



PATTONVILLE

— FIRE DISTRICT —



NEWSLETTER ♦ SPRING 2024 EDITION

FIRE DISTRICT SEEKS CONTINUED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING...

The Pattonville Fire District protects a residential population of approximately 15,000 citizens residing within 28 square miles. During the daytime, the population grows to nearly 500,000. We are a multi-hazard response agency providing a variety of services including emergency medical response, fire suppression and rescue, motor vehicle accident rescue, hazardous materials response, water rescue, and extensive fire prevention and education programs.

On April 2, 2024, Pattonville Fire Protection District is asking you to vote on *Proposition S*, a capital improvement bond issue that **will not cause any new or increased taxes to our community**. *Proposition S* will allow the Pattonville Fire Protection District to acquire and equip lifesaving ambulances, firefighting and rescue apparatus, and other vehicles; acquire technologically advanced lifesaving medical, firefighting, and auxiliary equipment; acquire, construct, maintain, improve, equip, and furnish fire stations and associated infrastructure; acquire land necessary for future building needs; and refinance prior obligations of the District used to finance previously purchased equipment, vehicles and facilities.

ZERO TAX INCREASE. NO NEW TAXES. *Proposition S* is a continuation of the capital improvement bond issue originally awarded by our community in 2008. Conservative spending coupled with fiscal accountability allowed that funding to provide equipment and facility updates for sixteen years. *Proposition S* will support equipment and facility updates and maintenance for the foreseeable future without changing the existing tax base.

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE BEST. *Proposition S* will ensure that the Pattonville Fire Protection District can continue to provide the highest level of firefighting, EMS and rescue services possible to the residents and guests of our community with the best, most technologically advanced, life-saving vehicles, tools and equipment in the industry. Firefighting and emergency medical service technology evolves rapidly to meet new challenges. These upgrades enhance service capabilities and improve the safety of both residents and Paramedic/Firefighters alike. *Proposition S* will ensure that cutting-edge equipment is available to save your family when seconds count.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. The Pattonville Fire Protection District is among only 1% of fire departments nationwide to have been awarded a Public Protection Class 1 rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This designation is awarded to only two of the forty-two fire departments in St. Louis County, only eight of the 1365 fire departments in Missouri, and only 503 of 37,983 fire departments nationwide. An ISO Class 1 rating represents the delivery of superior fire protection services to our community and translates into decreased insurance premiums for property owners. *Proposition S* will provide the resources necessary to continue our ISO Class 1 fire protection rating into the future.

FIRE STATION INVESTMENT. *Proposition S* will provide the resources necessary to maintain, repair and upgrade our fire station infrastructure. Fire stations are essential for maintaining operational readiness, ensuring the safety of personnel, protecting valuable assets, and upholding the safety of the community. Investing in the maintenance and upkeep of fire station infrastructure enhances the effectiveness of the fire district, ultimately contributing to the overall safety and well-being of our community. Pattonville Fire Protection District is committed to building fire stations that will serve for a minimum of thirty years. Fire Station #2 at 3365 McKelvey Road in Bridgeton was built in 1994, and has performed well in the thirty years since. Our calls for emergency services are now higher than ever before and it is forecasted that an additional, third ambulance will soon be necessary to meet the emergency medical needs of our community. *Proposition S* will provide the resources required to acquire real estate and construct a fire station that can house the emergency personnel and equipment essential to meet the growing emergency service demands of the fire district.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE. *Proposition S* will enhance our community's overall emergency preparedness and resilience, and play a pivotal role in mitigating risks, minimizing damage, and safeguarding lives and property.

Thank you for allowing us to explain *Proposition S*. Please do not hesitate to contact Fire Chief Jim Usry at the Pattonville Fire Protection District Headquarters at 314-739-3118 with any questions.

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

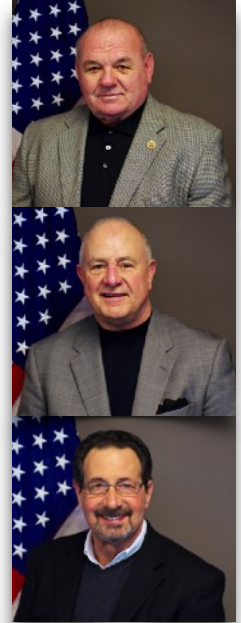
The 2024 calendar year is off to a very busy start for the Paramedic/Firefighters of the Pattonville Fire Protection District!

