

The Forest View

Volume 2-10 October 2017



News: Congratulations – Walter and Tasha Stephens on the birth of their son, Blake Taylor Stephens born, at a decent hour, (5:08pm) on September 7, 2017. I think Uncle DJ is just as proud. I wonder if little Blake has already been signed-up for an EMT class.

It seems that October was the month to honor first responders. First, The Olive Garden on Midlothian Turnpike held a special luncheon for all members of Forest View Rescue Squad on September 4 at station 3. (See photos below).

Second Village Bank, with the assistance of Bons Secours Westchester ER, and Mt. Pisgah Church hosted a dinner for all first responders in the County, and Powhatan, on Tuesday, September 12 at Mt. Pisgah Church. About 100 people from Chesterfield PD, Chesterfield Fire and EMS, Chesterfield Sheriff's Office and Forest View Rescue Squad attended. (See photos below). We want to thank all of these organizations for their support of first responders.



Olive Garden luncheon at Station 3



Mt. Pisgah Church



From our Vice-President: Teresa Thisted Give a shout out to welcome our new members who have been assigned to their new crews and are riding.

Cameron Buck
Carley Langley
John Wiggins

Christopher Gabbert
Jessica Mackness
Michael Williams

Robert Halliday
Ryan Meng

Ayah Kuwaifi
Frederick Nichols

Excellence in Service: Last month I wrote what I thought was a one-time article about service that two of our members performed outside of Forest View Rescue Squad. With that in mind, I created this column where each month, I will feature one member of FVRS and tell about either what led them to service volunteer EMS service or service outside of FVRS. This month, however, I will feature two people.

First: We have a new, third, Medical Director. During the past year the position was shared by Dr. Alan Yee, the OMD for Chesterfield Fire and EMS, and a staff physician at VCU(MCV) ED, and Dr. Joshua Rogers, a member of the HCA ED staff. FVRS has received wonderful service from both physicians. Recently, however, a former member, Dr. Jerome Diskin, because of his love for FVRS, approached Chief Alice Beachy with a request to become OMD for Forest View Volunteer Rescue Squad. Jerome became a member of FVRS in 2001 and quickly advanced as a BLS provider and then ALS provider. He enjoyed his experience so much that he went to medical school to become a doctor with his eye on emergency medicine. A recent graduate of VCU(MCV) medical school, Dr. Diskin now works with the group that staffs Bons Secours hospitals Emergency Departments. He is working primarily out of St. Mary's Hospital but will also work out of St. Francis Hospital and Westchester Emergency Room. Dr. Diskin is married with three children, and lives in Short Pump.

Second: I know most of you have met, even pulled duty with, our chief, Alice Beachy. Let me tell you her story. Like many of you, our Chief had her first feeling of a need to serve when she was a little girl, she wanted to be a school teacher. She would set-up her room as a school room and her dolls and teddy bears were her students. This was a dream she finally realized after 15+ years of marriage and raising two children. She went back to school and got her degree in education and a license to teach science. A few years later she went back to school and earned her masters in teaching math and teaching at-risk children. She retired from teaching after almost 30 years. In her early years of marriage and motherhood she lived in a rural community where most of the men worked miles away during the daytime. So there were few volunteers to respond to fires during the daytime. Besides being a volunteer firefighter, her husband was a career firefighter for the City of Petersburg. So Alice became the first female firefighter in Dinwiddie County and one of the first in the State of Virginia. Later, when her husband went to work for Chesterfield County Fire Department, the family moved to Matoaca. Because of the previous problems, both waited about a year before joining the Matoaca Volunteer Fire Department. Again, she was the first female firefighter in Matoaca and probably Chesterfield County. The climate was much better there and both enjoyed a 15 year career as volunteers in Matoaca. The family moved to Midlothian in the early 90s and both Alice and Wayne joined the Midlothian Vol. Fire Dept. Once again, this was a first for MVFD. During this time all volunteers in the County were encouraged to become EMTs. It was then, Alice discovered she liked EMS more than she like firefighting. So after 20 years as a firefighter she became a volunteer at FVRS. This was a calling that would stay with her to this very day. Over the years she was a third, a BLS provider, then an ALS provider, and finally as you know her today, chief. She is the first female chief at FVRS. Alice hopes to serve the people of Chesterfield through FVRS as long as she is able.

A Message from the Chief: Alice Beachy – Congratulations to Forest View Rescue Squad. You have been chosen as squad of the year by Chesterfield County. I am so proud of each and every one of you. Not only do we staff stations, do standbys, and take training as asked, but also most of us have very busy lives away from the stations. And yet we manage to give volunteer time to Chesterfield County. It takes far more than one person to accomplish what we have this year. We are truly a family that cares about each other and the citizens of Chesterfield County. A tailgate celebration will be held soon. Notification will be coming from Amy.

By the time you read this, the VAVRS conference will have been held in Virginia Beach. The excitement included for various competitions, a parade, and the volleyball competition on the sands that I have heard so much about. A special thanks is given to those staying behind to make sure our stations continue to operate so that others can represent Forest View at the conference.

Good luck competition teams. I know you will represent us well. And, again, thanks to those staying behind to cover while the teams are competing.

Curtis, most of us know him by Brooks, has accepted the position of Web Master for FVRS. Any concerns or things you want added, please contact him by phone, email, or there is a box at station 3 for him if you would rather leave a quick note.