



O'Fallon Police Department

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



March 1st, 2016



ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL

REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE

If you follow us on Facebook you may have noticed—more often than we want—posts about officers killed in the line of duty. To honor and memorialize those police officers who have been feloniously killed in the line of duty, we post their names to our page, including the circumstances surrounding the incident. In addition, you may see us around town wearing a mourning band or a mourning pin (pictured above). We do this for 48 hrs following the post. This keeps us ever vigilant and the public aware of those inherent dangers police face on a daily basis.



Just a quick Reminder/Reinforcement; With Tax Season upon us, Identity Theft is rearing its ugly head. I know Officer Stewart wrote about this last newsletter, but this is a good resource:

<https://www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft>

O'Fallon City Alderman

- Gene McCoskey, Ward 1 624-2947
- Richie Meile, Ward 1 624-6086
- Robert Kueker, Ward 2 632-8386
- Jerry Albrecht, Ward 2 632-7172
- Jerry Mouser, Ward 3 632-5433
- Kevin Hagarty, Ward 3 920-1513
- Matthew Smallheer, Ward 4 616-3144
- Herb Roach, Ward 4 632-7503
- Michael Bennett, Ward 5 531-7041
- Courtney Cardona, Ward 5 401-9765
- Ned Drolet, Ward 6 632-3580
- Ray Holden, Ward 6 628-0762
- David Cozad, Ward 7 632-6150
- Harlan Gerrish, Ward 7 206-8381

Important Contacts

Police/Fire **Emergency – 911**

Non-Emergency Police – 624-4545

Non-Emergency Fire – 624-4519

City Hall – 624-4500

Public Works—624-4500 ext 3

Ways to Protect Yourself against Vehicle Burglaries

A common crime in and around the St. Louis area is Burglary to Motor Vehicles. This crime goes by different names and labels depending on which police jurisdiction you are in, and which side of the river you are on, but the premise is the same; your car is broken into and items are stolen.



Terms such as "Car Clouting," "Burglary from Auto (BFA)," and "Burglary to Motor Vehicle," are all commonly used to describe the same thing. Given the unique location of O'Fallon and Fairview Heights along Interstate 64, commercial, retail, gym, and restaurant parking lots along this Interstate corridor are prime locations for groups of car burglars to strike.

One may think that vehicles are entered neatly and quickly with some sort of "lock out Slim Jim," just like in the movies. This is not, however, the chosen method for burglars to break into a vehicle. More likely, one of your side windows are merely broken. Or they will "punch your lock," where a screw driver is used to pry out the door lock, disabling the locking mechanism and allowing the door to open.

Crime Prevention Tip #1: Prepare for your arrival to the parking lot by removing and concealing all valuables prior to driving onto the lot. This will allow you to be observant and perceptive upon arriving at a parking lot, and will allow for a quick exit of your vehicle.

You should be perceptive upon approaching any commercial, retail, restaurant, or gym parking lot in the Metro East. Let's get into the mind of a car burglar and take a look at his/her tactics. Often, burglars occupy plain looking vehicles...nothing flashy or unique, but usually these vehicles are either stolen, rental vehicles, or are affixed with stolen license plates. Burglars may merely sit in a vehicle on a parking lot just watching people come and go. Burglars watch when you park, and more particularly, what you do just prior to exiting your vehicle. You may remove your expensive sunglasses and store them in the overhead compartment, take your concealed weapon from your belt and put it in your center console, or conceal your purse and iPad under your seat. All of these motions make your vehicle a prime target for being burglarized. After selecting a victim vehicle and watching you walk inside the establishment, the burglar will pull his/her vehicle near yours and after only about 30 seconds, your car has been burglarized.

Crime Prevention Tip #2: Invest in a lock for a locker, or bring a work out bag containing your valuable belongings inside the gym with you.

I specifically mention gyms and exercise locations for a reason. Gyms are notorious locations for burglaries to occur, mainly for the fact that people commonly choose to leave valuables in their vehicles rather than take them inside the gym. I concur that it is not comfortable to work out with an iPad swinging in your pocket, but leaving valuable items in your vehicle makes gym parking lots prime targets for Car

Clouting.

