



PATTONVILLE

FIRE DISTRICT



NEWSLETTER ♦ WINTER 2023 - 2024 EDITION

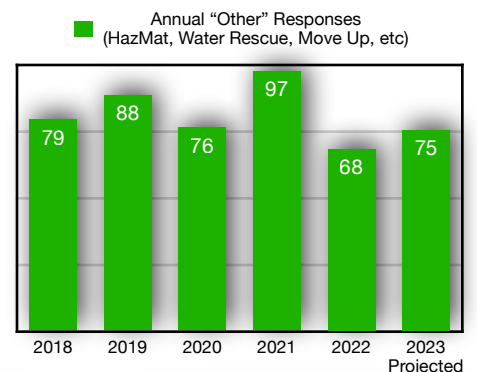
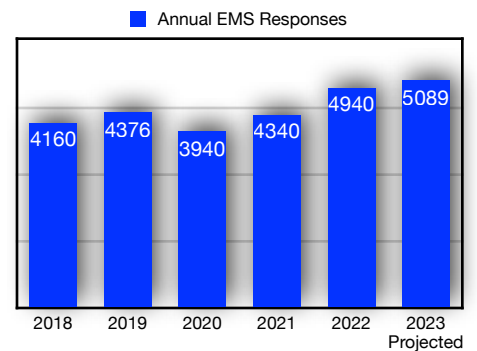
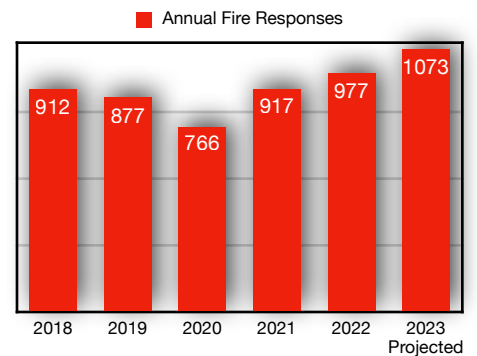
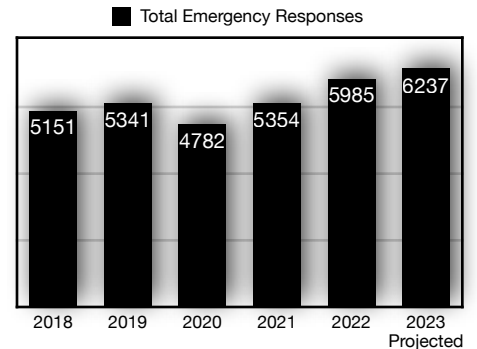
INCREASING EMERGENCIES ELEVATE THE MEANING OF WHATEVER IT TAKES...

As each year draws to an end, Pattonville Fire District's Leadership Team (consisting of Directors Bill Esterline, Bob Soutier, Bob Biondo, Chief Officers, and several Paramedic/Firefighters) conducts an analysis of emergency response statistics for that year. The data is analyzed and compared to that of the previous five (5) years. This process helps us identify the needs of our community and create strategies to ensure that we are always prepared to do *Whatever it Takes* to provide prompt, high-quality emergency care. We also use this data to guide our Community Education and Outreach efforts. For example, in 2018 we noticed a growing number of emergency calls for someone who had fallen. While some individuals only needed help getting back up, others needed to be transported to a hospital for medical care. This annual review process prompted us to create our Fall Prevention and Residential Lockbox Program in the months that followed. Prevention and education is a key component of community protection. Fire prevention education programs, smoke detector checks and installations, and first aid, CPR, and Stop the Bleed courses all reinforce this fact.

Requests for emergency services naturally increase as a community grows. Pattonville Fire Protection District has welcomed the addition of the Arbor Gardens and Rose Meadows subdivisions, and new entertainment venues including Centene Community Ice Center and St. Louis Music Park. Creve Coeur Park Soccer Complex and Sportport International have grown to become premier sports venues in St. Louis. The increasing population density of our community directly correlates with an increase in emergency incidents. As the graphs at the right indicate, Pattonville has seen an annual increase of over 500 calls in each of the years 2021 and 2022.

