



PATTONVILLE

— FIRE DISTRICT —



NEWSLETTER ♦ FALL & WINTER 2020 EDITION

PATTONVILLE RESPONDS TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC...

As 2020 began, all things seemed normal around Pattonville Fire District. Then, as time passed from February into March, the COVID-19 pandemic began causing our attention to become focused on the rapidly growing situation at hand. The entire world was forced to learn to function in a very different manner, in some cases going without our normal activities all together. Our fire district was not immune from these changes, except for one glaring exception. As first responders, we are expected to be available 24/7/365 to save lives and property without interruption. Along with many other essential workers, we had to establish new ways of doing our business; a “new normal” as it would come to be called.

We were faced with several immediate issues that needed to be resolved simultaneously. We needed to secure far more personal protective equipment (PPE) than we ever imagined we would need. To make that task more challenging, the whole world was struggling to acquire these same items. Through relentless efforts that continue still today, a dedicated team of our officers and staff were able to secure enough PPE to get us through those first critical weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued diligence allowed us to eventually build up a stockpile of PPE that has ultimately gotten us to the point of having a two-plus week supply. We were even able to share PPE with our partners at Bridgeton Police Department and neighboring fire departments during moments of critical need.

The need for sanitizing supplies and even usual household cleaning items became yet another challenge. Once the unusually difficult task of procuring these supplies was overcome, we implemented a quartermaster system to account for the usage of all of our disposable supplies. This methodology has ensured a sufficient supply of these items and continues for the duration of the pandemic and into the future.

We needed to make sure that our Paramedic-Firefighters were kept safe and healthy. This task was accomplished through several actions which included securing the aforementioned PPE; establishing quarantine and contact tracing protocols; providing guidance for

employees who may become ill themselves or were exposed to others who were ill; implementing restrictions on employees’ abilities to go out in public while on duty as well as placing travel restrictions pertaining to our employees’ days off duty; suspending public education activities; and communicating on a daily basis with employees in order to keep up with the constantly changing pandemic environment.

We developed a plan to ensure that the highest level of emergency services available to our residents and businesses would continue even under the worst possible infection rate among our Paramedic/Firefighters. Similarly, the entire St. Louis County Fire/EMS system developed a regional plan to provide essential services to all residents and businesses in the county in the event that local emergencies became debilitated by illness among their personnel. This was truly an impressive accomplishment both in terms of its comprehensive approach and the speed with which it was developed.

Every single employee of Pattonville Fire Protection District has put forth extreme dedication, hard work, patience and understanding during these terribly trying times. Everyone has pulled their weight in the collective effort to protect our community, as well as to protect themselves, each other and our own families. Although some of our members have become infected with COVID-19, we are very fortunate that their symptoms have largely been minor and their absence has not had an impact on our ability to fulfill daily workforce requirements.

Today, while we anxiously await the end of this pandemic, we are as well-prepared and forward-thinking as we can be. We have learned a lot and are prepared for any worsening of conditions as we move into the fall season. Our engine house and apparatus sanitizing continues; our PPE and other supplies are well stocked; and we know how to keep ourselves safe and healthy. All of this with the sole purpose of ensuring that Pattonville Fire District will always be available - 24/7/365 - to provide life-saving medical services and fire protection to our community.



A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DAVID DOTSON...

This will be my final newsletter article for Pattonville Fire District. In January, after nearly 35 years serving in the fire service, I will hang up my gear for the final time and retire. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve this community and my co-workers for nearly 25 years. Due to my love for this job, even after all these years I can honestly say, I never worked a day in my life. Being able to help others when they needed help the most, the friends that I've made in that time, the exciting, challenging and occasionally life-threatening things I've done have made this career a great ride. My only warning to my friends who are still working is to enjoy the ride, because, as I've learned, it comes to an end quite suddenly. I can't believe how quickly the years have gone by.

During the past five years while serving as Fire Chief of this great Pattonville Fire District, I am very proud of the accomplishments that we've made. The list is too long for this brief article, but let it be known that your Fire District stands more poised, ready and capable of responding to all of your emergencies than at any other time in its history. In terms of personnel, training, apparatus and facilities, the Fire District is well prepared for the future. That was my goal as Fire Chief and I'm glad I was able to achieve that goal.

Even in the midst of the worst health crisis most of us have ever seen, the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pattonville has been able to adapt to and overcome each and every hurdle and obstacle in our path. We provided all levels of emergency services throughout this crisis without interruption.

One of the primary reasons we were able to weather this pandemic to this point is due to the efforts of our Assistant Chief, Jim Usry. Certainly, many others have been critical to our collective success, but I point out Chief Usry as he will be Pattonville's new Fire Chief. We have many very, very well qualified and capable leaders at Pattonville and the Board of Directors has selected Chief Usry to lead Pattonville into the future. I am confident that the Fire District is being left under very capable leadership.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors for their support and for the opportunity to serve the residents and employees of Pattonville Fire District as the Fire Chief.



