

**Falls Church  
Volunteer  
Fire Department**



***Annual Report - 2005***

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The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department. During the calendar year 2005, the volunteers participated and contributed in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church community. The following is a summary of the most significant activities for the year:

## **MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

### **Hours and Emergency Responses**

Overall, the FCVFD increased hours contributed to the community during 2005 by 14% over 2004. Members of the FCVFD contributed nearly 6,000 hours staffing units and supplementing the career staff during 2005. During these hours, members responded to 1,386 calls for assistance. In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in over 5,900 hours of fire and emergency medical services training. In addition to the actual emergency operations and service delivery aspects of the Department, members spent nearly 4,000 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, raise funds, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

### **Membership**

The FCVFD ended the year with 68 members on the rolls, including 15 members of the Auxiliary. Thirty-two of these individuals are operational members serving as firefighters and emergency medical technicians.

## **TRAINING**

### **Firefighter I/II**

Eleven FCVFD recruits completed the 220-hour course to become certified structural firefighters. The training included classroom and practical exercises to familiarize personnel with essential firefighting techniques. This Virginia Department of Fire Programs course was sponsored by the FCVFD and led by Chiefs Evinger and Schomburg. FCVFD members served as instructors for all aspects of the course, including 2 live fire exercises at the completion of the course.

### **Hazardous Materials Operations**

In conjunction with the Firefighter I/II course, eleven members completed a Hazardous Materials Operations course. This program teaches firefighters defensive actions to contain a hazardous material, don specialized protective clothing, and perform decontamination operations for civilians and first responders.

### **Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)**

Four members enrolled in the 141-hour Emergency Medical Technician – Basic course at the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Academy in November 2005 and should be completed in February 2006. This program provides general instruction in all areas of human body systems and initial care for a wide range of medical conditions. The course includes classroom, practical, and clinical rotations.

### **Instructor II**

One officer completed the 32-hour course with career and volunteer firefighters at the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Academy. The course required an extensive group project and homework to develop a training program that culminated in a presentation of a complete course package including lesson plans, budget, and student evaluations.

### **Instructor I**

Five personnel completed the 32-hour course with career and volunteer firefighters at the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Academy. The course required an additional 16 hours of supervised internship during which the student had to lead actual training exercises at their home station. Instructor I prepares senior firefighters for conducting certification courses by providing information on teaching techniques, presentation skills, and audience identification.

### **Officer I**

Two officers completed the 64-hour class in that included modules on the Company Officer's Role in Challenges and Opportunities, Effective Communications, Organization, Management, Managing Resources, Leadership, Personal Safety, Leading Others, Fire Prevention, Building Construction, Fire Prevention and Investigation, Planning and Readiness, and Incident Management.

### **BLS Provider**

Seven personnel completed the 8-hour course required to qualify as an Attendant-in-Charge when staffing a basic life support ambulance. This course is a requirement associated with the volunteer-staffed ambulance that operates within Arlington County and is the adopted standard of the FCVFD for its own ambulance operations. It is in addition to the emergency medical technician curriculum offered by the local colleges. Participants are also required to complete a supervised internship program to complete the process. During 2005, one FCVFD member completed the internship program to gain authorization as an Attendant-in-Charge while two additional personnel were authorized as vehicle operators for the BLS unit.

### **Emergency Medical Technician Recertification**

Two members participated in the 36-hour EMT-Basic refresher class in order to recertify as Basic Emergency Medical Technicians. One member attended two weekend sessions of training in Winchester, Virginia, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs and one attended class at the Fairfax County Fire Academy.

One member completed an EMT-Paramedic refresher course at George Washington University.

### **Pediatric Advanced Life Support**

One member attended the Pediatric Advanced Life Support course at Northern Virginia Community College. This course provides the knowledge and strategy necessary to recognize and prevent cardiopulmonary arrest in infants and children.

### **General Aviation for Structural Firefighters**

Three FCVFD Officers attended a 16-hour pilot program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs in Weyer's Cave, Virginia. The course familiarizes general firefighters with aviation terminology, airport features, aircraft types and features, strategy and tactics for various aircraft emergencies, and logistical considerations during aviation emergencies. The practical portion of the course was conducted at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport.

