



MONARCH

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY

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Headquarters

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Chesterfield, MO 63017
Phone: 314-514-0900
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**In Emergency,
Call 9-1-1
All other inquiries,
call (314) 514-0900**

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK



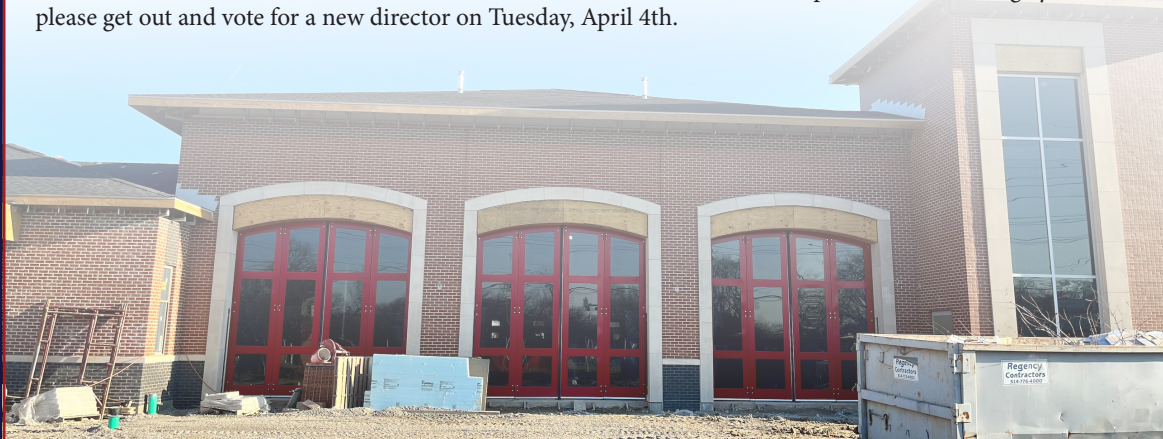
The Monarch Fire Protection District has several exciting things happening. I am writing my first newsletter article as your new Chief. I came to Monarch in 1990 with seven years of fire and EMS experience. Over the years I earned promotions to Engineer, Captain, Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief. On November 18, 2022, the Monarch board of directors unanimously voted in favor of my promotion to Chief. I proudly and humbly look forward to serving the District for many years.

The completion of new Engine House 3 is expected in early Summer. By then, we plan to break ground on Engine House 2. Both facilities will be able to house our new, larger, ambulances and fire trucks enabling us to continue providing our citizens with state-of-the-art fire, rescue, and EMS services.

Engine House 1 will soon receive a Rosenbauer 101-foot Aerial Platform Ladder Truck with a 2,000 gallon-per-minute pump, 500-gallon water tank, and 20-gallon foam concentrate tank. The internal cab will accommodate a crew of four firefighters. This apparatus will be equipped with Advanced Life Support medical equipment, vehicle extrication, high-angle rescue equipment, and complete fire suppression capabilities.

Because I believe strongly in education for our employees, as well as our citizens, one of my first acts as Chief was the creation of a new position, Public Educator Specialist. You can read more about that later in this issue.

Finally, after 26 years of unwavering dedication to the Monarch Fire Protection District and its citizens, Director Rick Gans will not seek another term on our board. On behalf of the District, I wish Director Gans all the happiness in his retirement. He will be missed by the employees and its citizens and is always welcome at Monarch. His retirement leaves a seat on the board of directors open. Therefore, I urge you to please get out and vote for a new director on Tuesday, April 4th.



SPRING 2023

REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS OLDER THAN 10 YEARS

FYI

The Board of Directors of the Monarch Fire Protection District would like to share some important information with you, our constituents. The primary role of our personnel is to provide the residents of the District with fire, rescue, and EMS services. When you see our trucks on a scene, you know that our crews are doing their jobs.

What you may not know is everything that happens back at headquarters, or at any of our five engine houses, or in our board room for that matter. For example, Fire Marshal Jim McKay, who is in his 24th year with the District, also serves as our Public Information Officer (PIO). For several years, this dual role has benefitted our residents with timely information of District happenings at a fraction of the cost of a full time PIO.

Notwithstanding our efforts to provide timely information to the public, there is a greater need for public education. Monarch has a full-time Public Education Specialist (PES), Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Ruhl, who regularly meets with groups from schools, subdivisions, various adult organizations, and local businesses teaching fire safety, hazardous weather safety, first aid, and CPR classes. Joe can often be found in our state-of-the-art safety trailer where he simulates kitchen fires (complete with smoke), industrial fires, and replicates the effects of severe storms as he imparts his safety knowledge. Please read the full article further in this newsletter about the PES position and course offerings available at no charge to Monarch residents and businesses.

