

## **MCLEAN'S ANTIQUE FIRE ENGINE UNDERGOES REPAIRS**

### **McLean Citizens Foundation Spearheads Effort to Raise \$35,000**

*October 19, 2008, McLean, VA* -- McLean's antique fire engine has been a mainstay of this community for 38 years. The volunteer firefighters take it to school functions, block parties, high school homecomings and other community functions to teach both children and adults the importance of fire and personal safety. This holiday season will be the first since 1989 that the fire engine has not ferried Santa Claus through McLean neighborhoods – all because the old engine's engine has died.

“This is a McLean tradition,” said Adrienne Whyte, the MCF Trustee who presented the effort to its Board. “It would be so sad if the community were to lose the old fire engine. We need to keep this tradition alive in McLean.”

The MVFD purchased the engine in 1970 with voluntary contributions from local citizens. The department decided to keep the engine for training and educational purposes when it was retired from active firefighting service in 1986. According to Clyde Clark, MVFD chief, “This engine has logged more than 44,000 miles protecting McLean citizens for the 16 years that it was in active service. Since its retirement it has logged almost 20,000 miles in community service endeavors.”

In January of this year it was discovered during its routine yearly maintenance check that the motor had worn out. Since the motor has not been made for more than 30 years, it requires re-powering with an up-to-date motor that will fit in the space available. Once re-powered, this example of McLean's past will continue to serve the community for many years to come.

The McLean Citizens Foundation, 501(c)(3) community foundation that serves the Greater McLean area, is challenging community residents, businesses and civic groups to help raise the funds for the repair work and has started the contributions with a \$1,000 donation.

“This is who we are,” said Trish Butler, Foundation President. “McLean has one community foundation and we need to be here for history and tradition and projects that we can all appreciate.”

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