



PATTONVILLE

— FIRE DISTRICT —



NEWSLETTER ♦ SUMMER 2021 EDITION

DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO END THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC...

For almost a year, due to the concern of spreading COVID-19, the only interaction Pattonville Fire District's Paramedic/Firefighters could have with our community came during emergency calls. When the FDA released the Pfizer/BioTech COVID-19 Vaccine, we discovered a new opportunity to serve you, and began looking forward to the chance to reengage with the community that we had to socially distance ourselves from during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services began receiving shipments of COVID-19 Vaccine, Pattonville Fire District's leadership team began formulating a plan to open vaccination clinics within our community.

The Pattonville Fire District Board of Directors unanimously voted to make opening a COVID-19 vaccination clinic a top priority. Through the support of leadership officials from the cities of Bridgeton and Maryland Heights, Pattonville was given permission to use each city's community center as vaccination clinic sites. Bridgeton's Mayor Terry Briggs said, *"The City of Bridgeton was pleased to join the Pattonville Fire Protection District in sponsoring a COVID-19 vaccination program at the city's recreation center. There was no activity more important for our two entities than to protect and help the citizens we serve from the coronavirus."*

Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters jumped at the opportunity to do *Whatever it Takes* to get our community vaccinated. After completing hours of training on vaccine handling and administration and developing a plan to run four clinics per week, Pattonville's first COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic opened on February 12th, 2021, at the Bridgeton Community center. During the next 3 months your Paramedic/Firefighters worked tirelessly to administer over 16,000 doses of COVID-19 Vaccine.

Staffing a clinic required between fifteen and twenty people to make the site run properly. Despite the unwavering dedication of Pattonville's workforce, the long term success of these clinics required the assistance from neighboring fire departments and our community as a

whole. Paramedic/Firefighters from Maryland Heights, Robertson, and West Overland Fire Districts and the City of Hazelwood Fire Department stepped forward and were trained to become vaccinators. Volunteers from Pattonville School District PTO, Kiwanis Club of Bridgeton, Just Moms STL and numerous church groups fulfilled supporting roles as well.

The vaccination program has expanded to meet the needs of our community. Pattonville Fire District has served as the homebound COVID-19 vaccination distribution center for the geographic region North of Page Avenue in St Louis County. Paramedic/Firefighters have administered in-home delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations to disabled and homebound individuals and their caregivers. "Pop-up" vaccination clinics at the International Association of Machinists District 9 Hall and the Pattonville High School have been available to large groups from area churches, businesses, community groups and schools. We are very proud to say that our vaccination clinic days are drawing to an end because the need in our region is no longer present.



Maryland Heights' Mayor Mike Moeller expressed his appreciation for the vaccination program for the community, saying, *"On behalf of the Maryland Heights community, I would like to thank the Pattonville Fire District for their dedication and efficiency in distributing COVID-19 vaccines to our community. Your careful*

planning was instrumental in ensuring that the vaccination distribution occurred smoothly and safely. For many, you were the light at the end of the tunnel and a face of hope. From your professional service administering vaccines at the Community Center, to the efforts made to vaccinate the homebound, we appreciate your commitment to our citizens."

While the COVID-19 pandemic has been a very difficult time for all of us, and our lives have been forever changed by this pandemic, your Paramedic/Firefighters have proven that they are committed to doing *Whatever it Takes* to keep our community safe.



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

Greetings, fellow residents! I would like to introduce myself as the Fire Chief of the Pattonville Protection Fire Protection District. I am a Pattonville High School alumnus (class of 1986) and a resident of our community. I began my career as a Paramedic/Firefighter with the Pattonville Fire District in July of 1990 and have advanced through the ranks of Private, Captain/Training Officer, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and now serve as your Fire Chief. My wife, Connie, and I are active in our community and the Pattonville School District. We are PIRATES through and through and enjoy attending our Pattonville High School sporting events.