- David Dotson, Fire Chief (Ret.)

FROM PATTONVILLE'S FIREHOUSE KITCHEN...

They say that variety is the spice of life. When it comes to chili recipes around Pattonville's firehouse kitchens, this old adage certainly rings true. If you like chili with a little sweetness and a little spice, then this Fire & Ice Chili recipe is for you!

Ingredients:

- 1 lg. can pineapple tidbits, drained - liquid reserved.
- 1 lg. can chili beans
- 2 lbs. boneless pork roast cut into 1 inch cubes.
- 2 Tbs. olive oil
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 6 cloves garlic
- 1, 28oz can tomatoes
- 1, 6oz can tomato paste
- 1, 4oz can green chilies
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1/4 cup chili powder
- 4 tsp. cumin
- 2 Tbs. jalapeño chopped
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Directions:

In a dutch oven, cook pork roast cubes in hot oil until brown. Return meat to the soup pot and add 1 chopped onion and 3/4 of your garlic cloves. Stir over medium heat until the veggies are soft. Then add pineapple liquid, undrained tomatoes, tomato paste, green pepper, green chilies, beans, chili powder, cumin, jalapeño, salt and remaining onion and garlic. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat and simmer covered for 1.5 hours. Add the pineapple tidbits for the last 30 minutes of the cooking process. Enjoy!





A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

As your Pattonville Fire Protection District Board of Directors, we hope this newsletter finds you well. This year has been challenging for our residents, for our business owners, and for the men and women of Pattonville Fire District. These uncertain times have resulted in many changes in the way our Paramedic-Firefighters must do business. Rest assured that our commitment to our residents, business owners, and community as whole has not and will never change.

As 2020 comes to an end we will be saying goodbye and celebrating the careers of Fire Chief Dave Dotson, Battalion Chief Ken Aydelott, and Engineers Kerry Dick and Jeff Pillman. These men have served this community well for many years and we wish them each a happy and healthy retirement!

We are very excited to announce that several promotions will take effect on January 1, 2021. Jim Ustry will become our Fire Chief and Kevin Stuhlman will be our Assistant Chief; Rodney Bland will become a Battalion Chief; Jeff Proctor and Chad Davis will become Captains; and very soon, two members will become Primary Engineers. We are very proud of these employees and their accomplishments!

We are quite dismayed that the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically limited our ability to interact with the

community. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our annual Breakfast with Santa Toy drive this year as well. We are instead hosting a toy drive to "Fill Up the Fire Truck" from now through December 12. The donated toys will be distributed to families in our community who need a little extra cheer this Holiday Season. We are very excited to announce that your Paramedic-Firefighters will still be bringing Santa and his sleigh to the neighborhoods of our fire district to collect Christmas wishes from those young and young at heart!

As we all adjust to this new normal, we hope that in the not-too-distant future we will return to just normal. Until then, know that our crews are here if you need them, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Until we can once again meet in person, we wish you all a joyous Holiday Season, and a happy, healthy New Year!



- Chairman Bill Esterline
- Treasurer Bob Soutier
- Secretary Bob Biondo

MOVIN' ON UP - OUR NEWLY PROMOTED EMPLOYEES...

Several of our employees will be assuming new roles within the Pattonville Fire Protection District at the beginning of 2021. Be sure to join us in offering a warm congratulations to these deserving officers!



Jim Ustry
Fire Chief



Kevin Stuhlman
Assistant Chief



Rodney Bland
Battalion Chief



Jeff Proctor
Captain



Chad Davis
Captain



PATTONVILLE LAUNCHES COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC PROGRAM...

We are excited to announce the launch of our Community Paramedic Program for the residents of the Pattonville Fire Protection District. The goal of the Pattonville Community Paramedic Program is to identify members of our community that are frequent emergency medical service users due to chronic illnesses or environmental conditions that can be monitored and treated in their home before the client's condition deteriorates and he or she needs emergency care.

We currently have two Paramedic-Firefighters that have completed over 100 hours of specialized classroom and practical education to become certified Community Paramedics. Paramedic-Firefighter Matt Russell has been in emergency medicine for eight years. In addition to working at Pattonville, he has worked as a Paramedic for St. Louis Children's Hospital Transport team. Paramedic-Captain Mark Barnhart has been in emergency medicine for sixteen years.