It is worth noting that there was a decrease in the number of emergency calls in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and businesses allowing employees to work remotely. During the 2020 response analysis, Pattonville Fire Protection District's Leadership Team agreed to take action to get our community and the entire St. Louis region vaccinated against COVID-19. Pattonville Fire District partnered with the St. Louis County Department of Health, the City of Bridgeton, the City of Maryland Heights, and multiple other Fire Districts and Fire Departments to administer COVID-19 vaccines to over 17,000 people. While 2020 was a slower year for emergency responses, Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters were busy doing our part to end the COVID-19 pandemic. As COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, travel resumed and life returned to normal, emergencies began increasing as well and have continued ever since.

Escalating call volume requires a reliance on strategic planning, community engagement, and support for our emergency services. We must continually adapt resource allocation strategies to meet the growing demand for emergency services within our community. While the upward trend in call volume has at times strained our emergency services, Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters continue to rise to the occasion and do "*Whatever It Takes*" to protect the health and safety of our community, and to ensure a safe and resilient environment for all.





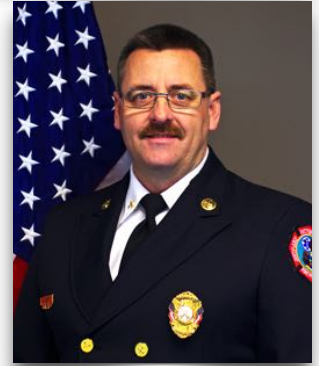
A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FIRE CHIEF, JIM USRY...

Greetings fellow residents! On behalf of the Board of directors and the men and women of the Pattonville Fire District, I thank you for your continued support. The Paramedic/Firefighters of the Pattonville Fire Protection District are proud to stand by our Mission statement, **“Whatever It Takes”** and remain committed to providing our residents, businesses, and those who patronize our community with the best emergency medical and fire protection services.

Our crews are dedicated to meeting the emergency response challenges of our community. The summer of 2023 was extremely busy for us with a record number of calls for emergency services. Our average daily response has risen to 17 calls per day for Fire/EMS/Rescue responses. At the end of the summer we identified the largest increase of the year with a 20% rise in monthly call volume. With 180,000 vehicles traveling our roadways daily, it is not surprising that motor vehicle accidents are the most frequent type of emergency incident to which we respond. EMS calls inclusive of both medical and traumatic origin are our second most frequent type of incident. Fire alarm and smoke detector activations rank as our third most frequent emergency response type. We are on target to respond to over 6,200 calls for emergency services in 2023.

As we continue to see our annual total of emergency requests for service escalate, along with ongoing progress in developing the southwest corner of the fire district. We must constantly evaluate the impact these transformations have on our emergency response capabilities. Our Labor/Management team tirelessly works together to identify the short, medium, and long-term goals for the Fire District. It is always a challenge to fulfill the continual need to upgrade equipment to the most current technology and capabilities, and to improve and replace the District’s facilities where necessary.

The winter season has historically been our busiest time for residential fires, the most frequent cause of which being attributed to unattended cooking. Never leave your home for that last-minute run to the grocery store without turning off your stove and oven. Be aware of the potential for grease fires if you plan to fry your family’s turkey during the holiday season. Always take your turkey fryer outdoors, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations, and keep a fire extinguisher close by until the entire cooking process is complete.



Our crews loved bringing Santa to the neighborhoods again this year and truly enjoyed seeing everyone in our community. This long standing Pattonville tradition is a favorite both among our Paramedic/Firefighters and our community’s residents. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your family’s holiday season once again this year.

Our community is comprised of great neighborhoods and residents that take care of one another. Remember to check on your neighbors during the cold winter months ahead. Friendly conversations and small acts of kindness go a long way in building strong relationships within the community.

Have a wonderful and happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you soon!

- Jim Usry, Fire Chief



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS:

HEART ATTACK

- CHEST PAIN
- SHORTNESS OF BREATH
- SWEATING
- NAUSEA

CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY

A Public Safety Message From the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Pattonville Fire Protection District

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

We hope 2023 has treated you well! We would like to give you a quick update on what has been going on in Pattonville Fire Protection District since our last newsletter.