When I became the Fire Chief in January 2021, the number one priority in our community was getting COVID-19 vaccines into the arms of our residents. We identified that we needed support from our community partners in order to be successful and sustainable in doing our part to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Community agreements established with local municipalities, community volunteer organizations and our surrounding fire districts and fire departments allowed the Pattonville Fire District to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics at several venues within our community. Your Paramedic/Firefighters committed to working at daily vaccine clinics and multiple pop-up clinics on what would have otherwise been their days off-duty. We continue to serve as a vaccine distributor to fourteen north St. Louis County fire agencies for the homebound vaccination program. I am extremely humbled by the commitment and dedication from everyone in our department. Every level in the organization participated in the distribution of vaccines, from the front-line Paramedic/Firefighters, Office Staff, Chief Officers, and the Fire District's Board of Directors. They all invested considerable effort and time away from their families to make this endeavor a success. Here at Pattonville Fire District we are proud to stand by our mission statement, **Whatever It Takes**, and remain committed to being a part of the solution at all times.

As local and state health restrictions continue to evolve in response to the pandemic, our Fire/EMS

response strategies have had to adapt to keep everyone safe. You may have seen our Paramedic/Firefighters responding to emergencies wearing full personal protective equipment when clinically indicated to keep our patients and themselves safe from the COVID-19 virus. While this was a significant change to the way we had traditionally dressed when attending to those in need, the care, compassion, dedication, training and skills of the men and women underneath these protective ensembles remains unwaveringly steadfast in ensuring your safety.



In May, we took ownership of two new Rosenbauer fire trucks: a 100-ft Tower Ladder and an Industrial Pumper. These custom-built fire trucks provide state of the art technology to meet the safety challenges that exist within our district, the demands of expanding commercial developments, and the potential hazards of our local landfills. Both new fire trucks are equipped with the latest technology and safety components available to keep our community, region and Paramedic/Firefighters safe.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to stabilize, we will begin to return to our traditional schedule of community involvement. Your Paramedic/Firefighters will once again be visible within our community as they participate in our senior citizen barbecue luncheons, Fire Prevention Week programs, fire extinguisher training classes, CPR and first aid training programs, back-to-school jams, and our beloved Santa programs. Whether it be seeing one another through a mask, at a distance, sharing a fist bump, or even a traditional handshake, we are excited and looking forward to seeing everyone once again!

Until then, stay safe and stay healthy!

- Jim Usry, Fire Chief

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

As we transition out of the dark and cold winter months, your Pattonville Paramedic/Firefighters have hit the ground running in many ways! In February, we started operating the COVID-19 vaccination clinics. We are incredibly pleased and humbled to have been able to provide such an important service to our community in the wake of the global COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of demand, these clinics were running a minimum of 5 days a week, one of which being a homebound program that allowed individuals without the ability to travel to receive the vaccine in their own home. Staffing the clinics with off-duty members allowed us to continue providing the same level of daily emergency service that our district is accustomed to without interruption.

As it did for most everyone last year, life went virtual for our Paramedic/Firefighters as well. Crews were able to stay up to date on emergency medical treatment guidelines and firefighting training by attending virtual classes. They were also able to participate in smaller in-house hands-on type training. Thanks to the development and widespread administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, crews have been able to get back to doing more of the traditional training that they are accustomed to. Recently we were able to send

seven of our newest members through a week-long Swiftwater Rescue and Rescue Boat Operator course at the Indiana River Rescue School.

The Board of Directors is very excited to announce the delivery of two new fire trucks that will be in service in the very near future. The joint labor-management committees that work on building these new trucks did a fantastic job!

As always, we could not provide the level of service that we do without the support of our community. We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to do *Whatever It Takes* to keep you safe.

Well wishes,

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



PARAMEDIC/FIREFIIGHTERS DONATE TO LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND...

Over the past year, COVID-19 has affected us all in different ways. Undoubtedly, it has tested all of us financially, emotionally and mentally. For those reasons, when Chief Usry saw a flyer that the Pattonville High School Parent-Teacher Organization Senior Scholarship Fund was behind on their fundraising goal of \$5,000, he notified your Paramedic/Firefighters of the opportunity to do *Whatever It Takes* to support our community. The men and women of Pattonville Fire Protection District felt compelled to donate to this great cause and unanimously voted to make a \$1000 donation from the Pattonville Firefighters' Community Outreach Fund. The Community Outreach Fund is an account that is funded entirely by your Paramedic/Firefighters that is given back to our community when a need arises.

On April 14th, the crews of 4835 and 4837 presented a check for \$1000 to Mr. Brandon Wilkes for the Pattonville High School Parent-Teacher

Organization Senior Scholarship Fund. We are proud to be able to do *Whatever It Takes* to help young *Ville-Made* men and women pursue their dreams!



