



August 2019  
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# Mapaville Gazette

## MAPAVILLE FIRE TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

The Mapaville Fire Protection District and the Mapaville Fire Association will be hosting an open house on October 5, 2019. There will be hot dogs and other light refreshments served. In addition, a “bounce house” will be present for the children to enjoy. This event will be a good chance for citizens to gather and meet YOUR firefighters and tour YOUR engine house and equipment.



The first weekend in October marks that start of Fire Prevention Week in the United States. The first national Fire Prevention Week was designated by President Calvin Coolidge in 1925. The first week in October was chosen to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The Great Chicago Fire was the “last straw” which caused insurance companies and fire safety professionals to begin enacting codes, regulations and standards regarding building construction and its direct relation to fire safety.

## MEET THE CHIEF

Greetings! My name is Dave Brown and I am the Chief of the Mapaville Fire Protection District. I was hired by the District’s Board of Directors in November of 2018 to serve as the first full-time paid Chief of the District. I am deeply honored and humbled to serve you and all that pass through our District throughout the day.

I started my fire service career here at Mapaville in 1998, however my roots to Mapaville date back to my childhood when my father, Andrew, served here as a Captain in the mid to late 1980s. After a short hiatus from the fire service, I joined the Hematite Fire Protection District as a volunteer in 2005 and rose through the ranks to part-time Captain. In 2006, I was honored to be hired by the Goldman Fire Protection District as a full-time Firefighter/EMT. I also currently serve as a Deputy Chief of the Jefferson County Homeland Security Emergency Response (HAZMAT) Team. I hold state certifications in Firefighter 1 & 2, Hazardous Materials Technician, Fire Investigator and Fire Service Instructor 2. I am also pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Fire Service Administration.

I place a great amount of value in serving and doing what is right for the Mapaville and Jefferson County communities. I urge all of my staff members to become involved in their communities and to pursue any avenue which will allow them to further grow and enhance the services they provide. If I or the staff could be of service to you, please feel free to drop me an email at [dbrown@mapavillefpd.net](mailto:dbrown@mapavillefpd.net) or call me at 636-937-6302.



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**In the event of an  
emergency, dial**

**9-1-1**

### TO THE FAIR

In July, the Hillsboro Fire Protection District requested the assistance of Mapaville to assist in providing emergency services at the County Fair.

The annual four-day event drew thousands to the 58 acres of the Hillsboro Community Civic Club Grounds. Those braving the heat were entertained by motorcross racing, truck and tractor pulls, rides and several concerts.

Thankfully, no major incidents evolved from the event and Mapaville staff were able to provide a great service to our neighboring community.

### GRANT RECEIVED

The District has recently received a check for a matching-funds grant through the Missouri Department of Conservation Volunteer Fire Assistance program.

The Missouri Department of Conservation issued a total of \$386,639.14 throughout the state. Mapaville received \$2,700.34 to purchase personal protective equipment used to fight brush fires. New jackets, helmets, gloves, smoke screens and safety glasses were purchased.



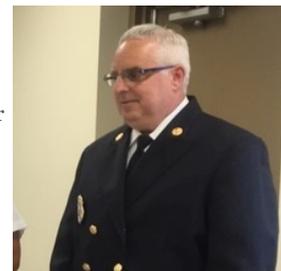
## THIRD GENERATION OF SERVICE

In July, Assistant Chief Jay Wolk started his 41st year serving the Mapaville community. Jay officially joined the ranks at the age of 16, however he responded to his first call at the age of 2. Jay's father, Walter, was Chief of the Mapaville Fire Association from 1966 until 1985. Jay's maternal grandfather was also a firefighter at the Pittsburg Plate Glass Fire Department, which later became the Crystal City Fire Department.

Jay's entire tenure of service has been wholly dedicated to the residents of Mapaville. Jay responds to approximately 98% of the calls for service answered by the District and is a valued asset, mentor and leader to all that serve under him.

As Assistant Chief, Jay oversees the scheduling of approximately 20 part-time firefighters, responds to emergencies and acts as a member of the Command Staff in assembling the annual budget and response goals and objectives of the District. Jay accomplishes all of this while still holding a full-time job as a Residential Supervisor for Next Step for Life and spending time working on the family farm.

If you see Jay out and about, please take the time to congratulate him on his years of volunteer service to the community.



## NEW GEAR PURCHASED, ADDED LEVEL OF SAFETY

During the December Board of Director's meeting, the Board allocated the spending of \$50,000 to update the personal protective worn by the firefighters. Helmets were found to be nearing the end their service life, boots were made of rubber and very uncomfortable, and many were assigned gear that did not properly fit.