We continue to see an ever-increasing total in the number of emergency calls to which our members respond. We are on pace to end 2023 at over 6,200 emergency calls for services.

We are happy to announce that we recently promoted Paramedic/Firefighter Scott Crow to Deputy Fire Marshal, and Paramedic/Firefighter Randy Vasquez to Fire Inspector. The promotions of these members was in direct correlation to the continual building development and code enforcement needs throughout the Pattonville Fire Protection District, as well as in preparation for the planned development of the Howard Bend Levy District. The promotion of these members has improved efficiency in reviewing proposed building plans, and in the enforcement of adopted building, fire, and life safety codes. The overarching responsibility of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to ensure the safety of business owners, patrons, community members, and responding Paramedic/Firefighters in the case of an emergency.

In October we said goodbye to Engineer Allen Ramsey. Al was a Pattonville High School alumnus and served Pattonville Fire District's community for 33 years. We wish Al a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

As a result of Al's retirement and the promotion of two members into the Fire Prevention Bureau, we are welcoming two new Paramedic/Firefighters to the Pattonville Fire Protection District family. Paramedic/Firefighters Ethan Morrow and Jordan Houston will begin serving our community in early January 2024.

As 2023 draws to a close, our Paramedic/Firefighters have been busy with many events including: our annual Breakfast with Santa Toy Drive; Fire Extinguisher Classes; Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes; child safety seat installations; fall prevention visits with residential lockbox installations; and of course, Santa's nightly visits to the neighborhoods of our community. Of course, all of this has been in addition to daily training and emergency response duties.

As your Fire District Board of Directors, we would like to collectively wish everyone in our community a happy and healthy prosperous new year in 2024!

*-Your Pattonville Fire District Board of Directors:
Chairman Bill Esterline, Treasurer Bob Soutier &
Secretary Bob Biondo*



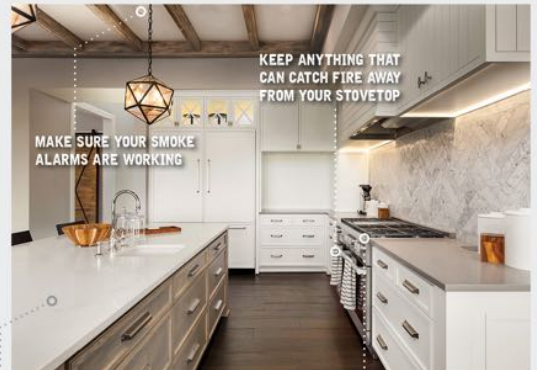
THERE'S ONLY ONE (SAFE) WAY TO FRY A TURKEY.



- SKIP THE STUFFING
- CHOOSE A SMALLER TURKEY (8-10 LBS IS BEST)
- USE THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF OIL
- USE OUTDOORS, OFF THE DECK, AWAY FROM STRUCTURES, IN DRY WEATHER
- HAVE A GREASE (CLASS B) FIRE EXTINGUISHER HANDY
- THE TURKEY SHOULD BE THAWED AND DRY — ICE AND WATER CAUSE OIL FLARE-UPS

A public safety message from the Pattonville Fire Protection District and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

COOKING SAFETY TIPS



- KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN CATCH FIRE AWAY FROM YOUR STOVETOP
- MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARMS ARE WORKING
- REMAIN IN THE KITCHEN AT ALL TIMES IF YOU ARE COOKING
- KEEP CHILDREN AT LEAST THREE FEET AWAY FROM THE STOVE OR AREAS WHERE HOT FOODS OR LIQUIDS ARE BEING PREPARED

A public safety message from the Pattonville Fire Protection District and the International Association of Fire Fighters.

CHAIRMAN ESTERLINE NAMED ST. LOUIS COUNTY FIRE ACADEMY HONOREE...

In the fire service, it is a common tradition for fire academies to name their recruit training classes after an individual or group that has made or continues to make a significant impact on the fire service, or those who made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their life in the line of duty. This tradition runs deep in St. Louis County as the list of St. Louis County Fire Academy's class honorees is long and distinguished. Members of the Pattonville Fire Protection District who have received this honor include Battalion Chief Pat Dick, Fire Chief Steve Arnold, Deputy Chief Mike Price, Battalion Chief Dolph Jeck, Fire Chief Terry Loehrer, Fire Chief Dave Dotson, and most recently, the Chairman of the our fire district's Board of Directors, Mr. William "Bill" Esterline.

