

## WFPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Wentzville Fire Protection District  
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/wentzvillefire



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## SUMMARY & BALLOT QUESTIONS

### Proposition **LiFe**

Proposition L will provide revenue for the staffing of two additional fire stations. It will also cover those station's operating costs, such as fuel and utilities. Proposition F will provide capital improvement revenue to purchase the station's land and construct the buildings. It will also provide the necessary revenue to purchase the fire trucks, advanced life support medical and rescue equipment, and firefighter turnout gear including self-contained breathing apparatus. Together, they are **Proposition LiFe**; two propositions with the official ballot language listed below.

#### PROPOSITION L

In order to provide families and businesses with enhanced services that include needed personnel to respond more efficiently to emergency fire, rescue and medical incidents, these measures will enable the personnel to meet the demands of one of the fastest growing fire districts in Missouri, shall the Board of Directors of the Wentzville Fire Protection District be authorized to levy a 25-cent tax per one hundred dollars assessed valuation to employ a training officer to assist the District in meeting educational standards and hire additional full-time Firefighters to provide Advanced Life Support care while reducing response times to emergency calls?

#### PROPOSITION F

In order to significantly reduce response times for the entire 88-square mile-coverage area of the District, the bond will allow the Fire District to purchase property and construct fire stations in order to reduce response times by up to 60 percent; replace aging, high-mileage fire trucks to meet current safety standards; purchase technologically Advanced Medical Life-Saving equipment for all fire trucks; and repay leases and certificate of participation for said District, shall the Wentzville Fire Protection District be authorized to issue bonds in the amount of Thirty Million Dollars (\$30,000,000) for the purpose of purchasing of real property, constructing, equipping and maintain fire stations and purchasing and equipping fire protection and fire fighting apparatus and auxiliary equipment and repay leases and certificates of participation?

# STRAIGHT STREAM

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WENTZVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Volume 1, Issue 2

# Propositions **LiFe**

Important Information Regarding Aug. 5, 2014 General Election



## STRAIGHT FROM THE CHIEF

### Chief Mike Marlo -- Fighting for Life in the Community

The Wentzville Fire Protection District has a very proud past. Many volunteers consisting of residents, community and civic leaders, firefighters and staff have contributed hours, months and years to make this organization what it is today.

The current administration, staff, and firefighters recognize and truly appreciate the dedication and perseverance it took to get us to where we are today. The 88-square miles (which includes all of the city of Wentzville, Flint Hill, Josephville, Foristell, and parts of Dardenne Prairie, O'Fallon, Lake Saint Louis and unincorporated St. Charles County) that we are sworn to protect were largely undeveloped rural farmlands. Today, large subdivisions (with several more in planning), retail giants, industrial headquarters, and major highway interchanges call our District home.

With growth come the challenges of adequate protection. Three fire stations are no longer sufficient to properly protect the infrastructure that now exists in our area. Being responsible leaders in emergency services can be challenging at times. My staff and firefighters have put a tremendous amount of time into identifying current, short and long term future needs.

I assure you as you review this edition of Straight Stream; everything that this District is putting in front of you is honest and well thought out. I encourage you to educate yourself on the **Proposition LiFe** plans and what it will do for our community. We want you to be informed about your fire district and if you have any questions don't ever hesitate to contact me to discuss your concerns.



## CURRENT & FUTURE FACILITIES

Advances in pre-hospital care standards and emergency response guidelines continue to push the limits of Emergency Services. In order to anticipate and prepare for future service demands, and to meet needs that have already been identified, the Wentzville Fire Protection District is asking voters to consider **Propositions L and F** as a solution. Revenue from these propositions will be used to better serve our community by improving the quality and location of our current facilities, and to be prepared for exciting possibilities in the future.

In order to keep you and your family safe, we continually strive to be prepared for any circumstance that we are called to respond to. Whether that is through training, or having the correct equipment and best personnel, we will be ready to meet any demand placed upon us.