For several years, Monarch has provided a Transparency Portal on our website. This portal allows insight into the District's finances. When we were advised the third party host of our portal had ceased operation, the District rebuilt the portal as quickly as we could. Monarch is one of only two fire districts in the metro area to offer such transparency. We invite you to explore the transparency portal yourself. Once you've accessed the District's website at www.monarchfpd.org, simply click on Transparency Portal in the Quick Links section located in the red box on the left hand side of our home page.

Each of the three independent, non-partisan, Fire Board Directors proudly upholds our oath to provide our residents, businesses, and all who visit our District with the very best fire, rescue, and EMS services of which the District is capable. Feel free to reach out to us any time. We are here to serve you.

DISTRICT CREATES NEW POSITION



Hello, my name is Joseph Ruhl and I am the new Public Educator for the Monarch Fire Protection District. Although this is not a new position for Monarch, the District has expanded its scope by making this a full time position dedicated to community education and awareness through Community Risk Reduction. I have been serving the district as a Firefighter Paramedic since 2014. I am a certified Fire Instructor, Fire Inspector, and Firefighter Paramedic. I have been a firefighter for 12 years and a paramedic for 16 years. The Public Educator is a new position created by the district to better serve our community through education. My responsibilities will include developing and offering Community Risk Reduction training for our citizens and our business community. We offer residential and workplace fire safety, including a wide array of classes including basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), proper use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), and how to stop bleeding in a severely injured person.

The District can also bring its state-of-the-art life safety trailer to your subdivision or school to teach basic kitchen safety, fire safety, and storm safety in the home. The safety trailer also features an

industrial area where we demonstrate workplace safety, including how to shut off utilities properly and safely.

To schedule lifesaving training for your subdivision, school, or workplace, contact me at ruhl.j@monarchfpd.org or 314-514-0900, ext. 2284.



CUTTING EDGE EMS TOOLS

Over the last year, the Monarch Fire Protection District EMS Division has been working diligently to further advance its delivery of emergency medical services to our citizens with the goal of increasing survivability in the realm of prehospital care. Transport ventilators provide patients with consistent ventilation, allowing EMS crews to attend to other patient needs while transporting patients to the critical care facility. The District has added one transport ventilator to our EMS Captains response vehicle.

Point-of-Care Ultrasound affords our paramedics a fast, safe, and accurate diagnosis of medical conditions in emergency settings. POCUS, as it is known, has become paramount in EMS care for immediate treatment decisions making it an effective, efficient and, often, lifesaving diagnostic tool for acute conditions. It is used to detect cardiac anomalies, free fluid in the abdomen from a traumatic injury, or specific lung injuries. Findings are relayed wirelessly to the receiving hospital, providing advance notice to prepare an Operating Room or Cardiac Cath Lab.

Newly added Transport IV pumps allow our paramedics to precisely deliver resuscitation medications or micro-managing critical fluid replacement to our patients while being transported to the hospital. Along with this cutting-edge technology, Monarch has increased its EMS training regimen, taking advantage of local and national in-service offerings. Our goal of best utilization of these tools and processes means the best care possible for our citizens.

Deputy Chief Harper

DIRECTOR GANS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

In the mid-1990's, an involved citizen learned of the sale of a Chesterfield Fire District (as it was then known) fire station and of the change from the 911 dispatch agency that served all of west St. Louis County to an agency that served fire departments in south St. Louis County. He attended Board of Directors' meetings and learned that there were no valid reasons for these changes. He formed a citizens committee comprised of several dozen other interested residents and together they brought about change in supporting Board candidates that reversed these ill-advised decisions. These changes still have a huge positive impact on the Monarch Fire District (as it is now known).

That Citizen is Board President Rick Gans, who will be retiring after serving on the Board since 1998, with a short hiatus in 2011. Director Gans is the longest serving Board Member in the history of the District. During Director Gans' tenure on the Board, he oversaw numerous projects, such as moving and expanding Station #4 at Olive and White Roads, the purchase and implementation of thermal imaging equipment on all fire trucks, the addition of a dedicated training tower and classroom facility, staffing all District firetrucks and ambulances with at least two paramedics at all times and other significant changes and improvements too numerous to mention.

Equally as important, during Director Gans' tenure on the Board, taxpayers of the Monarch Fire Protection District benefited from balanced budgets and one of the three lowest tax rates of 43 Fire Districts and Departments in St. Louis County each and every year. All of this while providing the highest levels of fire, rescue and EMS services to the residents and businesses in the Fire District.

