



# Hyattsville VOLUNTEERS

*2017 Community Newsletter of the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department*



**Dear Hyattsville & University Park Community Members,**

For nearly 130 years, the Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) has provided round-the-clock fire, rescue and emergency medical service to our community. The last few years have been among our busiest ever — with nearly 6,000 unit responses in 2016. The vast majority of these calls were handled 100% by the dedicated, passionate volunteers of the HVFD.

We provide all-volunteer emergency response staffing every day supported by county paid firefighter/EMTs during weekday business hours only. The dedicated volunteers of your Hyattsville VFD are at your doorstep when you need us most.

Every month, HVFD volunteers give thousands of hours responding to calls, training, coordinating events, providing administrative support and beyond. Our volunteer base continues to grow and is among the largest and strongest in the region. Over the last two years, the HVFD has enjoyed its most successful recruitment period ever — bringing in over 60 new volunteers. These members continue to work their way up the ranks of the department, which includes hundreds of hours of training in the first few years for those new to the Fire/EMS service.

Each year, we ask our community for much-needed financial help to continue to provide best-in-class service to you. Your donations go directly to support our life-saving mission, and are critical to support our ability to serve the community. Donations from our fundraising campaigns go directly to training, equipment, uniforms, volunteer recruitment and retention programs and so much more.

We are fortunate to receive grants from the City of Hyattsville and Town of University Park, but we rely on community donations, local and federal grants, and annual fund drives like this yearly mailer and our Family Photo Drive to support our department.

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the HVFD — who give their all, day-in and day-out, to be there when you need help the most — we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

**Thomas Falcone** – *President*  
**T. David Hang** – *Fire Chief*



## INSIDE

- + Firehouse Construction
- + Ladder Truck Rehab
- + Growing Advanced Life Support Capabilities
- + Santa is Coming to Hyattsville!

## CONNECT

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# News, Updates & Events

## HVFD Moving Into Temporary Quarters Soon in Advance of New Firehouse Construction

Construction on our temporary quarters wrapped up this Summer and we expect installation of our temporary "bays" (where the fire trucks park) to be completed shortly, the last big step before we relocate for two years while our current firehouse is replaced by our incredible new facility.

The new building will house a shared state-of-the-art training and meeting space which the HVFD, county and Red Cross will utilize — it will also serve as a hub for any area disaster operations when needed. The combined new facility is nearly 25,000 square feet. The main HVFD levels include four large apparatus bays for our growing needs (especially to house more EMS units), expanded male and female live-in quarters for our

growing membership, study room (for our college students), fitness center, more office and administrative space, larger daily living space and kitchen. The HVFD has long outgrown its current firehouse, which was originally built as a "sub station" to the old main firehouse on Farragut Street.

The new facility was designed to have a residential look and is expected to serve the community for 50+ years. Funding for the facility is from Prince George's County with additional funding for the interior of both the temporary and permanent quarters coming from the HVFD directly.

Stay tuned at [HVFD.com](http://HVFD.com) and our social media channels for new updates as the phases of construction progress.



## Ladder Truck Completes Rehab, Upgrade Project

Earlier this year we welcomed back our 2006 ladder truck after an extensive rehab project aimed at extending the lifespan of the vehicle to up to 25 years. The truck company is among the many vital services we provide — with a 100' ladder to reach high rise buildings and other structures, along with many other duties on the fire/rescue scene. The work was performed at the Pierce Manufacturing plant in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The HVFD would like to thank the City of Hyattsville for supporting this \$350,000 initiative by providing financing for the project.

Our ladder truck is the "first due" special service company to many communities in Chillum, Riverdale, Lewisdale, College Park, Mount Rainier and Brentwood. Your donations help our ability to pay for projects like this to keep all facets of the department — not the least of which is our response fleet — in top condition.





## HVFD Continuing to Grow Advanced Life Support Capabilities

Three years ago, the HVFD embarked on a significant effort to upgrade our EMS ranks and capabilities. This included the purchase of two new ambulances to replace our aging fleet, expanded recruitment efforts for EMS members and growing our capabilities to include Advanced Life Support (*Paramedics*) in addition to Basic Life Support.