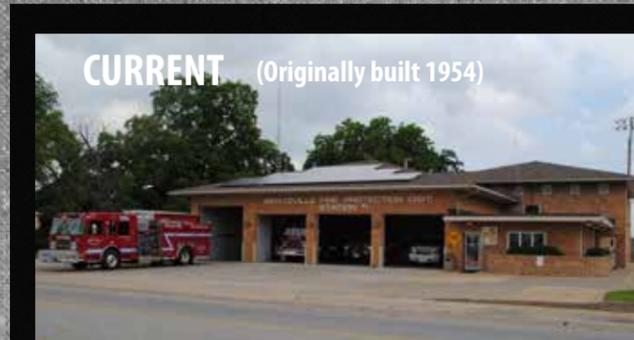
While we do not know exactly what the future will hold for our ever-expanding district, we need to be able to respond at the proper times. Funds from **Proposition LiFe** will enable us to be proactive and provide additional services and locations as the need arises in order to maintain critical response time coverage.

## FUTURE FACILITIES

### FIRE STATION 2 & 5



## CURRENT & FUTURE FACILITIES



**FIRE STATION 1 --  
Headquarters/Administration**



**FIRE STATION 4**



## FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIVE GEAR

Turnout Gear is the protective gear that firefighters wear into a heated environment. Our gear is not fire-proof, but is heat and flame resistant. Every 10 years, no matter the condition of the gear, it is required to be replaced. The materials, although advanced, degrade over time and are no longer as effective. Newer gear is smaller, lighter, and has improved materials and stitching to further protect our firefighters and allow them to work more efficiently.

**COST: \$505,000**



## ASSORTED TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Emergency Responders have to be prepared and equipped to solve problems with urgency, complexity, and necessity. We carry a large variety of tools and equipment that each unique circumstance requires. Whether the call demands a thermal imaging camera, or a simple axe, it is imperative that we have the proper tools available in order to respond effectively. Funds from Proposition LiFe will ensure that we will be able to maintain the level of service and care that we are proud to provide.

**COST: \$200,000**



## PROPOSITION LIFE FUNDS ALLOCATION

Rebuild of Headquarters / Administration Building / Station #1 -----	\$6,000,000
Rebuild of Fire Station #2 -----	\$4,500,000
Rebuild of Fire Station #4 -----	\$4,500,000
Land Purchase & Construction of New Fire Station #5 -----	\$4,750,000
Replacement of Fire Trucks & Purchase New Ladder Trucks -----	\$6,140,000
Replacement SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) -----	\$555,000
Purchase of Firefighter Turnout Gear -----	\$505,000
Purchase of Advanced Life Support Equipment and Monitors -----	\$232,000

## CARDIAC MONITORS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

### 12 Lead Cardiac Monitors & Advanced Cardiac Medicines

The Wentzville Fire Protection District will use top of the line cardiac monitors in order to effectively determine and treat abnormal and lethal heart rhythms. It is our goal to have a LifePak 15 monitor for each truck. Each monitor has advanced cardiac Electrocardiograms (ECG's) and incorporated airway monitoring. The LifePak 15 will enable us to determine the presence of an acute heart attack and even transmit the information to the hospital to be examined by a physician, all while still being on scene.

These monitors alone cost nearly \$30,000 each. The cost to keep and maintain advanced medical technology is tremendous, but so is the benefit of caring for your loved ones. In order to maintain our level of service and Heart Care, Proposition LiFe will provide the necessary funds to stay at the forefront of medicine.

**COST: \$232,000**



### Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

Safety and protection of emergency responders is crucial to the safety of those we protect. We work in harsh and dangerous environments. To protect your life and home, we need to be able to function no matter the circumstances. SCBA technology has come a long way and continues to improve. Each generation, materials get more compact, lighter, safer, and technologically advanced. Current firefighting gear is still quite heavy, 60 lbs. or more, and makes our job more difficult and tiring. In the near future, SCBA's will be able to communicate their location and health status of the firefighter to the command center outside of the structure increasing the safety of the wearer. Due to use and wear, our SCBA's need to be replaced at regular intervals.

**COST: \$555,000**



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Your Wentzville Fire District serves **75,000+ residents**, covering over **88-square miles** (which includes all of the city of Wentzville, Flint Hill, Josephville, Foristell, and parts of Dardenne Prairie, O'Fallon, Lake Saint Louis and unincorporated St. Charles County) **with only three fire stations.**
- Since the beginning of 2014, the District has **issued 45 new business occupancies.** In addition, this year we've already authorized **106 new commercial/multifamily permits** in our coverage area.
- Your Wentzville Fire District provides care and coverage for **one hospital, and 10 senior centers.**
- The District provides coverage for **25 daycare centers, 16 elementary schools, five middle schools, three high school, and three colleges.**
- Your Wentzville Fire District provides protection for the **GM Assembly Plant (5,500 employees)** and the **MasterCard World Headquarters (3,100 employees.)**
- The District responds to **any emergency** and are **trained in many disciplines** such as: Hazardous Materials, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Urban Search and Rescue, Trench and Structure Collapse, High Angle Rescue, Ice and Water Rescue, Auto Rescue, and Active Shooter Response.