Director Gans served as the Monarch representative to that same 911 dispatch agency he returned us to, only now it serves virtually all of St. Louis County. His leadership as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of that governance Board is what he has always described as what he likes best about his many years in emergency services. He introduced and helped implement much of the advanced technology used for 911 responses.

Now, as Director Gans enters retirement from the countless hours he put into his service to the Board of Directors and residents of the Monarch Protection District a special "Tip of the Helmet" is extended to him. His contributions will be missed but never forgotten.

IN CASE OF FIRE, GET OUT, THEN CALL 911

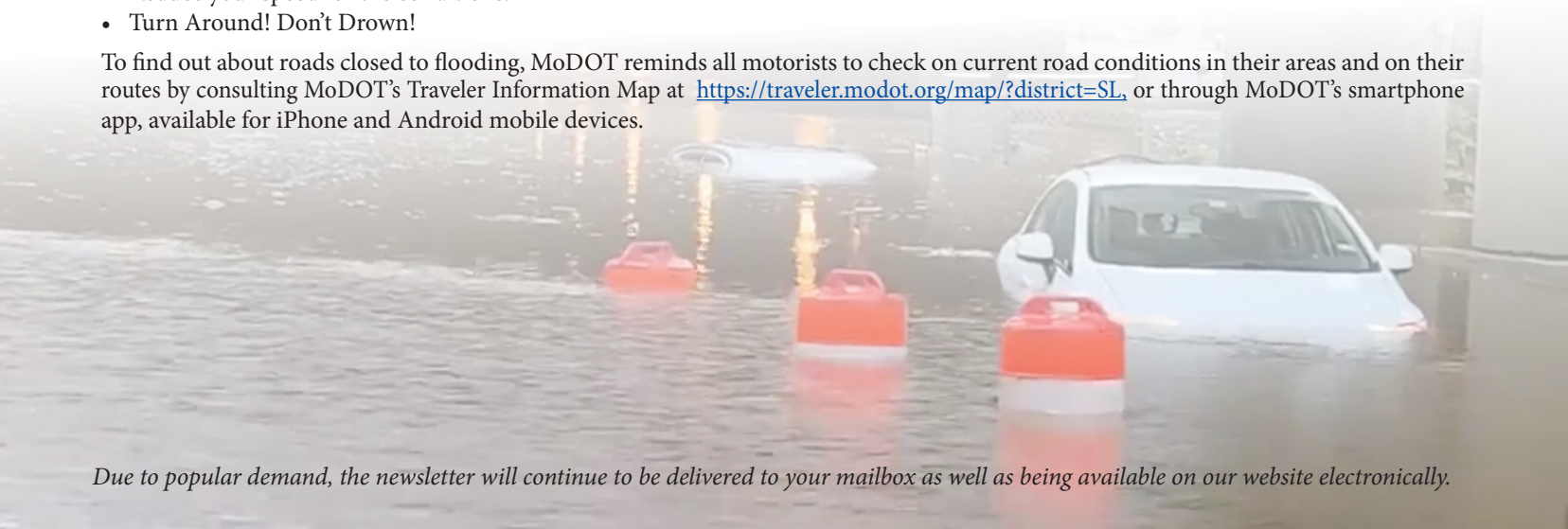
WITH SPRING COMES "FLASH FLOODS"

Floodwaters can be deeper than they appear and can hide such hazards as sharp objects, electrical wires, sewage and chemicals. There's a possibility the road that was once where the water is, no longer exists. Even the best four-wheel-drive vehicle will lose against rapidly moving water and no traction.

For your own safety and the safety of everyone in your vehicle, please take heed of these lifesaving tips:

- Don't drive through flooded areas. Taking extra time to detour may save your life and your passengers.
- Less than six inches of water can turn your car into a poorly engineered canoe, with no ability to slow down, steer...or float.
- When you see water over the roadway, assume that the roadway below is either damaged or destroyed.
- Your driving headlights should be turned on whenever you are using your windshield wipers. It's the law!
- Reduce your speed for the conditions.
- Turn Around! Don't Drown!

To find out about roads closed to flooding, MoDOT reminds all motorists to check on current road conditions in their areas and on their routes by consulting MoDOT's Traveler Information Map at <https://traveler.modot.org/map/?district=SL>, or through MoDOT's smartphone app, available for iPhone and Android mobile devices.



Due to popular demand, the newsletter will continue to be delivered to your mailbox as well as being available on our website electronically.

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