PATTONVILLE'S FIRST S.T.A.R. WAS BORN...

On September 8, 2019, a 911 call was placed that nobody wants to make. A three year old child was not able to breathe. But, this wasn't just any three year old. This boy has a medical condition that requires him to have a supplemental tube placed in his throat called a tracheostomy which allows him to breathe. This is a complex device that requires special training and experience to maintain and keep working correctly. When there's a problem with that device, that person is no longer able to breathe.

First, let's rewind a few weeks prior. Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters got the opportunity to meet sweet baby Ava. Ava was introduced to the District through a program called STARS. STARS stands for Special needs Tracking & Awareness Response System. This program is for pediatric patients that have special medical needs that require extra treatment and/or training to care for them. Ava was eight months old when she became Pattonville's first STARS patient. When we met Ava, we learned that she was born with a rare condition called Moebius syndrome. Moebius syndrome affects facial control and movement. Due to this condition, Ava was also required to have a tracheostomy placed in her neck in order to breathe. When Pattonville learned of Ava's medical challenges, we knew we needed to take extra time to become properly trained in how to recognize, mitigate and correct any potential emergency that she could experience. With help from Ava's mother, Rachel, every Pattonville Paramedic/Firefighter was able to go to Ava's home to become properly trained on tracheostomies and how to handle them. This training was invaluable and the hands-on experience was something that couldn't be learned in a classroom setting. Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters built a relationship with Ava and her family during this time which created a team of people that were ready and prepared to give Ava, or any other tracheostomy patient, what they deserve - the best care possible!

Back to that scary September day - Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters got a call for a three year old patient, who also happened to be a STARS patient, who was having difficulty breathing. Paramedic/Firefighters quickly responded and were able to look up his medical history through the STARS database while en route to his location. The crew quickly learned that he had a tracheostomy. Once Paramedic/Firefighters made contact with the patient, they determined that he was having trouble breathing because there was something wrong with the device in his neck. In many cases, this emergency could only be fixed in a hospital by a trained

doctor or nurse, which in turn results in serious brain damage or even death. But, because of the extra training Pattonville's Paramedic/Firefighters received with baby Ava and her family, they knew just what to do. Without hesitation, the Paramedic/Firefighters able to successfully remove and replace the malfunctioning tracheostomy tube, and the three year old boy was immediately able to breathe normally once again!

This boy is still alive today thanks to the excellent work by the Paramedic/Firefighters on scene who had met baby Ava just a few weeks prior and learned how to handle this very situation. Pattonville Fire Protection District is eternally grateful to Ava and her family for allowing us to come into their home and learn new skills that enable us to provide the best care possible for all of our customers, no matter how complex their medical history.

If you believe you have a child with special needs (medical or behavioral), please contact our STARS program at stars@pattonvillefd.com or by calling 314-740-4431. For more information on Moebius syndrome, check out the Pediatric Brain Foundation at <https://pediatricbrainfoundation.org>.

*Shared in remembrance of Ava Corrigan
December 3, 2018 - October 5, 2019
Breathe easy and fly high, sweet girl!*



Pictured, Left to Right: Captain/Paramedic Mark Barnhart, Ava Corrigan, Paramedic/Firefighter Matt Russell.

DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES WITH NEW FIRE TRUCKS FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

The Pattonville Fire District is proud to announce the arrival of two brand new fire trucks built by Rosenbauer. These two fully customized trucks are identified as Tower Ladder 4835 and Industrial Pumper 4894. They are both replacing existing apparatus that are nearly fifteen years old and have reached the end of their serviceable lifespan. They were designed to meet the specific needs of our community and are equipped to respond to any emergency with a full complement of tools to handle any type of situation.

The technology included on these two new trucks has come a long way since the era of Pattonville's very first fire truck. Both are equipped with a fully automated, computer-controlled fire pump system that allows the driver-operator to move freely about the incident scene and simultaneously complete other critical tasks; battery operated hydraulic rescue tools (i.e.: the "Jaws-of-Life") that require no set-up time and allow Paramedic/Firefighters to remove victims from vehicle entrapments; a full compliment of the latest lifesaving medical equipment and supplies; and many more top-of-the-line tools and equipment products that the industry has to offer.