Chairman Esterline has devoted an immeasurable amount of time, devotion and passion into ensuring that our community receives the very best fire, rescue and EMS services available. His efforts extend outside Pattonville's borders into neighboring fire service agencies and the St. Louis Metropolitan Area as a whole. Chairman Esterline's experience, dedication, and his proven ability to lead at many levels of public service make him an incredibly deserving recipient of this honor.

Congratulations, Mr. Chairman! You continue to set the mark for all of us and embody the phrase "*Pattonville Proud!*"



- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Remember to turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.

- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance into an outlet at a time.
- Over 50% of fire deaths are due to non-working smoke alarms.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: PARAMEDIC/FIREFIGHTER KENNY KRIEG...

Pattonville Fire District is proud to shine our employee spotlight on Paramedic/Firefighter Kenny Krieg. Kenny was born and raised in a small, rural community in Southern Illinois. He graduated from high school in 2002 and became a Volunteer Firefighter in his hometown later that year. Kenny attended Southwestern Illinois College where he earned Associates Degrees in Paramedic Technology and Fire Science. His Paramedic career began in 2004 with Christian Hospital EMS in North St. Louis County. In 2007, Kenny became a professional Paramedic/Firefighter with the University City Fire Department. He went on to work for the West Overland EMS & Fire Protection District prior to joining the Pattonville Fire District in January of 2013. Kenny is currently a Paramedic/Firefighter assigned to Ladder 4812 at Engine House #1, is qualified as a fill-in Fire Apparatus Driver/Engineer and fill-in Captain, and is a member of the St. Louis County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force.

Kenny is involved within many areas of our department and the entire region. He is the editor of the Fire District's newsletter, a manager of our social media platforms, and the webmaster of our District's website. Kenny serves on the St. Louis County Emergency Communications Commission's Fire Service User Group. In this role, he works with other fire service leaders to ensure that the communications systems across St. Louis County best serve and protect our communities, citizens and Paramedic/Firefighters.

Kenny has a passion for education and teaching other Paramedic/Firefighters. He serves as a part-time Instructor for the St. Louis County Fire Academy where he teaches radio communications and incident command principles. Kenny is also an Instructor for Southwestern Illinois College's Fire Science Program where he teaches High Angle/Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and Water Rescue training courses.

Kenny said, *"My favorite part of being a Pattonville Paramedic/Firefighter is getting to help others on their worst day. Our community expects us to resolve life-threatening situations when their world is crumbling around them. To receive that level of trust is an incredible honor, must be respected, and never taken for granted. I believe it is our sworn duty to be educated, trained and prepared to serve our community, whatever the circumstances that we are faced with might be."*

Off-duty, Kenny enjoys spending time with his wife, Samantha, and three young children, Brylee, Colton and

Beckett. He stays busy attending his kids' school and sports events, fishing, and raising cattle and horses with his dad, wife and children on the small family farm started by his grandparents. Kenny's youngest son, Beckett, is a pediatric cancer warrior who has shown incredible courage and resilience in his battle against leukemia. Kenny's commitment to public service continues at home where he serves on his rural community's volunteer fire department.



Thank you, Kenny, for everything you do for our department and the residents of the Pattonville Fire Protection District! You embody the spirit and meaning of *Whatever it Takes!*





BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE...

With temperatures dropping and the holiday season in full swing, it is important to take just a few additional safety measures to keep the infants and toddlers in your family safe.

- ☑ Ensure that the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your home are in good working order. Remember to install new batteries in your smoke detectors at least annually, and to replace your smoke detectors every ten years.

Make certain to keep small parts and batteries away from infants and children. Any small item poses a choking hazard for infants and children, however button-type batteries are especially dangerous. They are easily damaged when bitten, can cause severe internal burns, and are potentially fatal if swallowed. The following warning signs are indicative that a baby may have swallowed a battery:

- ☑ Persistent cough without any other signs or symptoms of a normal cold (ie: fever, sneezing, stuffy/runny nose, etc).
- ☑ Inability to eat without immediately vomiting.