Potential clients will be identified through analysis of EMS records for frequency of use, underlying health and environmental conditions, as well as referrals made by our Paramedic-Firefighters. Clients enrolled in the Pattonville Community Paramedic Program will receive free at-home visits from one of our Community Paramedics for approximately ninety days. During the initial visit, the Community Paramedic will perform a comprehensive assessment of the individual's health and living environment to identify any obstacles that they may be experiencing with independent living. The Community Paramedic will then develop a plan of action to connect the client with the necessary resources to help them overcome their challenges and improve not only their health but their quality of life as well.

For more information about our Community Paramedic Program please contact Paramedic-Captain Mark Barnhart at 314-739-3118 ext. 4809.

FROM THE DESK OF DEPUTY CHIEF - FIRE MARSHAL LAURIE LICAVOLI...

I'm sure many have noticed that there has been a significant amount of revitalization and redevelopment taking place along the St. Charles Rock Road corridor. The question, "What's that going to be?" has been common among our Fire District membership as well. I am excited to announce and welcome the following new businesses into the Pattonville Fire Protection District!

Starbucks: New construction located at 12419 St. Charles Rock Road. This location will include a drive-thru for your quick coffee runs!

Smoothie King: New construction located at 12238 St. Charles Rock Road. Two additional business are expected to share occupancy within this building as well after construction.

Charter/Spectrum: Repurposing of a vacant space into a customer service facility within *The Plaza At DePaul* at 12244 St. Charles Rock Road.

Summit Dental Technologies: Repurposing of a vacant space at 3407 Bridgeland near McKelvey Road.

Dr. Moss: Medical practice opening within the DePaul Hospital Medical Office Building at 12255 DePaul Drive, Suite 400.

Lastly, I would like to offer some fire prevention advice. Please have your heating equipment inspected and serviced annually by a qualified professional. Replace the air filters on your furnace regularly, and make sure you keep anything that could burn away from space heaters.

On behalf of our Fire Prevention Bureau, I wish you all a safe Holiday Season and a healthy New Year in 2021! Happy Holidays!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: PARAMEDIC-FIREFIGHTER DOYLE WASHINGTON...

In this newsletter we shine the employee spotlight on Paramedic-Firefighter Doyle Washington. Doyle began his fire and emergency medical services career with St. Louis City Fire Department in 2008. After graduating the St. Louis City Fire Academy, Doyle was assigned to Engine 17 located at 3238 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard. He served on Engine 17 for six years prior to joining Pattonville Fire District in 2014. In 2012, Doyle received the Lifesaving Foundation Award for his efforts in resuscitating a 12 year old female that was found pulseless at school. Doyle and other members of St. Louis City Fire Department were able to revive her using CPR and defibrillation.

Since joining PFD as a Paramedic-Firefighter, Doyle has become certified as a Hazardous Materials Technician, Swiftwater Rescue Technician, Boat Operator, Fire Inspector, Incident Safety Officer, Health and Safety Officer, Secondary Engineer, Fire Service Instructor, and Peer Fitness Trainer.

In addition to being a Paramedic-Firefighter, Doyle is an instructor at the St. Louis County Fire Academy. In this role, he shares his passion for the fire service with new recruits and plays a key role in the Fire Ambassadors Program, which he co-founded. This program focuses on the recruitment of minorities from local high schools to open their eyes to a career they may have never considered nor thought to be possible. The program gives those enrolled the opportunity to have a day jam-packed with hands on training and real-life situations while wearing firefighting gear, and being challenged in ways they have never been before. For the young men and women who choose to pursue a career in emergency medicine and/or the fire service, Doyle then serves as mentor. Earlier this year, Doyle and the co-creator of Fire Ambassadors, Chris Jones, received the Leadership Award for Diversity and Inclusion from North County, Inc. for the great work they are doing within our communities.

When Doyle isn't working at Pattonville or the St. Louis County Fire Academy, he serves on the Human Relations Committee for the International Association of Firefighters - Local 2665, and with Missouri Mentors. The Human Relations Committee focuses on minority recruitment in St. Louis and surrounding counties.

Missouri Mentors assists individuals with mental or physical disabilities with everyday tasks such as grocery shopping, social outings, hair grooming, and helping these individuals acclimate into independent living.



In his personal life, Doyle is passionate about his family and making memories with his loved ones. He enjoys mentoring the youth from his neighborhood, showing them a different and better route than they may believe is possible. He also enjoys learning about other cultures and traveling. Doyle is a self-proclaimed foodie and enjoys all types of cuisines.

When asked what his favorite part of being a member of Pattonville Fire District is, Doyle said, "My favorite part is being a servant of the community. I enjoy PFD's close connection with the community we serve. Pattonville isn't just reactive by responding to calls in the community. We are very proactive in many ways - public relations, fire prevention week, safety talks and smoke detector checks. Pattonville Fire Protection District has allowed me to serve this community and to be a liaison for African Americans and other underrepresented minorities in the fire service."