### **National Fire Academy (NFA) Incident Safety Officer**

One officer traveled to Winchester, Virginia to complete this 16-hour National Fire Academy course designed to familiarize students with performing the functions of a safety officer within the incident command system.

### **NFA: Strategy and Tactics for Initial Company Officers**

One officer traveled to Winchester, Virginia to complete this 16-hour National Fire Academy course designed to prepare senior firefighters for managing company operations during the structural firefighting.

### **Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings**

One officer completed this course at the Response to Emergencies and Disasters Institute in Ashburn, Virginia. The class prepares emergency responders to be adequately trained, equipped, exercised and funded, to ensure their ability to effectively respond and conduct relief and recovery operations, as part of an interagency team.

### **Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents**

One officer completed this course at the Response to Emergencies and Disasters Institute in Ashburn, Virginia. The goal of this class is to provide participants with sufficient knowledge of suicide bombings so they can become a part of their agency's overall prevention, deterrence, mitigation, and response effort to this threat.

### **DMAT Advanced Training Program**

One member completed this National Disaster Medical System course at the University of Maryland. The course consists of fifty 1 to 2 hour modules on topics such as field medical services, preventive medicine, and medical operations. It prepares the participant for a role on a Department of Homeland Security Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

### **Department of Homeland Security Online Courses**

Several members completed self-study courses related to the National Incident Management System mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5. These courses included ICS-100 Introduction to ICS for Operational First Responders, ICS-200 Basic ICS for Operational First Responders, IS700 - National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction, and Q157 - EMS Operations at Multiple Casualty Incidents.

### **Combustible Building Construction**

Two officers attended an 8 hour course sponsored by the Manassas Volunteer Fire Department that reviewed characteristics and tactics when fighting fires in combustible buildings.

### **Lancaster Fire Expo**

In May, seven members attended one of the largest fire department trade shows in the United States in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Members took the opportunity to research the latest technology in tools and fire apparatus.

### **Indoctrination and Orientation**

Throughout the year, FCVFD instructors conducted indoctrination and orientation training for recruits from Falls Church and the six other volunteer departments within Arlington County. Twelve FCVFD recruits completed their indoctrination in 2005. Most of the training occurred at the meeting facility at Station 6 using Falls Church apparatus and equipment for practical evolutions. The orientation program consists of a comprehensive 2-tiered system that trains new volunteers in fire and rescue administration and operations. Topics range from cardiopulmonary resuscitation, cultural diversity, and Fire Department Organization to personal protective equipment, managing hoselines, and placing ground ladders. Recruits must pass both written and practical exams before being permitted to participate in emergency operations.

### **County Drills**

In order to ensure proficiency and comply with government requirements for education, Countywide training is conducted on a monthly basis. FCVFD instructors organized and executed many of the drills. The drills in 2005 consisted of:

- January, February, March:

No formal drill was conducted due to the concurrent Firefighter I/II course.

- April: Ladders  
Firefighter Schomburg led a classroom and practical review of the selection, placement, and use of fire service ground ladders.
- June: MWAAs Reagan National Airport Fire Department  
The fire crews stationed at Reagan National Airport provided information and a tour of their facilities and apparatus. Members were shuttled into the secured areas of the airport utilizing a bus loaned by the Arlington County Parks & Recreation Department.
- July: SCBA Maze and Entanglement  
Assistant Chief Evinger and Deputy Chief Schloss coordinated with Alexandria Fire Department for use of their maze and entanglement facilities. Instructors timed and monitored the air consumption of each participant as they worked through confined spaces and wire entanglements.
- August: Public Relations  
Personnel interacted with the public at the Arlington County Fair under the supervision of senior members.
- September: Fireground Operations  
Officers of the FCVFD guided participants through a series of skills stations to review basic firefighting procedures including hoseline management, vehicle fires, and water supply.
- October: Fire Scenarios  
Assistant Chief Evinger coordinated a variety of typical structural and vehicle fire scenarios that required members to implement basic firefighting skills, communications, and tactics.
- November: Fire Scenarios  
Firefighter Schomburg and officers of the FCVFD continued the scenario based training from October.
- December: CPR Recertification  
Deputy Chief Schloss instructed two separate sessions of an American Heart Association CPR recertification course.

