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Chief Leads Chiefs

The Monarch Fire Protection District is honored to have its chief, Tom Vineyard, also leading the Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association. Vineyard was elected president of the organization last spring, shortly after assuming his duties at Monarch.

MONARCH

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

INTEGRITY • ACCOUNTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY

DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

The Monarch Fire Protection District recently unveiled its new and improved Web site and we are excited to offer this refreshing new resource to the community. The Web site, which can be found at monarchfpd.org, is a great place for you to learn more about what your fire district and its personnel are doing to serve you.

Monarchfpd.org features information about educating adults and children regarding fire safety, fire prevention, and emergency medical issues. It provides easy access to board meeting dates and minutes, upcoming events such as Safety Fairs, CPR classes and other public education opportunities, and blog posts and photos of Monarch personnel performing their duties.

The Web site also shares the Fire District's mission and history, details about our chief, key personnel and our board of directors. Residents and businesses can find information about our facilities and the equipment that we use, and a map displaying our boundaries, including a feature to see if an address is located within the District.

The Web site is a work in progress so we ask for your patience as we add new content and update it regularly. We also welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Please also be sure to provide your email in the box provided on the left-hand column of the Home Page so you can receive our Newsletter and eBlast updates in your inbox.



CHARITY WORK AIDS FIREFIGHTER'S CHILDREN, COMMUNITY

The Monarch firefighters-paramedics collect and contribute to numerous charities in the area each year. This year, their efforts also helped the young children of one of their own.

They donated \$3,700 to an education fund for Monarch Capt. Kenny Groennert's children. Groennert battled cancer for several years before passing away at age 38 in October of 2011. Firefighters purchased memorial T-shirts that were made to honor Groennert. Groennert's family approved of the design on the T-shirt, which includes a replica of his fire helmet and his initials on the back.

"He was a brother and friend to all of us at Monarch," Firefighter Bob Wilhelm said. "He was loved by all. I know that he would be humbled that we are continuing to honor and remember him."

The Monarch firefighters also collected:

- * \$19,000 at their 10th annual golf tournament that benefits the Multiple Sclerosis Society.
- * \$17,598 for the annual Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) telethon.
- * \$3,000 in the annual Pink Heals T-shirt fundraiser, which was donated to No Woman Left Behind. The non-profit is run out of Ann's Bra Shop in Chesterfield, and offers prosthetics, surgical bras and other resources for free to breast cancer patients who have limited means.
- * \$1,300 at the annual Wings of Hope fundraiser at Chesterfield Mall.

HEROICS AT MASSIVE FIRES, RESCUE ON STEEP EMBANKMENT EARN RECOGNITION

Monarch Fire Capt. Ed Fassler had not officially started his shift on Nov. 4 but he was first on the scene of a major fire at 6:25 a.m. at the Chesterfield Place Apartments.

Fassler was shopping for groceries when the 9-1-1 call flashed on his pager. He rushed to the complex, located the resident whose unit was on fire and dragged her out of the building. Fassler, who was not wearing protective gear, began knocking on doors while calling in a second alarm. Fassler instructed the first crew to arrive, Capt. Jon Shoop and Firefighter Mark Kratz, to evacuate residents, many of whom were still asleep.

They battled thick black smoke and forced open doors. While some residents were upset at first, they followed instructions to get down on the floor and crawl out the side exits of the hallways. Shoop and Kratz had to force one elderly woman onto the floor after she walked directly into the smoke. They then carried her out of the building. Capt. Andy Stecko, Engineer Matt Stack and Firefighter Rob Warden entered the building with hoses and began attacking the fire internally while other crews worked the exterior.

Due to the heavy smoke conditions and active fire on the second and third floors, some residents had to be rescued from their balconies. Crews from Monarch and neighboring fire districts rescued a total of 15 occupants.