Crime Prevention Tip #3: Lock your vehicle!

In residential areas, the most common method of committing a burglary, is gaining entry through an unlocked door. In the recent past we have made several arrests of suspects whose method of Car Clouting was to merely walk down a residential street and check the door handles of every vehicle looking for an unlocked car. I hear sometimes that people would rather just leave their vehicle unlocked because there vehicle contains nothing valuable and this would avoid the vehicle being damaged upon entry. My response: Burglars on commercial lots will not take the time to check and see if your vehicle is locked, they'll immediately use force to open it. Burglars in residential areas, most of the time, enter only unlocked vehicles. Therefore, lock your vehicle...



The information in this newsletter was put together by Officer Eric Buck. If you have any questions or comments, he can be reached directly at ebuck@ofallon.org or 618 624-9568

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISPOSAL

The O'Fallon Police Department is pleased to announce we are re-instituting our Prescription Drug Drop Off Box. Starting March 5th, 2016 we will be providing this service on the first Saturday of each month from 11AM-1PM at the rear of the O'Fallon Public Safety Facility 285 North Seven Hills Road. The collected drugs will be disposed of via incineration. This method of destruction keeps drugs from entering our water supply and removes those medications from homes where they potentially could be abused.

We will accept any expired, unwanted or unused prescription or over the counter medication you would like to dispose of.

We will NOT take: Liquids of any kind; Needles (Including Epi Pens); or Inhalers or any aerosol medications.

Citizens are encouraged to drive to the back of the building where they can place their unwanted medication in a drop box. A Public Safety employee will monitor the box and ensure banned or prohibited items are not being placed in the drop box.

Questions can be directed to:
Lt. Kirk Brueggeman
kbrueggeman@ofallon.org
618-624-9538



ALERT FOLLOW-UP

If you remember from early December an alert was sent out to the various Neighborhood Watch Groups about these two individuals burglarizing unlocked cars. In the weeks following we received some tips, but it wasn't until Officer Buck was conducting an extra patrol in Southview Gardens at 2am when he came across two people matching their description. After his initial contact they were taken into custody and later confessed to committing multiple burglaries including the ones in the picture above. Both were

charged with multiple counts of burglary and are pending court dates at this time. If you have any questions, please call.

Police Department Contacts for The Neighborhood Watch Program:

- **Det William Barlock** wbarlock@ofallon.org
Voicemail: 618 624-9555

Windsor Creek/ Bluffs at Ogle Creek

- **Ofc Mike Mojzis** mmojzis@ofallon.org
Voicemail: (618) 624-9557
- **Ofc Ben Sosa** bsosa@ofallon.org
Voicemail: (618) 624-9541

Southview Gardens/ Edna St

- **Ofc Eric Buck** ebuck@ofallon.org
Voicemail: (618) 624-9568
- **Ofc Nick Stewart** nstewart@ofallon.org
Voicemail: (618) 624-9572

Oak and Madison/ Witte Farms / Thornbury Hill/ Manors at Thornbury Hill

- **Ofc John Kostainschek**
jkostainschek@ofallon.org
Voicemail (618) 624-9571
- **Ofc Michael Hurt** mhurt@ofallon.org
Voicemail (618) 624-9593

Neighborhood Watch

Mission:

The O'Fallon Police Department's purpose for the Neighborhood Watch is to establish and maintain a partnership with residents in each neighborhood throughout the community.

To be successful, this partnership will be rooted in two-way communication, periodic meetings, and information sharing. The prevention of crime and furthering of community policing strategies are the ultimate goals of the program.

Please report any suspicious behavior!

What is a Neighborhood Watch?

It is a community of citizens living in close proximity organized with the common goal of taking an active role in making their community healthier and crime free through cooperation with the police and other city

You are the EYES and EARS of the Police
Department

“See something, Say something”