Although these two fire trucks are very similar in some aspects, they are also very specific in their design capabilities in order to handle certain emergency situations. Tower Ladder 4835 will be stationed at Engine House 3 located at 2222 Maryland Heights Expressway. It will respond with a minimum of four

Paramedic/Firefighters at all time. This 100-foot aerial ladder truck has the capability to produce a water flow of 2000-gallons-per-minute to extinguish large fires from the tip of the ladder or small fires with hose lines on the ground. It has the most advanced safety features that will keep your Pattonville Paramedic/Firefighters safe when they need to reach victims or fight fires from high above the ground.

Industrial Pumper 4894 was identified as a need for the community and built specifically for the hazards that exist at the West Lake and Bridgeton landfills. It will also be our reserve fire truck and will be placed in primary service when any other apparatus in the fleet are undergoing repairs or maintenance. Purchased with funds from the St. Louis Community Foundation, this fully customized truck has the ability to produce a water flow rate of 3000-gallons-per-minute. It is unique in this regard as it is one of the only fire trucks in the St. Louis Region with that capability. Although Industrial Pumper 4894 was designed specifically for potential fire emergencies at the landfill, it will also provide the Pattonville Fire District with a very well-built reserve rescue/pumper fire truck.

As the Pattonville Fire District, we want to give you, our community, a most sincere THANK YOU for providing us with the resources necessary to purchase these new trucks! It has truly allowed us to reach a new level of doing *Whatever It Takes* to protect and save lives!





EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CAPTAIN/PARAMEDIC JEFF PROCTOR...

The subject of Pattonville’s Employee Spotlight for this newsletter is Captain/Paramedic Jeff Proctor. Jeff is Captain of our 4824 Rescue/Pumper company stationed at Engine House No.2. Jeff started his career as a Reserve Firefighter for the Eureka Fire Protection District in 2000 and was hired by the University City Fire Department in 2003. He also worked in EMS for Abbott Ambulance and spent time in Barnes-Jewish Hospital ER between 2001 and 2003. After spending two years with University City, Jeff was hired by the Pattonville Fire Protection District in 2005 where he has since climbed the ranks from Paramedic/Firefighter to Acting Engineer, Acting Captain and then was promoted to Captain in 2020. Jeff is also a member of an elite group of first responders, St. Louis County Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team 3.

Aside from being involved with the Pattonville Fire District, Jeff has spent countless hours off duty in various other roles that include being International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 2665 Vice President (2010-2013), Business Manager of IAFF Local 2665 (2013-2019), served on the St. Louis County Fire Academy Board of Directors (2015-2020), and has served on Pattonville’s Labor-Management team (2007-2019). Jeff continues to be part of the IAFF Local 2665 Peer Support Team where he works with first responders that suffer from mental illnesses such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

When asked what his favorite aspects of being an employee with Pattonville are, Jeff answered, *“My favorite part about being an employee of PFD is how close we are with our community. Everywhere we go, people treat us like a part of their family, and the feeling is mutual. We treat everyone we encounter with the same loving kindness and compassion that we would for our own family members, and that is a huge part of what*

makes us such a great organization. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be able to serve our community whenever and wherever they need us.”

Even through all his (many) roles and the extra efforts he puts toward his career, Jeff states, *“My family is, by far, the greatest part of my life! Born and raised in St. Louis, I am proudly married to my high school sweetheart (Anna) and we have been blessed with three beautiful daughters who are our world! I am forever grateful to my parents who supported me throughout every step in this journey of life.”*

Captain/Paramedic Jeff Proctor exemplifies everything Pattonville Fire Protection District stands for, both on and off duty. We are proud to shine the spotlight on him in this newsletter edition!



DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES...

In March of 2020, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic struck our community in a hard way. Not only did everyone worry about their health and the uncertain days that lie ahead, but businesses started closing to help stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. Restaurants had to find safe ways to provide food without allowing customers inside. Carry out orders were the only way to do this. Small shops and restaurants across the country were being forced to close their doors permanently. Pattonville recognized the need of our local restaurants and stepped into

action. During the first few months of the pandemic, Pattonville Paramedic/Firefighters supported local restaurants by purchasing meals everyday while on duty. This not only supported local businesses but also helped keep food on the shelves of the local grocery stores for the residents while grocery supply chains were suffering. Still to this day, Pattonville Fire District continues to support local businesses in every way we can by ordering food from local restaurants, purchasing supplies from local stores and using local service vendors.