### **Company Drills**

The FCVFD conducts monthly training meetings to assist members with fire and EMS topics. The drills in 2005 consisted of:

- January: Winter Medical Emergencies  
EMS Captain Fortner reviewed typical medical emergencies encountered during cold weather months, such as hypothermia, frost bite, and carbon monoxide poisoning.

- February:  
Cancelled due to poor weather conditions.
- March: Crime Scene Safety and Preservation  
Metropolitan Police Detective Mann, a former FCVFD member, familiarized personnel with basic crime scene safety, evidence recognition, and evidence preservation.
- April: Utility Control in the Fire Service - Electricity  
Assistant Chief Evinger lectured on the hazards and tactics when responding to emergencies involving electrical equipment and power distribution systems.
- May: Utility Control in the Fire Service – Natural Gas  
Assistant Chief Evinger lectured on the hazards and tactics when responding to emergencies involving natural gas and propane appliances and distribution systems.
- June: Local Gang Activity  
Officers from the Falls Church and Virginia State Police presented information about local gangs, gang presence recognition, and potential hazards to first responders from gang members.
- August: Sports Injuries  
In preparation for high school football season, Deputy Chief Schloss reviewed basic life support procedures for traumatic injuries encountered at sporting events and the special equipment used by athletes that may hinder assessment and treatment of an injured player.
- September: Fireground Strategy and Tactics  
Deputy Chief Schloss utilized illustrated scenarios from the website of FDNY Deputy Chief Vincent Dunn to engage members in discussion about initial size-up, building features, fire spread potential, and tactical priorities.
- October: Vehicle Fires  
Lieutenant McCarry and Firefighter Davis reviewed tactics and hazards associated with fires in passenger vehicles.
- November: Winter Fire Emergencies  
Assistant Chief Evinger presented information about typical fire emergencies encountered during cold weather, such as chimney fires and carbon monoxide emergencies.

### **Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad Drills**

The AFCVRS conducts training meetings to keep members updated on developments in delivery of emergency medical services in Arlington County. The drills in 2005 consisted of:

- January: New Ambulance Familiarization  
Assistant Chief Evinger and EMS Captain Fortner oriented personnel to the operating characteristics and features of the new Wheeled Coach ambulance.
- April: Territory Familiarization  
Deputy Chief Schloss organized a “snipe hunt” that required personnel to traverse Arlington County locating addresses within the area of the operation of the basic life support unit.
- October: Marine Corps Marathon Preview  
Lieutenant Schild provided members an orientation to the organization of the event and a review of the potential emergencies crews could encounter.
- December: Pre-hospital Patient Care Reports  
EMT Byron reviewed the legal aspects of completing patient care reports thoroughly and accurately. Members critiqued sanitized report narratives and discussed how the information could be improved.

## **PUBLIC EVENTS**

### **New Year’s Eve**

Two volunteers staffed Ambulance 106 to provide EMS support for the New Year’s Eve festivities in downtown Falls Church. There were no emergencies during the event and the unit remained available throughout the night following cessation of activities in Falls Church.

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

Seventeen volunteers provided emergency medical services during the annual Falls Church Memorial Day festivities. Members staffed two utility vehicles, two ambulances, a pumper, and an EMS Bike Team throughout the day and responded to 6 medical emergencies resulting in two patient transports. Volunteer units participated in the parade and remained at the festival until the crowd subsided.

### **Cub Scout Soapbox Derby**

Three FCVFD volunteers provided emergency medical services during the festivities on South Oak Street in Falls Church.

### **Clarendon Cup Bicycle Race**

Three FCVFD volunteers staffed Ambulance 102 to provide EMS support for the annual bicycle race in the Clarendon neighborhood of Arlington. The crew treated approximately ten injured bicyclists throughout the event, however none required transportation to a hospital.

### **Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Firefighter's Parade**

Seven members represented the FCVFD with Old Tom, the reserve engine, and ambulance in the annual Apple Blossom Festival Firefighter's Parade in Winchester, Virginia. This parade is one of the oldest and largest firefighter parades in the world.