First, we would like to inform you about *Proposition S* which is a zero tax increase capital improvement bond initiative appearing on the April 2, 2024, election ballot. *Proposition S* will update, maintain and repair existing fire stations, and replace Fire Station #2; replace and maintain our ambulance, firefighting and rescue vehicle fleet; replace aging medical, firefighting, rescue and communications equipment; and refinance prior obligations of the District made to purchase equipment, vehicles and facilities.

We do not take it lightly when we make the decision to place issues on the ballot. We believe that *Proposition S* is an invaluable investment in our community's future and your family's safety. *Proposition S* will give your Paramedic/Firefighters the tools and resources they need to provide the superior level of fire protection and emergency medical services that is expected by our community, and to save lives when seconds count.

We require our Paramedic/Firefighters to be highly trained in both paramedicine and firefighting, and be swift water rescue swimmers, boat rescue technicians, ice rescue technicians, and hazardous material technicians. This advanced training is specific to the areas that we protect - Creve Coeur Lake, the Missouri River and the Westlake landfill - and required to ensure that we are ready to respond and serve our community

regardless of the emergency. Our Paramedic/Firefighters are also required to perform fire prevention work daily. By performing inspections of local businesses to ensure they are safe for the members of the community, inspecting fire hydrants to ensure they are operational prior to a fire, and installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in every home in the district, we strive to ensure that you are safe whether you are at home, shopping, or working in our community. The combination of specialized training and fire prevention activities within our community have earned the Pattonville Fire Protection District the esteemed honor of receiving a Public Protection Class 1 rating from the Insurance Service Office (ISO). Achieving an ISO Class 1 rating is an accomplishment that would not be possible without your continual support.



As always, our crews are here if you need them, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Have a safe Spring and Summer season!

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

BOY SCOUT DONATES FLAG RETIREMENT BOX TO PATTONVILLE FIRE DISTRICT...

Often, we have visitors drop off old, tattered American flags that need to be retired. In the past, we would accept the flags and place them in a cabinet until it was full and call a local scout troop to pick them up. While this was effective, it required us to be at the fire station to accept the flags, which is not always possible due to our training schedule and emergency response obligations.

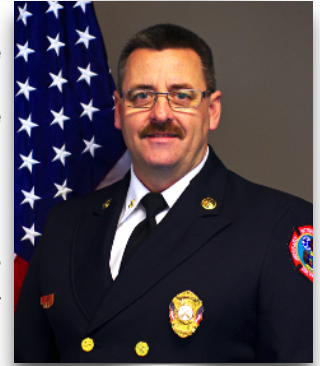
Eagle Scout candidate Gregory Oliver from Maryland Heights, Missouri, built a flag retirement box and donated it to Pattonville Fire Station #1 located at 11555 St. Charles Rock Road in Bridgeton. Now anyone can drop off a torn, tattered, or worn out flag and be certain that it will be retired respectfully, regardless if the Paramedic/Firefighters are in quarters or out on an emergency call.

We thank Gregory for the donation and encourage our community to use the flag retirement box to drop off your old, tattered State or American flags for proper disposal.



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

The Pattonville Fire District continuously performs strategic planning for the anticipated service demands, financial resources, and capital needs of the district. Reviewing external and internal influences on the Fire District’s short, medium, and long-term goals allows us to forecast the strategy that will enable us to continue to provide the highest level of firefighting, EMS and rescue services possible to the residents and guests of our community.



On April 2, 2024, Pattonville Fire Protection District is proposing *Proposition S*, a capital improvement bond issue in the amount of twenty-two million five hundred thousand dollars that **will not cause any new or increased taxes to our community**. *Proposition S* is a continuation of the capital improvement bond issue originally awarded by our community in 2008. *Proposition S* will allow the Pattonville Fire Protection District to meet the ever-increasing demands on the services that we provide to our community, specifically including the ability to update, maintain and repair our existing fire stations and replace Fire Station #2; replace and maintain our ambulance, firefighting and rescue vehicle fleet; and replace aging medical, firefighting, rescue and communications equipment. *Proposition S* will secure our community’s future and your family’s safety by financing the following capital improvement project areas and equipment acquisitions:

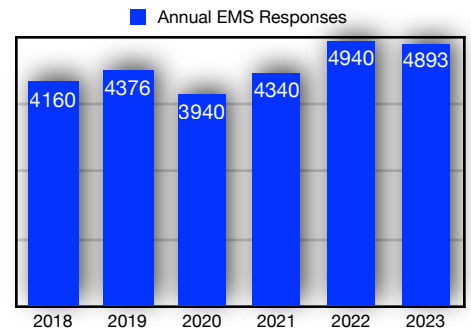
FIRE STATION INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT

Relocate and rebuild Fire Station #2; Construction of storage buildings; Create additional parking at Pattonville Fire Protection District Headquarters.

Anticipated total cost of land acquisition, construction, furnishings, and associated professional fees: \$10,647,000.

The Pattonville Fire District is an ISO Class 1 rated fire protection district. This rating signifies the highest level of community fire protection. The Fire District is one of only 503 fire departments in the United States to receive a Class 1 rating out of the Nation’s total 37,983 fire departments. The review by a third-party evaluator scores the department on its abilities in providing water supply, 911 communications, operations, training, and community risk reduction. A portion of the assessment is based on the location of fire stations. The ISO’s assessment process identifies current and future growth within the community and emergency call volume. The current location of Fire Station #2 is restricted and unable to accommodate a larger facility that will meet the District’s future needs and goals. Identifying real estate in the immediate area with a larger footprint will accommodate future expansion of personnel and apparatus, including the forecasted addition of a third ambulance in the near future to meet the growing emergency medical needs of our community.

Additional parking near the front entrance of the Fire District’s Headquarters / Administration building will allow greater accessibility for community training and public events. The construction of storage buildings will provide secure housing for specialized emergency response apparatus and equipment that is currently being exposed to outside elements.



AMBULANCE, FIREFIGHTING and RESCUE VEHICLE FLEET REPLACEMENTS

Replace the fleet of emergency apparatus including ambulances, a 75-ft ladder truck, a rescue engine/pumper truck, a 98-ft tower ladder truck, boats, trailers, command staff vehicles, and several support units.

Anticipated cost of fleet replacement: \$9,890,000.

With a continually aging fleet of emergency apparatus, the Fire District must continually prepare for the regular replacement of ambulances, fire trucks, specialty response units, and command staff vehicles. The Fire District's fleet of emergency apparatus is monitored on a replacement cycle to identify repair and replacement charges that exceed the costs of new apparatus. Our established and proven fleet replacement rotation calls for fire trucks to be replaced every ten to fifteen years. Ambulances are so heavily used to serve our community that they must be replaced every five years in order to guarantee mechanical reliability and provide the best in technological advancements. Apparatus construction times currently being prolonged beyond three to four years, forcing the Fire District to project the logistical needs and replacement programs much earlier than ever before. The price of new fire apparatus is currently estimated from \$1,100,00-\$1,800,000 each, depending upon type (engine vs. ladder, etc.). Ambulance replacement costs are estimated at \$416,000 per ambulance.

ISO rating schedules require the Fire District to respond with two ladder trucks and one engine company for fire protection purposes. After the replacement cycle on apparatus has been completed, the former fleet is liquidated for resale or placed in reserve status. Repair schedules have forced the fire district to double the number of apparatus held in reserve status.



EMS EQUIPMENT ENHANCEMENTS

Purchase new technologies in EMS equipment that enhances medical care and improves patient outcomes.

Cost to purchase and replace EMS equipment: \$584,000.00

The Fire District's cardiac monitor/defibrillators were recently determined to be beyond their service lifespan and no longer provided reliable medical care capabilities. Purchasing new, lifesaving emergency medical equipment including automated chest compression delivery devices, technologically advanced cardiac monitor/defibrillators, portable ventilators, and mobile IV infusion pumps will contribute to our Paramedic/Firefighters' ability to save lives when seconds count. Replacing our current ambulance stretchers will protect our patients and prevent injuries among Paramedic/Firefighters during EMS calls. Acquiring technologically advanced medical simulation training aids will expand our Paramedic/Firefighters' skills and care-giving capabilities resulting in their enhanced ability to save lives.



