



FIRECRACKER

Dear Community Members,

As we reach the midway point of the year, we hope you are safe and well. Reflecting on our journey since the last "Firecracker" newsletter, we are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support. Together, we have accomplished remarkable milestones that showcase our commitment to serving and protecting our community in Edgewater and its surrounding areas.

Some highlights of our recent achievements:

- **Ignite the Future Initiative:**
 - Launched in September of 2024 to raise funds for our new fire station, we have successfully raised \$1.53 million towards our \$8 million goal.
 - We anticipate breaking ground in Winter 2025/26, a significant step toward our new state-of-the-art fire station.
 - Learn more at www.ignitethefuture.info
- **New Website Launch:**
 - Our new website features department news, event calendar, fire safety tips, and an easy-to-use online donation platform.
 - Visit www.edgewatervfd.org to learn more.
- **26th Annual Firehouse Santa:**
 - Last year, we brought our community together to donate toys for those in need, surpassing an incredible milestone of over 50,000 toys donated in total over the past 26 years.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we stand at a pivotal moment in our history, continuing to undertake several ambitious fundraising initiatives that are crucial to our mission.

- **New Rescue Squad:** We need to raise an additional \$650,000 for a new rescue squad, essential for versatility in handling a range of emergencies, including medical, fire calls, vehicle accidents, and specialized incidents.
- **Operational Costs and Equipment:** Continuous funding is crucial for covering essential operational costs and ensuring our equipment is always up to date and ready for any situation.
- **New Fire Station:** The Ignite the Future campaign is underway to raise the necessary funds for our new fire station.

As a volunteer organization, we rely on your support. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Your contributions not only help us achieve these important goals but also strengthen the safety of our community.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or if you need more information.

Warm regards,

Mike (Purcy) Purcell
President

John Sweeney
Chief

Melissa Bailey
Auxiliary President

HELP US HELP OUR COMMUNITY

Firefighters & EMTs Needed

Are you ready to make a direct impact? We are seeking dedicated individuals to join us as Firefighters & EMTs. You'll respond to fires, medical emergencies, and more, gaining invaluable experience and professional training. Whether you're experienced or new to emergency response, we provide the training.

Auxiliary Members Wanted

Our Auxiliary Members play a vital role in organizing fundraisers, outreach, and administrative support; there's a place for everyone who wants to help.



Why Join Us?

- **Comprehensive Training:** In-depth training for fire, marine, and emergency services.
- **Community Impact:** Make a positive difference in our communities.
- **Team Environment:** Join a supportive and inclusive team.
- **Benefits:** Earn Maryland income tax credits, property tax savings, and retirement benefits.

Visit edgewatervfd.org or call 410-956-3100 for more information.

WE ARE YOUR VOLUNTEER FIRE - RESCUE - EMS - MARINE DEPARTMENT
YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE SUPPORT IS CRUCIAL



As our community continues to grow, the demands on our department are increasing, and our current facilities are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of our expanding population. We are excited to share an update on our capital campaign, IGNITE the FUTURE - Building Tomorrow's Fire Station Today.

- To date, we have successfully raised \$1.53 million
- The land for our new fire station, located on Stepney's Lane between Routes 214 and 2, was approved last year, and site work has begun.
- Architectural plans have been approved.
- We anticipate breaking ground in 2026.



The "IGNITE the FUTURE" campaign is more than a fundraising effort; it is an investment in the future safety and well-being of Edgewater and its surrounding communities. The new fire station will feature:

- Adequate equipment storage, vehicle bays, and living quarters
- Modern fire prevention and safety standards
- Enhanced efficiency with improved technology and communication systems
- Faster equipment response times with direct access to major roadways
- Capacity for future growth in personnel and equipment
- Larger and improved training facilities
- A community gathering space

As the sole fire department in Edgewater, with 25 dedicated career personnel and over 100 volunteers, we have courageously faced every challenge in protecting our homes, families, businesses, and community. Now more than ever, we need your support! Please consider donating to help us reach our goal. Every contribution, no matter the size, will help fuel the flame of this essential initiative.

To learn more please visit www.IgniteTheFuture.Info

In 2024, Company 2 responded to:

- **Ambulance 2-9: 217 calls**
- **Medic 2*: 1,661 calls**
- **Engine 2-1 & 2-2**: 1,844 calls**
- **Rescue Squad 2**: 612 calls**
- **Chief 2: 147 calls**
- **Fireboat 2: 54 calls**

*Medic 2 is run by strictly career staffing

**Engines 2-1, 2-2, and Rescue Squad 2 are staffed with either volunteer, career, or combination crews.



To receive the latest updates, please sign up to receive emails at edgewatervfd.org or ignitethefuture.info



or follow us on social media
www.facebook.com/WoodlandBeachVFD

DONATE TODAY

3 EASY WAYS TO DONATE

**SCAN
THIS
QR CODE**



ONLINE

www.edgewatervfd.org

US MAIL

Use the enclosed form and return envelope.



Woodland Beach Volunteer Fire Department DBA Edgewater Volunteer Fire Department
PO Box 236, Edgewater, MD 21037 • 410-956-3100

WE DO NOT SOLICIT DONATIONS BY TELEPHONE