### **EMS Week**

In conjunction with National Emergency Medical Services Week in May, seven members provided free blood pressure screenings throughout the day to approximately 50 patrons of the Giant Food Store in the Virginia Square area of Arlington.

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

Seven volunteer personnel staffed Reserve Engine, Utility, and Ambulance 106 for the annual City of Falls Church Independence Day celebration at George Mason High School. Units remained at the school until released by the fireworks contractor following the display. Near the end of the display, units responded to assist a citizen with a medical emergency.

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

In addition to the City of Falls Church activities, nine FCVFD emergency medical technicians, along with one member of the Ballston VFD, assisted the ACFD with emergency medical services along the George Washington Parkway. These personnel staffed one basic life support ambulance and three bicycle EMS teams.

### **ACPD Sobriety Checkpoint**

In September, the Arlington County Police requested assistance from the FCVFD to provide lighting in support of a sobriety checkpoint. The FCVFD Utility assisted the Cherrydale VFD Light and Air unit for seven hours with four members participating.

### **Vienna Halloween Parade**

Ten members represented the FCVFD with Old Tom, the reserve engine, and two ambulances in the annual Town of Vienna Halloween Parade. Sparky the Fire Dog also made a special appearance and delighted the crowd by shaking a few hands along the route.

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

The FCVFD was requested to provide emergency medical services by Bishop O'Connell and Yorktown High School at their home football games. Members staffed the Ambulance during twelve games in 2005.

### **Marine Corps Marathon**

Ten FCVFD members staffed two basic life support ambulances and three EMS bicycle teams in support of the Marine Corps Marathon. The ambulances remained at the event for 13 hours while the bicycle teams were released after 11 hours. Volunteer teams treated 12 patients and contributed an inner tube to keep another bicycle team on the road. Two patients were transported to the hospital by volunteer ambulances during the event.

### **Blocktoberfest**

Three FCVFD volunteers staffed a basic life support ambulance to provide EMS support for the annual Oktoberfest-like street celebration in the Ballston area of Arlington County.

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

One FCVFD member along with two personnel from the Ballston VFD staffed a basic life support ambulance during this annual remembrance event in Shirlington. In addition to staffing an ambulance, a team of six FCVFD personnel were among the over 2,000 runners who participated in the race. FCVFD Firefighter Sarah Greear placed 5<sup>th</sup> among female firefighter participants and the FCVFD as a team place 8<sup>th</sup> among 11 fire department teams.

### **Freedom Walk**

Two FCVFD members along with a member of the Ballston VFD staffed a basic life support ambulance at the Pentagon during this 2-mile walk to commemorate the events of September 11, 2001. Several thousand participants completed the walk from the Pentagon to the National Mall.

### **United States Army Ten-Miler**

Three FCVFD members staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of the Army Ten-Miler, an annual race sponsored by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. In 2005, over 20,000 runners participated in the event. During the event, the ambulance transported 4 runners to the medical tent and one to a local hospital.

### **Verizon FiOs Event**

Two FCVFD personnel staffed a basic life support ambulance in support of this event at the State Theatre. The festival celebrated the arrival of Verizon fiber optic internet service to the City of Falls Church with live entertainment, food and game booths, and contests.

## **Old Tom Activities**

Throughout 2005, the 1918 Model T Chemical Fire Engine known as “Old Tom” represented the FCVFD at public events. Through the generosity of a private citizen, the unit continues to be housed in a garage in the City of Falls Church. Public events and awards included:

- Apple Blossom Festival Firefighter’s Parade, Winchester, Virginia, April 29
- Memorial Day Parade, City of Falls Church, Virginia Church, May 30
- Independence Day Parade, City of Fairfax, Virginia, July 4 –*Honorable Mention*
- Fire Prevention Week Open House, October 15
- Town of Vienna Halloween Parade, Vienna, VA, October 26

## **MAJOR INCIDENTS – EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

### **Hurricane Cindy**

Seven members staffed the FCVFD Utility for approximately 17 hours in anticipation of high call volumes during the storm. An additional 6 volunteers were placed in an on-call status awaiting assignments if additional resources were required. In preparation for service, members assembled chainsaws and borrowed a large capacity trash pump from J.D. Long Masonry.