FIRE AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT ADVANCEMENTS

Purchase new technology and equipment that enhances the efficiency of emergency scene operations, contributes to the ability to save lives, decreases property damage, and improves the safety of Pattonville’s Paramedic/Firefighters.

Cost to purchase and replace of firefighting and rescue equipment: \$1,259,000.

Reliable communications equipment provides real-time information about the location of victims and efforts of firefighting personnel, the status of the fire fight, and many other pertinent details. This allows firefighters to make informed decisions and adapt their strategies accordingly, leading to better outcomes and ultimately saving lives. Effective communications infrastructure promotes incident scene coordination, thereby ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and deployed when and where they are needed most. The Fire District is in dire need of new handheld radios and onboard apparatus communications equipment to replace current devices that are obsolete, can no longer be repaired, and have been declared end-of-life by their manufacturer. The new radios will have enhanced safety features, better communications reliability between Paramedic/Firefighters, and improved battery life.

The Fire District must replace all of our current self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and air cylinders. Paramedic/Firefighters wear these devices inside dangerous environments to protect their lungs from the harmful products contained in smoke and chemically-contaminated air. SCBAs must be replaced regularly to ensure compliance with required safety standards, to maintain equipment reliability and performance, and to provide Paramedic/Firefighters with access to the latest safety advancements and equipment improvements. The current fleet of SCBA’s and air cylinders are at the end of their serviceable lifespan and must be replaced due to frequent equipment failures and excessive wear and tear as a result of regular use in extreme environmental conditions (high heat, excessive smoke, etc.) despite thorough cleaning, care and maintenance practices.

Infrared thermal imaging cameras allow fire suppression forces to see in zero-visibility smoke conditions, find victims inside burning structures, and to locate hidden and smoldering fires. The advancement of thermal imaging technology and limited equipment lifespans requires these devices to be upgraded every five to ten years.



PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Purchase new and refurbish existing public education safety trailers and equipment.

Cost to purchase equipment and refurbish the public education safety house: \$120,000.

Prevention programs have long been proven to be the best form of protection from the dangers of fire. The Fire District’s safety house and public education program trailers require replacement and remodeling to continue to effectively demonstrate the hazards of fire and recommended home safety practices. Plans also include replacing teaching aids used in preschool and elementary school fire safety demonstrations, as well as the purchase of a fire extinguisher training simulator to safely teach lay persons to use a fire extinguisher in both the residential and commercial environments under realistic circumstances.



PATTONVILLE'S CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS...

Article by: Carla Robertson (Drummond Counselor) and Erica Abowitz (Early Childhood Social Worker), Pattonville School District.

For the past eleven years, the Pattonville Fire Department's Paramedic/Firefighters, administration, and the surrounding community has been committed to making certain that children in the Pattonville School District receive a Christmas to remember. From our youngest citizens participating in our Parents as Teachers Program to early childhood students through our high school students, all families in need are ensured to receive assistance. Every year we have families that need help due to unexpected life circumstances that impact the ability to provide gifts during the Christmas season.

Pattonville School District continues to cherish our relationship with our lifelong community partner, Pattonville Fire Protection District. This program has impacted numerous families over the many years it has been in existence. This past year's "Breakfast with Santa" event and toy donation drive provided 65 Pattonville families totaling close to 200 children the ability to receive multiple gifts on Christmas morning. It is heartwarming to see a community partner continuously remember our Pattonville families year round and especially during the holidays. In addition, due to the generosity of those who donated this year, there were enough toys to be shared with two local shelters housing families within the Fire District's boundaries.

As a Pattonville School District Counselor and Social Worker, we have the opportunity to hear and see our families rejoice in the receiving end of this wonderful program. Amongst the feedback we received, many families shared feelings of being blessed and have said the following:



"The Kindness is overwhelming. My boys would not have had Christmas this year without them being so kind to help out."

"We can actually put a tree up this year, because we have something to put under it."

"We were able to make our rent and buy food this month and we didn't have to worry about spending money for presents."

"Next year it is our turn to help give back."

This annual holiday project is a one of a kind, full circle "feel good" community project. It is something everyone gets excited about from community members attending the "Breakfast with Santa" who bring in donations to the Paramedic/Firefighters who receive all of the donated toys. The Paramedic/Firefighters fill up their firetruck and ambulance to deliver to our school district, and they do so with excitement and joy while considering which toy is the perfect gift to be matched to the children we serve. Finally, school district Social Workers and Counselors have the opportunity to excitedly organize and separate the toys so they are ready to be distributed to the receiving families before winter break begins.

