



Greg Crider / the Bull Run Observer

From left, NVFD president Terri Dove, Brentsville Supervisor Wally Covington and Chief Hickerson at ribbon cutting ceremony.

New station located closer to Linton Hall residents

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who was recently assigned to the station. "That's the whole reason for the station," he said.

Geisler noted that the two stations would share staff on a rotating basis. In addition, the new station provides a back up for the old one, said Geisler.

"It puts a second station closer to the residents out here," he said, noting that when more than one fire engine is called for, the station needs that extra support. "It's more than one company that responds" to a fire, he explained. Previously, he said, the company had to wait for a truck to arrive from Gainesville or even farther away.

One thing that hasn't changed among the old and new Nokesville stations is the desire of firefighters and rescue workers to help the community, Frizzle said. What started as a small group of farmers with a spark of community spirit is still going, he said.

"There's something in them that makes them want to help people. We try to foster that today."

NVFD's Chief Brian Hickerson has been a volunteer 32+ years

By LILIANE VAUGHT
Observer staff

Brian Hickerson, chief of the Nokesville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, has been a volunteer firefighter for more than 32 years.

With the opening of the new facility in Bristow, Station 25, he now oversees Stations 5 and 25. Station 5 is in the village of Nokesville itself.

The most important part of his volunteer career, which numbers countless fires and rescue operations, has been the satisfaction he can see in his colleagues when they have helped someone.

Hickerson is very excited about the new fire station. "It has been built to be maintenance-free," he explained. "It will not have to be remodeled after five years." Special importance was given to access from the bunkrooms to the bays, which are filled with state-of-the-art equipment.

Currently, the station has more than 140 volunteers, but Hickerson said he has received about 20 applications from prospective members in the past two weeks. He feels some of the interest is due to the events of 9/11 and to President George W. Bush's appeal to citizens

to get involved in their communities. The station is ready to meet the needs of the residents it serves. "Our people will give the community the service they need," stated Hickerson.

Call for volunteers: open house slated

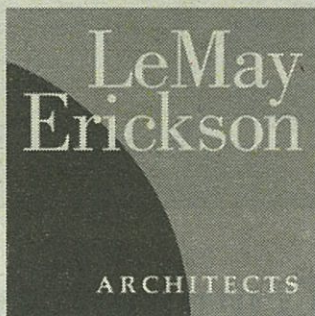
Nokesville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is holding an open house on Thursday, Feb. 17 at the new station in Bristow for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer. The event will begin at 7 p.m. at Station 25 on Linton Hall Road.

Volunteers will receive free safety gear and training as firefighters and/or EMTs. No experience is required. For those not interested in responding to emergencies, there are auxiliary and business membership programs.

The minimum age is 16; and both men and women are needed. There are benefits to becoming a volunteer, including personal property tax and annuity benefits, as well as fire and rescue license plates.

For more information, call the station information line at 703-594-2134, or Station 5 at 703-594-2220 or Station 25 at 703-367-9700. Visit www.nvfdns.org or email info@nvfdns.org for information.

Congratulations to the Nokesville Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad!



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Emergency vehicles in front of the new Nokesville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department station 25.

Greg Crider / the Bull Run Observer

NVFD fire and rescue equipment of top-notch quality, Chief Hickerson says

By E. BRUCE DAVIS
Observer staff

When asked if the equipment for his new Nokesville Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Station 25 was top-notch, Chief Brian Hickerson immediately responded with an emphatic, "Yes sir!"

Much of the shining equipment was displayed in front of the station during the facility's dedication on Jan. 15. Of the seven fire and rescue vehicles, all but one 1992 Class A Pumper is brand-spanking new.

Recognizing that the life of his rolling stock is 12 to 15 years, Hickerson decided, in an effort to best serve the community, not to have both pumpers of the same age, avoiding a possible budgetary problem when each would need replacing.

In addition to the two Class A Pumpers, which many commonly refer to as fire trucks, the NVFD's initial fire equipment includes a 95-foot E-aerial tower truck, which is a ladder truck with bucket on the top, and a pickup truck that is used as a utility truck that can perform in many capacities, such as deliver materials to an emergency site or plow snow and distribute sand on snow and icy areas.

A four-wheel drive brush truck for off-road work should be in the



Station 25 staff show off the 95-foot E-aerial tower truck.

E. Bruce Davis / the Bull Run Observer

lineup shortly, Hickerson said.

The rescue side of the station has two Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances and one Advanced Life Support (ALS) unit. The ALS unit is a Prince William County medic unit, staffed around the clock by a career medical team.

While the two BLS ambulances provide an immediate high level of emergency medical assistance at the

scene of an emergency and during the ride the hospital, the ALS unit is even more sophisticated, allowing medics to monitor heart activity.

The best equipment available requires qualified and trained people to assure it fulfills its mission. Presently, the NVFD has 148 volunteers, but Hickerson's goal is to reach 300 as soon as possible. "Our people are highly motivated, very well trained

and very professional in the way they provide service to our community," Hickerson said.

NVFD has two career people and two career medics on duty 24 hours a day, with 12 to 13 volunteers on duty from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. every day and all weekends and holidays. Not every volunteer is qualified to handle the station's equipment.

The 46-year-old chief, who

lives in Nokesville and has been a chief of the fire department since 1984, realizes training his people is as important as the functioning of the equipment. Firefighters must complete 400 hours of training before driving a pumper and 160 hours to become an aerial operator with a ladder truck.

"We have 25 qualified now, and we have a second class starting in March," said Hickerson.

Recognizing the rapid growth in the area along the Linton Hall corridor, Hickerson is always looking forward to be certain that the public station covers is well protected.

"We started our recruiting drive three years ago," he said. "And we have two or three sessions a year. Thirty-five to 40 people turn out, and we keep 25 to 30 of the applicants."

The presence of a superbly outfitted Station 25 now reduces some of the load that had been the responsibility of Nokesville's long-standing Station 5, which also is able to respond quickly with its excellent gear and personnel.

At the Jan. 15 opening of Station 25, Wally Covington, the Brentsville representative on the Prince William County Board of Supervisors, echoed what Hickerson said. Covington made it clear the new station is well equipped to handle the future rapid growth of the area.

The Nokesville Business Association
expresses its appreciation to the
Nokesville Volunteer Fire Department
for its years of service to the community
and extends its congratulations to the
NVFD on its opening of Station 25

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