



## Chief's Corner

By Kyle McMann

We are working harder than ever to share information with you about Marion County Fire District #1 and our emergency response. The pandemic has sidelined newspapers and other tools we have used in the past. As a result, we're publishing more information through our newsletter, website and social media pages, the addresses of which you can find on the address panel of this printed communication.

First and foremost, I want you to know that we are ready to respond if you need us. I'm not only a fire chief, but also a registered nurse and certified paramedic. I'm ready to go on calls if needed. We are going to beat this thing and celebrate together as a community when that happens.

In the meantime, we are continuing to fully operate from the emergency response and administrative sides of the Fire District. Our Board of Directors continue to meet remotely. Our meetings remain open to the public, please check

our website or Facebook page for instructions on how to join in.

We also have an operating levy increase on the May 19 Primary Election ballot. There is more information in this newsletter that I ask you to read and consider.



The need to request funding from our community for additional emergency personnel and apparatus predates the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find all that content predating the pandemic on our web site. However, it's more-timely than ever and we have chosen to move forward. If approved by voters, it is likely that some of the revenue will need to go to backfill costs associated with COVID-19.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached on my cell at 503-507-3552 or [kylem@mcf1.com](mailto:kylem@mcf1.com). Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

## MCFD#1 Lends Ventilators to Salem Hospital



We have some good news to share during this difficult time. Marion County Fire District #1 loaned its stock of portable ventilators to Salem Hospital.

technicians can manually breathe for a patient using a bag-valve mask device, In contrast, a patient who is being hospitalized for respiratory issues will need a ventilator for an extended period of time.

MCFD#1 continues to ask for help in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus by practicing social distancing and to abide by guidelines set forth by the Oregon Health Authority. For public questions regarding COVID-19, please refer to the Oregon Health Authority website found at <https://tinyurl.com/gtnwoyn>.

The donation will not disrupt emergency medical care for fire district residents. This is because firefighters, paramedics and emergency medical



**MARION COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1**  
300 Cordon Road NE  
Salem, OR 97317

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 Now on NextDoor!

## Operating Levy Renewal on May Ballot

**What's on my ballot?** Marion County Fire District #1 is asking voters to increase its operating levy to 99 cents on the May 2020 Primary Election ballot as measure number 24-441.

**Why is my fire district asking for this?** Call volumes have increased 5.3% per year on average. Additionally, 55% of our calls are overlapping, which also strains our resources. Response times are increasing because we do not have enough personnel to respond. Often we have to rely on mutual aid from neighboring agencies, which takes longer to reach you in an emergency.

Our Strategic Plan calls for hiring additional personnel to respond to emergency calls. It also calls for setting money aside to replace apparatus and equipment. Paying cash for these items saves taxpayers money as opposed to borrowing money with interest. Less debt makes your fire district more secure financially.

### **How will the funding be used to improve service?**

Our fire district plans to hire two additional firefighter/paramedics to respond to increasing call volumes, replace emergency apparatus and medical equipment. A portion of the funding will be used to pay costs associated with COVID-19.

**How much will it cost?** The levy increase from 71 to 99 cents would cost an additional \$28 per year (or \$2.33 per month) for each \$100,000 of assessed property value.

**Where can I find more information?** More information can be found on our website at [www.mcfcd1.com](http://www.mcfcd1.com) or our Facebook page (@MarionCountyFireDistrict1). Fire Chief Kyle McMann is also available to answer questions at (503) 588-6535 or [kylem@mcfcd1.com](mailto:kylem@mcfcd1.com).