As temperatures drop during the late fall and winter months, it is natural to bundle up to keep our bodies warm. Babies like being cozy and warm too, but we need to be careful that we do not overheat their small bodies.

- ☑ Do not overdress a baby. They only need one (1) additional layer of clothing than what an adult in the same space is wearing.
- ☑ Keep inside temperatures between 68-72°F.
- ☑ Never allow an infant or child to ride in a car wearing anything heavier than a sweatshirt. The forces present during a vehicle crash can cause heavy jackets to compress against seat belts and child seat restraints, in turn causing the infant or baby to fly out of their car seat.

Space heaters are a convenient way to keep your house warm, but they can be incredibly dangerous when used improperly. Safety measures to ensure while using space heaters include:

- ☑ Make sure that the electrical cord is not cracked and that it is plugged directly into an electrical outlet. Do **NOT** use an extension cord.
- ☑ Do not leave space heaters unattended, and be sure to turn them off prior to going to bed for the night.
- ☑ Ensure that three (3) feet of clearance is maintained around the space heater and that this space is completely free of combustible materials including toys, blankets, upholstered furniture and window treatments.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of unintentional injury deaths to infants are caused by accidental suffocation. Infants cannot breathe out of their mouths until they are six (6) months old. If your infant child has a cold, simply suctioning their nose could save their life. Following these suggestions and the **ABCs of safe sleep** depicted in the picture below will put you well on your way to becoming a safe sleep champion.

(Special thanks to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital Injury Prevention Nurse and Safe Kids St. Louis Coordinator Lori Winkler for contributing to this article.)

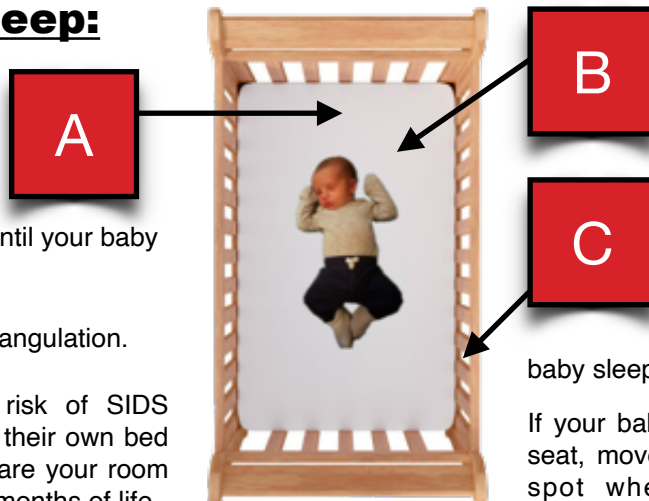
The ABCs of Safe Sleep:

ALONE in their sleeping space.

Remove all items from the baby's crib.

- 🚫 Stuffed animals.
- 🚫 Loose blankets. Swaddling is okay until your baby learns to roll over.
- 🚫 Crib bumpers.
- 🚫 Anything that could pose a risk of strangulation.

Alone does not mean away. The risk of SIDS reduces by 50% when babies sleep in their own bed in the same room as their parents. Share your room with your baby for at least their first six months of life.



Placed on their **BACK**.

Always place the baby on their back on a firm surface to sleep.

Asleep in a **CRIB**.

Use a crib, bassinet, or portable crib that meets accepted safety standards. Never let a baby sleep on a couch or sofa.

If your baby falls asleep in their car seat, move them to their safe sleep spot when you arrive at your destination.



PATTONVILLE MEMBERS PROMOTED TO FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU...

We are proud to introduce two new members of the Pattonville Fire Protection District's Fire Prevention Bureau: Deputy Fire Marshal Scott Crow and Fire Inspector Randy Vasquez.