When asked what advice he would give to the next generation he said, "Being apart of the fire service, you must always remain a student and be proactive about learning. This is a career where you have to earn your respect every day - nothing is given. Lastly, pass the information on to the youth so they can make it better in the future. As the old saying goes, *leave it better than you found it.* LEARN - EARN - RETURN."

NEW AMBULANCES ARE NOW PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY...

At the beginning of 2020, Pattonville Fire District replaced our fleet of three ambulances. Our previous and recognizable “firetruck-style” ambulances reliability served the District for ten years. As the most utilized apparatus at Pattonville, this style of ambulance lasted a lifespan twice as long as their traditionally styled counterparts. Unfortunately, due to design changes and rising costs, it was not fiscally responsible to purchase similar style ambulances as replacements, so back to the drawing board we went.

In designing our new fleet of ambulances, patient and Paramedic-Firefighter safety concerns were paramount, followed closely by overall apparatus functionality. We also wanted to capture the reliability that we had grown accustomed to getting from our existing ambulances. Surveys of previous patients also played a role in the design as many included recommendations in ambulance ride improvement.

The new ambulances are built on a 2019 Ford F-550 four wheel drive chassis, providing improved handling and increased safety in adverse road conditions. Also included is a compressible liquid suspension system which meets previous patients’ recommendations for a smoother ride quality. The compartment containing the portable equipment bags and cardiac monitor is large and low to the ground, making it safe and easily accessible from both the outside and inside of the apparatus. Each Paramedic-Firefighter has an individual compartment for their firefighting equipment in a location separate from the truck’s cabin. This complements our goal to reduce workplace exposure to the toxins and carcinogens retained in our protective firefighting gear. The patient area boasts a large amount

of room for your Paramedic-Firefighters to work in, while allowing the majority of life-saving equipment to be easily accessed from a central location.

Our new ambulances also contain some key safety features. A 360° camera allows our Paramedic-Firefighters an exterior view all the way around the apparatus eliminating all blind spots. They are equipped with a power-load stretcher system that places the patient and stretcher in the ambulance at the push of a button. The ventilation system utilizes an inline filtration methodology which reduces airborne pathogens within the ambulance. Also, all surfaces in the cab and patient compartment are non-porous and easy to clean and fully disinfect. Finally, there are multiple four-point harnesses available in different seating positions throughout the patient compartment. This allows the Paramedic-Firefighter to be safely secured during transport but still available to comfortably provide patient care.

The new ambulances will allow us to take our goal of doing *Whatever It Takes* to provide the highest level of care to our community to an even greater level. Thank you for providing us with the ability to purchase these new ambulances, and for allowing us to protect your family!





Christmas Toy Drive

Fill Up the Fire Truck

❄️ Now through Saturday, December 12th ❄️

Pattonville Fire Station #1 ❄️ 11555 St. Charles Rock Road ❄️ Bridgeton, MO 63044



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our annual Breakfast with Santa event has been canceled. Despite this unfortunate situation, our annual Christmas Toy Drive will still continue. This year we hope to collect enough donated toys to completely fill our antique fire truck! The donated toys will be distributed through Pattonville School District to families in our community who could use a little extra help this Holiday Season. Donations will be received seven days a week between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM.



To donate to our Christmas Toy Drive,
please drop off new, unwrapped children's toys to
Pattonville Fire Station #1 located at
11555 St. Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton.





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TREASURER BOB SOUTIER

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN (SANTA’S SCHEDULE FOR 2020)...

Pattonville’s Paramedic-Firefighters will be helping Santa Claus collect Christmas wishes from all of the boys and girls in our community. Although sitting with Santa will be off limits this year, he will still be happy to collect Christmas letters and pose for socially distanced photos. Santa plans to be in the neighborhoods beginning at 6:00 pm, and he hopes to reach each and every child along his routes. Be sure to check our website and social media outlets for an announcement if Santa has been forced to reschedule his route for another evening due to emergencies, extreme cold or other inclement weather conditions. If there are any questions about rescheduled days, please contact 314-739-3118. Please only visit with Santa if you are healthy, and stay warm and quarantined if you are feeling ill.

- December 1: Chatham, Fleetwood & Bennington
- December 2: Old Pattonville, Welland, Midview & Taplin
- December 3: Harmann Estates
- December 4: St. James & St. Gerard
- December 5: Avery & Lockport
- December 7: Rose Acres & The Glens
- December 8: Jacobson Court & Old St. Charles Road & Bostons Farm
- December 9: Spanish Village & Monter
- December 10: Makeup day
- December 11: Bridgeway, Taylor & Terry
- December 12: Whitehall Manor & Roger Williams
- December 14: Makeup day
- December 15: Holy Angels & Naomi House

- December 17: Harmony, Avery, DePaul Hills & Cypress Village
- December 18: Makeup day