### **Hurricane Katrina**

While never requested to assist with fire department response to this national disaster, two FCVFD members did participate in relief efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana. One member was dispatched with a Virginia Department of Forestry team to Biloxi, Mississippi for two weeks. The second member was placed on active duty with the DC National Guard initially and eventually moved through his job to the FEMA Emergency Operations Center to assist with coordination of response to oil spills and hazardous materials releases. He was working in that capacity for approximately 3 weeks.

### **Hurricane Rita**

One FCVFD member was deployed for two weeks with the U.S. Surgeon General's Emergency Response Team in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He commanded a team of public health service personnel, civilian and Navy physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, Firefighter/Paramedics, and a mental health worker. Their operations included providing medical care to people at numerous churches, civic centers, trailer parks, and schools serving as shelters throughout Louisiana. They also set up a primary care clinic in the parking lot of Methodist Hospital in New Orleans as most of the healthcare facilities were closed following the storm.

## **Structure Fires**

Throughout 2005, FCVFD firefighters responded with the career staff to numerous working fire incidents. During these incidents, members performed a variety of functions with the career crews, including placing ladders, ventilating structures, hoseline management, breathing air replenishment, investigation support, and overhauling fire areas. FCVFD members responded to incidents that included:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm fire – 418 South Maple Avenue, City of Falls Church, 6 members
- 3<sup>rd</sup> alarm fire – 2416 Shirlington Road, Arlington, 5 members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 6539 North 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington, 6 members
- 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fire – 7330 Lee Highway, Fairfax, 3 members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 400 South West Street, City of Falls Church, 4 members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 2914 North Sycamore Street, Arlington, 7 members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 6908 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, 9 Members
- 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm fire – 3300 North 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Arlington, 7 members

## **Arlington – Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad**

The Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad is an organization formed as a subsidiary to the Arlington County Firemen's Association. The Volunteer Rescue Squad owns and maintains a basic life support ambulance that is staffed on weekends by fire department volunteers from throughout Arlington County. In addition to the normal weekend shifts, the ambulance was placed in service on a callback basis during a snow storm in January, Inauguration Day, and during a period of high call volume following a school bus crash in April. During 2005, Falls Church volunteers performed nearly 2,000 hours of service on the Arlington-Falls Church Volunteer Rescue Squad unit. During those hours, the ambulance responded to over 200 calls for emergency assistance. This unit supplements the career advanced life support ambulances by handling less serious emergencies, thus freeing the advanced life support units to respond to more life threatening situations. In addition to staffing the unit, the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief, and Deputy Chiefs of the Volunteer Rescue Squad are FCVFD members. The new Wheeled Coach ambulance, purchased in late 2004, was dedicated to the memory of a charter member, Jay Gremillion, in a ceremony at Fire Station 6 in April of 2005. The unit was purchased with funding that included a donation from the Gremillion family. The ambulance is also stored in the reserve apparatus bays at Fire Station 6 when it is not staffed.

## **Light and Air 103**

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department owns and maintains a unit to provide lighting and air cylinder replenishment at the scene of major incidents. During an emergency, staffing is obtained by use of pagers to call in volunteer members, including firefighters from the FCVFD. FCVFD members responded to 31 significant incidents with Light and Air 103 spending over 320 manhours on emergency scenes in 2005. These incidents ranged from greater alarm fires to water leaks to police events. FCVFD members also contributed many hours to staff the unit during training exercises and public events.

## **Canteen 106**

The Auxiliary to the FCVFD maintains a stepvan equipped to operate as a mobile kitchen during extended incidents. The unit is capable of preparing hot or cold food and drinks. It is staffed exclusively by volunteers alerted by pager during large incidents. The Auxiliary works in conjunction with the Arlington Chapter of the Red Cross to share staffing and supplies during responses. During 2005, the unit responded to 11 incidents and also assisted during two training events for a total of 80 manhours.