Vineyard recommended that the following individuals be recognized with the Life Safety Award of the Year for their actions under extreme conditions:

* Battalion Chiefs Bill Long and Rod Cook.
* Acting Battalion Chief Dave Schmitt.
* Capts. Andy Stecko, Steve Kell, Bob Temm, Chris Overy, Jim Wilcox, Ed Fassler, Jon Shoop, Larry Beauchamp, Brad Shelton and Jim Schaumberg.
* Engineers Matt Stack, Tommy Beauchamp, Dana Buckley, Bryan Ball, Glen Hornbuckle, and Travis Bauer.
* Firefighters Rob Warden, Steve Hahn, Al Wilson, Adam Coughlin, Mike Underwood, Kevin McCullough, Craig Sullivan, Tom Vatterott, Kurt Elliott and Kelly Grassmuck.
He also recommended 9-1-1 Dispatchers Cindy Sportsman, Lisa Cooley and Lisa Orf for the honors.

The Greater St. Louis Area Fire Chiefs Association, Metropolitan Fire Marshals Association of St. Louis County and the Greater St. Louis Region Fire and EMS Officer Association recently honored area firefighters-paramedics.

Monarch personnel who were recognized include: Battalion Chief Bill Long, Capts. Dan Allen and Ed Fassler, Acting Capt. Dan Hinson, Engineer Barry Sullivan, Acting Engineer Kevin Kuehnel, Firefighter/Paramedics Nick Smith, Jason Herin, Steve Hahn, Jeff Burle, Steve Kirby, Joe Newton and Mark Jovcevski.

The honor recognized their efforts at a July 27 fire at a 10-unit building in the Schoettler Village Apartments. Monarch firefighters first rescued the burn victim from the apartment that was on fire. They then forced open the remaining doors on the ground level and floor above and evacuated several residents. Ten of the 21 occupants needed assistance in getting out of their units. The Monarch crews performed many of the rescues without the safety of a hose line before other engine companies arrived.

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Several Monarch crews responded to a one-vehicle accident around 3 a.m. on June 21 at South Eaterton and Wildhorse Creek Roads. The car was on its side against a tree about 50 feet off the roadway, down a steep embankment. The driver was partially ejected.

The rescue was challenging due to the steep terrain, foliage and darkness. Several pieces of equipment were used to provide lighting and stabilization of the vehicle. A rope hauling system brought the patient up the steep terrain and an ARCH Helicopter unit transported the patient to an area hospital.

The following crew members were honored for their rescue effort: Capts. Bob Temm and Matt Lawler, Engineers Dana Buckley, Aaron Kindlesparger and Dan Hinson, Firefighter/Paramedics Jason Herin, Steve Heine and Kerry Tebbe, and Firefighter Ed Woods.

## **SANTA VISITS YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD DEC. 18-20**

Santa Claus and the firefighters-paramedics from Monarch visit several neighborhoods on the evenings of Dec. 18, 19 and 20. The visits are scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. each evening.

Santa will travel on his sleigh with Mrs. Claus and his elves, while Monarch fire trucks escort him and light up the route. Music, candy cane treats and photo opportunities with Santa will be available for kids of all ages.

For exact locations and times for each stop, or updates to the schedule due to the weather, visit our Web site at [monarchfpd.org](http://monarchfpd.org) or Facebook page.





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Citizens:

During this wonderful season of giving, I would like to share some of the great things that the men and women of the Monarch Fire Protection District have given back to the community. I am proud to be the leader of this highly skilled and talented team of individuals. These men and women do many great things in performing their duties but also go above and beyond.

We provide excellent fire and EMS services and are doing more with less, through cooperation and quality leadership on all levels. We faced substantial budget cuts this year due to declining revenue, yet we improved the level of service that we provide to the community.

We have doubled our public education and public relations efforts. We are building an accredited kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade fire education program. We have added several car seat technicians and now install more car seats than any of our neighboring departments. We continue to offer lifesaving classes such as fire prevention and CPR training.

A perfect example of knowing lifesaving techniques occurred in February. Our crews responded to a business where a 57-year-old male was in respiratory and cardiac arrest. His co-worker was performing CPR on him when our crews arrived. The patient is alive in large part to the efforts of his co-worker.

"I am extremely proud of the teamwork that was displayed by our crew," Monarch Captain/Paramedic Chris Gelven said after the incident. "I also believe that the early, high-quality CPR that was performed prior to our arrival proved pivotal to giving the patient the best chance of survival. It takes great courage to step up and help a co-worker in need, as this man did."