Deputy Fire Marshal Scott Crow joined Pattonville Fire District in 2006 as a Paramedic/Firefighter. Prior to Pattonville, Scott worked as a Paramedic/Firefighter for the City of Webster Groves Fire Department and as a Supervisor at Christian Hospital EMS. Throughout his career, Scott continued learning about building codes and construction as well as earned certification as a Fire Inspector and Arson Investigator through the Missouri Division of Fire Safety. Scott will assist Deputy Chief Fire Marshall Laurie Licavoli with commercial building inspections, oversee all fire incident documentation and reporting in accordance with National Fire Incident Reporting System (NIFRS) standards, and assist in fire cause and origin investigation.

Fire Inspector Randy Vasquez joined Pattonville Fire District in 2014 as a Paramedic/Firefighter. Prior to Pattonville, Inspector Vasquez was a Paramedic/Firefighter with the West Overland EMS and Fire Protection District, and worked as a Journeyman Union Carpenter prior to entering the field of emergency services. Inspector Vasquez's knowledge of building construction coupled with his Fire Inspector and Arson Investigator certifications through the Missouri Division of Fire Safety allows him to best serve the businesses, community and developers by leveraging his experience in both the emergency service and construction arenas. Inspector Vasquez is assisting Deputy Chief Fire Marshall

Laurie Licavoli with construction plan review while digitizing all records, building permits, and other construction and life safety inspection information.

The skill set these two gentlemen bring to the Fire Prevention Bureau will allow Pattonville Fire Protection District to better serve our community by ensuring that buildings are designed and built to the applicable building codes. This safeguards the patrons and employees of our community's businesses, as well as our Paramedic/Firefighters, if the building would happen to catch fire.



Left To Right: Chairman Bill Esterline, Fire Inspector Randy Vasquez, Deputy Chief-Fire Marshal Laurie Licavoli, Deputy Fire Marshal Scott Crow, Fire Chief Jim Usry.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU...

Our community is vibrant with new construction and renovations! There have been eighty-one applications for new businesses within the Pattonville Fire District.

Holman Middle School and Bridgeway Elementary are expanding to meet the needs of the students, and adding automatic sprinkler systems to improve staff and student safety. The former Vantage Credit Union building at 4020 Fee Fee Road will soon be under renovation as well. Look for the Strawberry School Child Care to occupy this location in 2024.

We have a steady stream of new businesses opening to serve our community. Hibbett Sports is coming to suite 130 in the Orchard Bend Shopping Center. Located close to Applebee's, you are sure to find the best athletic shoes around. Construction permits have been issued for a Club

Car Wash to be built at 10807 St. Charles Rock Road. Please join us in welcoming all of these new businesses to our community. Thank you for selecting the Pattonville Fire Protection District as your business's new home!

As days and nights grow colder, furnaces and other heating appliances are working to keep us warm. Make sure that nothing combustible is located within thirty-six inches of heating appliances. Remember to change the air filter on your furnace and ensure that the flue is attached properly. If you must use a space heater for added warmth, keep blankets, clothes and papers clear of the device. Do not use a stove top or open oven for supplemental heat either as this is a very dangerous practice as well. Following these guidelines will put you well on your way to ensuring a safe, warm home over the upcoming cold winter months.

PATTONVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BILL (WILLIAM) ESTERLINE ♦ CHAIRMAN
BOB SOUTIER ♦ TREASURER
BOB BIONDO ♦ SECRETARY

fireboard@pattonvillefd.com

PAID FOR BY THE PATTONVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT; 13900 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD; BRIDGETON, MO 63044
TREASURER BOB SOUTIER

PATTONVILLE FIRE DISTRICT - CITIZENS ACADEMY...

INFANT AND CHILD SAFETY IN THE HOME

A new baby is an exciting blessing but can be overwhelming at the same time. Getting valuable and accurate information on how to care for an infant is often difficult. Pattonville Fire Protection District has partnered with Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and Safe Kids Worldwide to offer an educational opportunity to expecting and existing parents, grandparents, and caregivers. Among the topics discussed during this unique opportunity will be the general care of infants and children, car seat safety, and safe sleep practices, among others.

Date: March 7th, 2024
Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location: Bridgeton Community Center
4201 Fee Fee Road
Bridgeton MO 63044



There are 48 seats available. Please call Mark at 314-740-4431 to reserve your seat.