## **FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION**

### **Scout Troop Education**

Throughout the year, the FCVFD provided fire prevention education to Cub Scouts from Falls Church, Fairfax, and Arlington. Over 50 scouts, their parents, and siblings attended such sessions at Fire Station 6. Volunteer firefighters coordinated activities that included demonstrations of such common household exposures as flammable liquids, cooking, and electrical hazards. The scouts were introduced to firefighter protective clothing, hose lines, home fire escape programs, fire extinguishers, emergency reporting procedures, and fire apparatus.

### **Fire Prevention Week and Open House – October 8-15**

Falls Church volunteer firefighters visited Saint James, Mount Daniel, and Thomas Jefferson Schools in the City of Falls Church to teach approximately 600 children in grades K through 4 about fire safety. In addition to FCVFD personnel, ACFD Fire Prevention Division Chief Saulnier assisted with the school visit to Saint James.

The FCVFD hosted its annual open house on October 15 to culminate fire prevention week activities. Citizens were invited to visit the fire station and obtain fire safety tips, learn about the equipment, and watch demonstrations of fire and rescue techniques. Volunteers conducted demonstrations that included fire extinguisher use, structure fire attack, vehicle rescue, aerial ladder operations, and emergency medical procedures. Displays of fire and EMS equipment were available for viewing. EMTs conducted blood pressure screenings and demonstrated the use of an automatic external defibrillator.

Also participating in the Open House were officers from the Falls Church Sheriff's Office assisting parents with child fingerprinting. The Sheriff's Office also provided the use of their traffic control trailer to assist in maintaining an orderly parking lot and traffic flow during the event.

### **First Aid and CPR Classes**

Deputy Chief Schloss instructed several cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses through Northern Virginia Community College, as well as courses for new FCVFD recruits attending Indoctrination.

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

Annually the reserve engine is decorated and a chair prepared for Santa Claus to travel in atop the hosebed. Santa's travels encompassed the entire City of Falls Church and other neighborhoods on the fringes of the City as time permitted. During the trips, FCVFD members handed out candy canes and fire safety literature to citizens. Dog biscuits were provided for our four-legged friends who frequently come out to visit with Santa too. This year, the FCVFD purchased and distributed nearly 4,500 candy canes and 150 dog biscuits. Twenty-six FCVFD members donated approximately 275 hours of service during the operation.

### **FCVFD Meeting Hall**

Through a lease agreement with the City of Falls Church, the FCVFD manages a meeting facility on the second floor of the fire station. In addition to being a classroom and meeting room for the FCVFD, public safety agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens reserve the room throughout the year. During 2005, the FCVFD hosted 52 birthday parties attended by approximately 600 children. There were also 2 scouting events involving approximately 50 children. The children's events included fire safety presentations and tours of the station facility. The Arlington County Fire Department scheduled the room for 28 events and the Falls Church Police for 10 events. The Guiding Eyes for the Blind, an organization dedicated to training seeing-eye dogs, used the hall 6 times, and also used the grounds of the fire station several times throughout the year.

### **Taste of Falls Church**

Two FCVFD members staffed the reserve engine during this event at the State Theatre celebrating the variety of foods available in the Falls Church area. Members provided information to the public regarding fire department operations and fire prevention tips.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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

FCVFD member Justin Kirby was selected as one of Arlington County's Outstanding Volunteers for 2004. The ceremony was held at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association building in Ballston. In addition to Justin, several volunteers from the Department of Human Services, Police Auxiliary, Sheriff's Office, and Department of Parks and Recreation were recognized. County Board members presented the awards with approximately 200 people on hand. Eighteen FCVFD members contributing over 250 hours of volunteer service to Arlington County also received certificates recognizing their participation.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **5-year Plan**

During the summer of 2005, a committee of seven FCVFD members was commissioned and spent over 140 hours to produce a strategic plan for the Department for the next five years. The committee defined the mission of the organization, and performed an exhaustive assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the organization. Broad goals were generated to capitalize on the strengths and opportunities while addressing the weaknesses and threats. These broad goals were used to set specific and comprehensive objectives to guide the Department for the next five years. The Board of Trustees formally accepted the plan on January 9, 2006.

### **Property Holdings Transfer**

The transfer of a parcel of land in the 1000 block of West Broad Street to the City of Falls Church was completed in May of 2005. This is the result of 10 years of work and part of the agreement negotiated during construction of the new fire station.