In partnership, the Pattonville Fire Protection District and the Pattonville School District offer our most sincere thanks and gratitude to our community for making this community service project possible! Without the repeated, overwhelming support of our community, we would not be able to bring the magic of Christmas to so many families year after year. THANK YOU for doing *Whatever It Takes!*





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT - CAPTAIN/PARAMEDIC MARK BARNHART

Pattonville Fire District is proud to shine our employee spotlight on Captain/Paramedic Mark Barnhart. Captain Barnhart was born and raised in Bridgeton. He attended school at St. Lawrence the Martyr and Remington Traditional schools, and then finished middle school back at St. Lawrence. Mark attended De Smet Jesuit High School, graduating in 2003. When his family relocated due to the airport expansion, Mark moved to Maryland Heights while he attended St. Louis Community College. Mark earned an Associate Degree in Paramedic Technology in 2006, then completed his initial firefighter training at the St. Louis County Fire Academy in 2007.

Mark began his career in Emergency Medical Services with Abbott Ambulance in 2004 as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), then promoted to Paramedic in 2006 after obtaining his Paramedic License. He began volunteering as a Firefighter at the Affton Fire Protection District in 2005. Mark joined our team at the Pattonville Fire Protection District in 2008. Since joining Pattonville Captain Barnhart has served in the roles of Paramedic/Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Driver/Engineer, and currently serves as a Captain, fill-in Battalion Chief, and Community Outreach/Public Education Coordinator. Mark is also the Union Shop Steward representing Pattonville’s members of the Professional Fire Fighters of Eastern Missouri - International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local 2665.

Captain Barnhart accepted the position of Community Outreach/Public Education Coordinator in 2015. Since that time, he has championed the District’s established public outreach programs, and with the support of his fellow Paramedic/Firefighters and the Fire District’s Board of Directors, Mark’s leadership has brought about the addition of the following community outreach programs: fall prevention home visits; the Community Paramedic program; Stop The Bleed® Training; and residential carbon monoxide (CO) detector installations.

Captain Barnhart has implemented a community approach to public relations and fire prevention education. He has created collaborative partnerships with the Pattonville School District, Safe Kids Worldwide & SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital, and the cities of Bridgeton and Maryland Heights to protect and serve families in a multitude of different ways.

When asked what drew Captain Barnhart to the fire service he said:

“My dad is a diabetic. When I was 8 years old we had to call 9-1-1 for him early in the morning. I watched six

Paramedic/Firefighters work on the man that was Superman to me who was fighting and acting erratically, which was something completely out of the ordinary for him, until I couldn’t stand to watch any more. I walked out to our family room and started crying. One of the Paramedic/Firefighters knelt down, gave me a hug, and told me everything was going to be alright. Then he took me outside to show me the fire truck and ambulance. I realized that day that I was going to be a Paramedic/Firefighter. Whether I was going to be helping someone that didn’t realize that they needed the help, or comforting a family member on their worst day, that was what I was going to do.”

When Mark is away from Pattonville he is an Instructor at the St. Louis County Fire Academy and spends time with his wife Kristin, son Logan, and dog Reagan; as well as other members of his family and friends. He enjoys St. Louis sports and family vacations.

Over the course of Mark’s sixteen year career, he has been awarded the Bronze Medal of Valor for rescuing a man that fell through the ice at Creve Coeur Lake; recognized by North County Incorporated as one of the 30 Leaders in their 30s in 2017; received the Pride of Pattonville award in 2023; he currently sits on the board for St. Louis School – Business Partnerships; and is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton.

Thank you, Mark, for everything you do for our department, our community, and the residents of the Pattonville Fire Protection District! You truly set the bar and epitomize the meaning of *Whatever it Takes!*





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PATTONVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
13900 ST. CHARLES ROCK ROAD
BRIDGETON, MO 63044
(314) 739-3118
WWW.PATTONVILLEFD.COM

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fireboard@pattonvillefd.com

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

**Please VOTE on PROPOSITION S
on April 2, 2024.**



ZERO Tax Increase — NO New Taxes

***Protect Our Community's Future
& Your Family's Safety!***

