

STEPHENS CITY FIRE AND RESCUE

“VOLUNTEERS PROUD TO SERVE”

The Official Newsletter of the Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company Inc.

Fall 2017 Edition

A NEW AMBULANCE IS IN SERVICE

In the Spring we welcomed Engine 11 to our station, although only being in-service for six months, it has proven itself on numerous emergency calls.



Not to be overshadowed by a new engine, we welcome another new vehicle to our fleet. Medic 11-3 has arrived and will be serving the community by the time you read this. This unit is now one of two 4x4 all-weather advanced life support units ready to respond when the calls come. This unit contains the newest features required by the Office of EMS; they include an enhanced patient safety system used during transport, an upgraded cot loading system for patient and provider safety and a climate controlled medical supply cabinet to insure the quality of over two dozen medications carried for pre-hospital care.

Donations from the community and a grant from the Virginia Department of Health's Virginia Rescue Squad Assistance fund made this \$211,000.00 purchase possible.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THIS PROJECT!**

The 2017 FALL FUND DRIVE Is underway!

It is important to know where your donations go. As the article in the last column explained about the new ambulance, the support needed to operate the equipment, maintain the station, and pay the day to day operating expenses are always challenging. The cost of fuel and insurance alone can be burdensome for a volunteer organization. A hook and ax are a fireman's companion, but the tools needed to provide a safe and effective rescue have changed greatly over the years. Modern construction of homes and new car designs require up-to-date training and the purchase of specialized equipment. Advancements in pre-hospital care for patients also come at a cost. As EMS providers we want the best for you and your family. We do this by volunteering our time to keep expenses down. However, some costs are unavoidable and even necessary to maintain the level of care required by regulations and most importantly deserved by you and the community. We stretch every dollar donated to its maximum, through grants, discounts from local business and careful spending. Every dollar we receive is returned to the community through the fire and rescue services we provide.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!

In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy. That's why this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan.

Here's this year's key campaign messages:

- Draw a map of your home sharing it with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit to your safe meeting place.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year.
- Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you are outside, stay outside. Never go back into a burning building!



@StephensCityFireRescue

www.stephenscityfire.com

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FIRE SAFETY REMINDER

Every year we remind everyone to test your smoke detectors and replace the batteries as needed. This is an important step in your overall winter safety. You are at greater risk in the winter season when cooking holiday meals, displaying decorations and combating the cold with the use of potentially unsafe heat sources. You can help prevent winter related fires in your home by being diligent when it comes to the safety of your family, friends and neighbors. Never overload outlets or power strips, follow all instructions and warnings on decorations and extension cords. You may have an unsafe heat source and not know it; have furnaces and flues inspected by qualified personnel. Keep young children away from space heaters and only operate them as permitted by the manufacturer's instructions. We all know the rights and wrongs when it comes to candle and warmer safety. Please check and double check that candles are out and warmers off before leaving home or going to bed. Never leave them unattended. The threat of winter fires is real; 905 people die in winter home fires yearly. \$2,091,000,000 in property loss occurs from winter home fires. 67 percent of winter fires occur in one- and two-family homes. Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires. 5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires. Only with your help will statistics like these go down!

Source: National Fire Incident Reporting System 2009-2014

The Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company, Inc. is a non-profit organization under IRS code.

Your donation can be tax deductible.

SHATTER THE MYTHS®

An ever-growing problem in our community is substance abuse. Often, we want to help a loved one or friend but don't know where to start.

You can go online at www.drugabuse.gov/ to find resources for all ages and a starting point for intervention. Just as important as stopping addiction is preventing it. You can find interactive educational material for all ages here too. Parents, stop it before its starts.

Don't let your only call for help be 911!

National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week® is coming January 22-28, 2018. This is a national health observance linking teens to science based facts to SHATTER THE MYTHS® about drugs!

FIRST DUE?

The Stephens City Fire and Rescue Company is located in the town of Stephens City, but the service area or "First Due" extends to protect 50 square miles of Frederick County and almost a quarter of the County's population. It is a bit confusing when your mailing address may be Winchester, White Post or Front Royal and not Stephens City. Your first due fire company is based on the response time from the closest station not your zip code. Why wouldn't you want that for your safety and protection? All the area fire and rescue companies provide support to one another when needed but protecting you, your family and property is why we are here. If you are receiving the newsletter, you live in the Stephens City first due area. We do not blanket mail all zip codes or send out a saturation fundraising form from a third-party vendor. This is a newsletter from us to you, your family and business sharing what you volunteer fire and rescue company is doing in our community.

OUR ANCILLARY BUILDING IS BEING COMPLETED!



The anticipated completion of the ancillary building is in sight. Now that it is under roof, the floor and apron will be poured this month. This project adds an additional 4250 sq. ft. of storage to the facility and will be used to store a Technical Rescue Squad, Fire Engine, three rescue boats, a utility truck, a support trailer, grounds maintenance equipment and other support items for emergency services. The goal is to have the building fully operational by winter.



SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

We are always looking for new members; applicants can start as young as 16 years old. If you don't think that actual firefighting or EMS is for you, there are many other ways to volunteer and help out. For information you may call us at 540-869-4576 or visit us on the web at:

www.stephenscityfire.com

Email us at:

membership@stephenscityfire.com