## INCREASED SERVICES & PROGRAMS

### Assistant Chief John Schneider

For the last several months, the Wentzville Fire Board of Directors, the Fire Chief, Staff, Firefighters, and myself have spoken to hundreds of residents concerning the **Proposition LiFe**. Our top priority is to inform and educate our constituents on the effects and necessary changes to bring this Fire District to an acceptable performance level. Below, I have compiled and listed the most frequently asked questions to date.



**Why are there two propositions being proposed?** Per state statute, the district must ask voters for approval on two propositions. One being for general operation expenses (personnel costs, fuel, utilities) and the other a capital improvement bond (building construction, land purchases, fire truck and equipment expenses.) This proposal is structured separately (to meet state requirements), however both are required to implement needed improvements. We can not open firehouses without the general revenue to hire firefighters nor can we hire firefighters without the bond issue to build buildings to house them.

**With all the growth in the district, aren't new revenues producing enough to make these improvements?** Unfortunately, district wide assessments have declined 5.87 percent since 2008 resulting in a revenue loss of over \$380,000. The administration has aggressively and proactively reduced expenses to pre-year-2008 levels.

**How are the district's financial reserves?** Due to the decline in revenue over the last five years, the districts reserves have been depleted to a 45 day operating balance. The district should be operating with close to a six month operating reserve.

**Our city and/or county ambulance district just passed an increase. Doesn't that help cover the needed improvements?** The Wentzville Fire Protection District is an independent political subdivision that is completely it's own entity. We cover several cities and unincorporated St. Charles County totaling over 88 square miles. Our annual budget is prepared in the fall of every year and is independently audited annually by June 30.

**I live near an existing station. Do these propositions really impact me?** Yes! First, by adding these two additional stations we will be able to keep our equipment and manpower in their stations and available for responses more frequently. We often equate our fleet to a game of chess as they move daily from station to cover empty houses whose trucks have left for service calls. In fact, year-to-date for 2014, statistics show that **29 percent of the time our three trucks are on calls simultaneously**, leaving your district uncovered by the Wentzville Fire Protection District during those times.

If you have additional questions, we would love the opportunity to provide you the answers. Please contact us at the District office anytime or visit our website. Also, be sure to like us on Facebook as we are continually posting information about your fire district.



## YOUR COST AND BENEFITS

The costs associated with providing exceptional emergency services are expensive and extensive. We realize that you must find balance with every expenditure that you and your family face. With that said, take a look at the graphics and chart below. Some common monthly household expenses are highlighted along with the costs associated with **Proposition LiFe**. Our hope is to make it easier to determine the true costs to individual homeowners. If you do not see your assessed value listed and/or need further assistance please visit our website for a complete chart of home values at [www.wentzvillefire.org](http://www.wentzvillefire.org) or by calling District offices at 636.332.9869. We are here to be of assistance and encourage questions if you have them.



Average Appraised Home Value	Average Monthly Cost*
\$400,000	\$23.43
\$300,000	\$17.58
\$200,000	\$11.72
\$150,000	\$8.79

Various Expenses	Average Monthly Cost
Cable/Satellite TV	\$78*
Cell Phone	\$71**
Internet	\$38***
Coffee 3x a Week	\$36

\*Cost indicates both Props L & F are passed & bond is fully used

Values based upon: \*Forbes \*\*JD Power \*\*\*Pew Institute

## BUILDING UPDATES

### Fire Marshal Christopher Cuddihee

As building committee chair we have seen the battle increasing over our aging infrastructure and the rapid increase of the population growth. The decision to repair or replace equipment has been an ever increasing challenge. The fire houses were built years ago and were not built for current apparatus and man power.

The fire stations should support the needs of the fire department and the community in which it is located. It must accommodate extremely diverse functions, including housing, training, community education, equipment and vehicle storage. While it is usually only occupied by trained personnel, the facility may also need to accommodate the general public for community education or outreach programs.

This committee is also responsible for the bidding and scheduling of preventive maintenance of all buildings and equipment, while maintaining a budget.

