighter

McAndrews, Larry Master Firefighter (Retired)

McAndrews, Mike Master Firefighter

McAndrews, Pat Master Firefighter (Retired)

McAndrews, TJ Deputy Chief

McInnis, Larry Battalion Chief (Retired)

Midkiff, Mike Master Firefighter

Moss, Don Master Firefighter (Retired)

Nellis, Curt Master Firefighter (Resigned)

Newton, Gary Master Firefighter (Retired)

Newton, Kevin Master Firefighter (Retired)

Painter, Gary Battalion Chief (Retired)

Piland, Mark District Chief (Retired)

Ratté, Shannon Firefighter

Reynolds, William Battalion Chief

Shook, Stephen Captain

Smith, Ray Master Firefighter (Retired)

Smith, William Battalion Chief (Retired)

Stanton, Earl Captain (Retired)

Swartzentruber, Eldon Master Firefighter (Resigned)

Trent, Richard Captain

KEMPSVILLE VOLUNTEERS OF THE VBFD continue

Umphlett, Gary Captain

Valdez, Amy Bielenski Battalion Chief

Valentine, Steve Master Firefighter

Wales, Walter Master Firefighter (Retired) **Deceased**

White, Graham Resource Manager (Retired)

White, Keith Captain (Retired)