After the approval, a committee was formed to research current gear manufacturers and what they had to offer. After two months, the committee chose to purchase ten sets of turnout gear manufactured by Globe, a leader in personal protective equipment. This gear is the top-of-the-line protective ensemble offered today and was chosen for its added levels of safety for the wearer. In addition, all helmets that had reached the end-of-service life were replaced and every firefighter was issued a new set of leather firefighting boots.

## ADDED FIREFIGHTER POSITION

In April of 2016, voters within the Mapaville Fire Protection District approved a \$0.50 tax increase to fund the hiring of paid firefighters. Prior to this, the District was staffed by an all volunteer force. In May of 2017, three full-time firefighters were hired to work 48-hour shifts. Later in 2017, several part-time firefighters were hired to allow the District to have two firefighters on duty, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

After the administration change in May of 2018, a comprehensive review of operations and the budget was performed. The Board of Directors decided under the advise of Chief Andrew Brown to place more firefighters on duty. Call statistics and the times in which calls were received was studied. It was found that Mapaville had an increase in call volume between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm during the weekdays and all day and evening on the weekends. It was decided to add an additional part-time slot to cover those hours.

On January 1, 2019 the new slot was staffed for the first time. Now the engine house is staffed with three firefighters from 3pm-11pm Monday-Friday and 7am-11pm on Saturdays, Sundays and major holidays.

## OLD SUPPLY HOSE REPLACED

In the summer of 2018, the Command Staff of the District completed a safety audit of the District’s firefighting equipment. It was found that the majority of the District’s water supply hose was severely outdated, deteriorated and overdue for replacement. In addition, the old three-inch diameter hose was inefficient in providing sufficient water supply during structure fires.

It was learned that the Antonia Fire Protection District was selling a large amount of used five-inch diameter hose. Talks with Antonia’s Chief produced an agreement that Mapaville would purchase 2,000 feet of their hose for \$1.00 per foot. This purchase price would save the District approximately \$14,000 and would greatly enhance the District’s firefighting capabilities. The five-inch hose, as said by then-Chief Andrew Brown would “allow firefighters to place a water main on top the road leading to a fire in the event that a hydrant was not nearby.”

The old three-inch hose, totaling about 4,300 feet was taken out of service and the couplings were removed rendering it unusable as fire hose again. The hose was then given away via Facebook ads to whoever was interested in it.



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*The new hose would “allow firefighters to place a water main on top of the road leading to a fire in the event that a hydrant was not nearby.”  
- Andrew Brown (former Fire Chief, now Fire Commissioner)*

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## FIRE TRUCK SOLD

In September of 2018, the District’s Board of Directors decided to sell the District’s light-rescue truck. The 1995 Ford Super-Duty was purchased used from the Brentwood Fire Department and had served Mapaville as an EMS response vehicle and support vehicle on large scenes. The Board decided to entertain sealed bids for the truck and at the October Board meeting the bids were opened. The Potosi Fire Protection District presented the highest bid, and the truck was sold to them for \$12,005. It is currently the busiest apparatus in Washington County.

Many aspects prompted the sale of this truck. First was the cost of maintenance and availability of parts for repair. Second, the District was able to reduce its insurance premiums by reducing its fleet. And finally, the District had purchased a new brush truck in 2016 which had hardly been used. It was determined that the newer brush truck could adequately respond to EMS calls in place of the older light-rescue truck. This would also ensure that the newer truck would not sit idle in the firehouse, which is detrimental to a diesel engine.



## IS YOUR ADDRESS VISIBLE?

When you pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1 for any emergency, responders may have trouble finding your house or business if your address is not visible. In addition, Jefferson County building codes require that the address of every structure shall be properly marked.

Reflective signs can be purchased from the Mapaville Fire Association for \$15.00. To order a sign, call or stop by the fire house. Proceeds from the sale of these signs go to the Mapaville Fire Association which was re-established in 2000 to provide fire prevention and educational support to the Mapaville Fire Protection District.

Stop by or call today to get your sign! The Amazon driver will thank you as well!



## ISO RATING LOWER THAN EXPECTED

In preparations for a review of the District's ISO rating, it was discovered that our rating is actually lower than we had previously believed. "We were notified by the Insurance Services Office that our District has the rating of 4/4x. We were under the impression that we carried a 6/6x rating" said Chief Dave Brown.

The Insurance Service Office provides property and casualty insurance risk assessments to insurance carriers. Fire districts are reviewed by ISO every five years. Factors that affect a district's rating are water supply, staffing, response times, training and equipment. The rating given to a district has a direct relation to home and business insurance rates. "The lower the rating, the better chance a property owner has at saving money on their insurance premiums" said Brown.

The District encourages all business and property owners to contact their insurance carrier to ensure that they have the proper information.

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*"The lower the rating, the better chance a property owner has at saving money on their insurance premiums."  
- Dave Brown, Fire Chief*

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