HOMETOWN HEROES ANSWER THE CALL TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES...

While responding to a call in the fire truck or ambulance there is always a lot going on. As we weave through traffic with the lights flashing, sirens blaring, receiving updates from the dispatch center, it is not uncommon for us to see young children get excited and wave as the trucks pass. If you were to ask many of the men and women that work as paramedic/firefighters why they got into the field, most will tell you a story about an event or interaction they had with a paramedic or firefighter that inspired them to fulfill that dream. Truth be told, the ultimate dream is often to protect and serve one's hometown. With that thought in mind we know that in every interaction we have, we could be inspiring the next generation of paramedic/firefighters.

Pattonville Fire Protection District teams with Pattonville School District, private schools, and various other organizations to ensure that we are educating members of all ages of the community about fire safety, cardiopulmonary pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid. At Pattonville High School our paramedic/firefighters participate in career fairs and "lunch and learn" programs, and have developed a high school ride-along program for those students that are interested in a career in the fire and emergency medical services. The major goal of our community involvement programs are to establish relationships within the community so you know who we are and that we are

available and approachable when you need us. It is through these types of interactions and involvement within our community that we have been able to meet and mentor some young adults from the area that are on their journey of becoming paramedic/firefighters - some of which are fulfilling their dream of protecting and serving our community, their hometown. Of the 60 members employed at Pattonville Fire, fourteen are from the immediate area. One of them commented, "It can be incredibly nerve wracking when you respond to the home of someone you know. But seeing the comfort the patient or family have when an old friend walks through the door often makes the anxiety level of the patient or family go down."

We are incredibly proud to have our hometown heroes on the street protecting and serving the community that they have called home. Yet, regardless of where our paramedic/firefighters grew up, we hire only the best of the best. We are committed to building these relationships to better serve our community as well as to inspire, mentor, and advise the next generation of paramedic/firefighters. That could very well be someone in your life or family today.

For more information on how to become a Paramedic/Firefighter, or regarding any of our other services, please contact Captain Mark Barnhart at 314-740-4431.

OUR FAVORITE LASAGNA RECIPE...

Pastas can be a go-to recipe source when our Paramedic/Firefighters want something hearty and filling for dinner. There is just something about the way this lasagna recipe fulfills a craving for comfort food. We hope that you'll enjoy this dish as much as we do!

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 lb. lasagna noodles.
1 lb. ground beef.
1 medium onion.
2 cloves garlic.
1/4 tsp. pepper.
2-1/2 tsp. salt.
1/2 tsp. basil.
1 tsp. parsley.
2, 6oz cans tomato paste.
1-1/2 cup water.
2 eggs, slightly beaten.
15 oz. cottage cheese.
1/2 lb. mozzarella cheese slices.
1/4 cup parmesan cheese.

DIRECTIONS:

Cook the lasagna noodles, drain and set aside. Brown the ground beef and onions, drain off grease, then add the seasonings (garlic, pepper, salt, basil, parsley). Mix water and tomato paste, then add to the meat mixture and simmer for 5 min. Blend together eggs and cottage cheese. Spread a thin layer of meat sauce in a 9"x13" pan. Top with half of the noodles, all cottage cheese mixture, half of the mozzarella and half of the meat sauce. Repeat this process, layering noodles, meat sauce and mozzarella cheese. Sprinkle the top layer with parmesan cheese. Bake at 350°F for 30 minutes uncovered. Allow the finished lasagna to cool for ten minutes before cutting and serving. *Godere!*



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TREASURER BOB SOUTIER

STOP THE DROWNINGS!

-  **Wear a life jacket at all times when around natural waterways. Do not swim in moving water.**
-  **Learn to swim. If you enjoy water activities, being a strong swimmer is a must.**
-  **Choose life jackets over water wings or puddle jumpers. Stay safe with Coast Guard-approved life vests.**
-  **Drowning can happen in seconds. Keep children within arm's reach and under a constant watchful eye.**
-  **Know your limits. Keep checking to see if the water is too deep, or if you are too far away from the shore or the poolside.**
-  **Swim only within designated swimming areas, preferably at pools or beaches where lifeguards are on duty.**