Time is of the essence in such situations and we encourage all of our citizens to learn this and many other lifesaving skills. To learn more about our CPR classes and other education opportunities, including fire extinguisher training, first aid, home safety, and much more, visit [monarchfpd.org](http://monarchfpd.org).

We also have held numerous public events, including our well-attended Safety Fair at Chesterfield Mall. We have hosted some lucky young fans and their families for dinner with the crews, tours of the fire station and even the opportunity to ride on the fire truck.

We participated again in a vehicle extrication demonstration at Marquette High School to show students the horrific results of distracted and impaired driving. The students acted as victims and learned firsthand what tragedy can arise from impaired driving. This is a great event held during homecoming and prom seasons.

In October, we were proud to host several citizens, lawmakers and members of the media for our first "Fire Ops 101" training. This was an opportunity for our patrons to experience first-hand what it is like to perform some of the operations of firefighters. The full day of training included classroom instruction to go over safety requirements and what to expect, fitting of gear for the participants, and then practical scenarios involving EMS calls, rescues, and fires. I appreciate the men and women of the District who assisted



our citizens as they participated in the real-life demonstrations. I encourage everyone to check out the video on our Facebook page.

I encourage each one of you to become involved in the activities of your Monarch Fire Protection District and I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Finally, on behalf of our men and women and all of our families, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Thomas J. Vineyard  
Chief  
Monarch Fire Protection District

## MONARCH RECEIVES GIFT OF NEW ATV

The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has donated a 2012 Polaris Ranger 6x6 ATV and flatbed trailer to Monarch.

A dedication ceremony was held on Nov. 29 at the Chesterfield location of Firehouse Subs, a restaurant founded by firefighters.



The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation was established in 2005 to provide "funding, life-saving equipment, disaster assistance and educational opportunities for first responders and public safety organizations," according to their Web site.

The foundation has donated more than \$5.2 million in 32 states. Donations have included defibrillators, Jaws of Life, thermal imaging cameras, gas detectors, K-9 units, bunker gear, prevention education materials and training.

Monarch's new ATV will be used for fire and medical emergencies, including off-road incidents and brush or grass fires.

## MONARCH FIREFIGHTERS COME TO RESCUE AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

Monarch Firefighter Brian Towsley was on duty on the evening of Oct. 29. His wife was expecting him at home shortly after his shift was scheduled to end at 7 a.m. the next day. He made it home nine days later.

Towsley received the call to deploy to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy at 9:30 p.m. that night. Five hours later, he and Monarch firefighters Rich Levin and Dan Hinson were among 80 search and rescue members of Missouri Task Force One (MO-TF1) who were on a 23-hour bus ride to the devastated New York region. MO-TF1 is one of 28 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Task Forces. The Missouri team spent the bulk of its days at Long Beach, Long Island, Staten Island and the Bronx.

Towsley said Monarch personnel have been very supportive of the team's efforts when they are called to a disaster.

"I was on duty so they called a guy in to work the rest of my shift for me that night," Towsley said. "Dan and Rich were at home when we were called in and FEMA then reimburses the District for all the overtime shifts to cover the three of us while we were gone."

Towsley said the New York region was devastated.

"The worst thing was seeing everybody's personal belongings sitting on the curb because they were all ruined," Towsley said. "The water

damaged everything. It was all of their possessions just destroyed. We saw cars and yachts just sitting in people's front yards."

But Towsley said it was heartwarming to see how neighbors helped each other.

"We were able to skip a lot of houses because neighbors had checked in on each other," Towsley said. "They would tell us if someone was out of town or they knew somebody was OK. At the same time, it took a little bit of the load off of their shoulders to know that they had people like us there to help them."

Some even expressed their gratitude.

"My daughter, granddaughter, and I were returning home...when we encountered the most amazing sight," Staten Island resident Alexandra Manfredi wrote in a note to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon. "A convoy of the most beautiful white trucks I have ever seen, bearing the Missouri Disaster Force logo, were responding to our crisis."

Manfredi told Monarch that the response and assistance has been "overwhelming."

"The one thing we will never forget is seeing Missouri coming to our rescue," Manfredi said. "Please extend our personal thanks to the firefighters for taking time away from their families to give us a helping hand."

**In Emergency,  
Call 9-1-1  
All other inquiries,  
call 314-514-0900**

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