The HVFD currently has two volunteer Firefighter/Paramedics who are fully credentialed by the County Medical Director to deliver advanced life support medical care to citizens and visitors of the Prince George's County. This advanced life support care includes reading EKGs, placing IVs, administering many different lifesaving medications, and performing emergent invasive medical procedures.

This Fall, three more HVFD paramedics have started the rigorous Prince George's County Paramedic Intern program to also become fully credentialed paramedics. After having already spent over a year obtaining initial paramedic training, these volunteer paramedics will complete the same Paramedic Intern program as the career paramedics of PGFD and are held to the same standards. This significant effort of time and energy will benefit the citizens of the Hyattsville area by greatly increasing HVFD's ability to provide advanced life support medical care.



## Did You Know...

### In the last 12 months ....

- **130 VOLUNTEERS** have provided **over 70,000 hours** of fire, rescue, EMS, support and administrative staffing — a savings to taxpayers of **over \$3.5M** in personnel costs alone.
- HVFD Volunteers completed **6,000+ hours** of formal and in-house training.
- The HVFD welcomed **35+ new members** — more than half of them with prior fire/EMS training and/or experience.
- The HVFD is the **longest-serving continuously operating** volunteer fire/EMS department in Prince George's County.
- HVFD units were dispatched to **over 5,000 incidents** with **5,921 unit responses** — the third most ever.

## Mark Your Calendar

### Santa is Coming to Hyattsville!

Santa is headed back to Hyattsville this year with two nights touring the area with our fire trucks! Santa and Mrs. Claus will have some firefighting elves with them giving out candy. New this year — each night during our tour, we'll stop at several designated locations for great photo opportunities!

#### Meet Santa at the Firehouse

- Sunday, December 17, Noon-3pm

#### Dates for This Year's Santa Run

- Saturday, December 16, 4-9pm, for University Park, America Blvd, Toledo/Highview, University Hills & West Hyattsville/Kirkwood
- Sunday, December 17, 4-8pm, for the City of Hyattsville b/w Queens Chapel Road, Route 1, East West Highway and Farragut/Hamilton



Please visit [www.hvfd.com/santa-run](http://www.hvfd.com/santa-run) closer to the date for specific routes, times and updates.

# Your Donations Make a Difference



*The HVFD relies on donations from our community and various year-round fundraising programs to support every aspect of our Department. Initiatives include volunteer recruitment & retention programs; fire, rescue & EMS training; emergency vehicle purchases; fire prevention activities; community outreach programs, equipment and supplies — and more.*

## Donate Online Safely & Easily with One-Time or Recurring Contributions

The HVFD is offering a safe and convenient way to support our department via online giving. You can make a one-time donation or recurring donation. This is a convenient way to donate smaller amounts over the course of the year.

### » Donating is simple. Visit [give.hvfd.com](https://give.hvfd.com).

*The process takes just a few minutes! You will be directed to our secure platform, which will automatically provide a receipt for your records.*

If you are interested in making a larger donation, adding the HVFD to a trust, endowment or will, please contact [giving@hvfd.com](mailto:giving@hvfd.com) or call Fund Drive Administrator at 301-887-5177.

The Hyattsville Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible. Consult your tax advisor to learn how this applies to you.

## We Need You

Whether you're looking to be on the front lines responding to fires, rescues and medical emergencies — or supporting the critical mission of the HVFD with our administrative and support services team, we have volunteer opportunities for you.

### Why Join:

- Free Training
- State Tax Incentives & Retirement Program
- Your New Second Family
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Insurance & Incentive Programs
- Flexible Memberships — We Work with YOUR Schedule
- Plus, support opportunities in administrative, financial, event planning, education and more

### Ready to Get Started?

Visit [www.hvfd.com/join](https://www.hvfd.com/join) today, complete our short form and we'll let you know about upcoming recruitment events!

## Thanking You with Giving Levels

**\$25 to \$99**

HVFD Supporter Car Window Sticker

**\$100 to \$249**

Recognition on HVFD.com Website Donor Roll

**\$250 to \$499**

The above, plus:

- + HVFD Challenge Coin
- + Thank You Inclusion in an Issue of Hyattsville Life & Times

**\$500 or More**

The above, plus:

- + Name on Giving Plaque inside HVFD Fire Station

