

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – April 2021



Please join us in thanking **Lt. Rob Schmidtke** for over 24 years of service to the City of O'Fallon. Lt. Schmidtke's last day on the job was March 24.

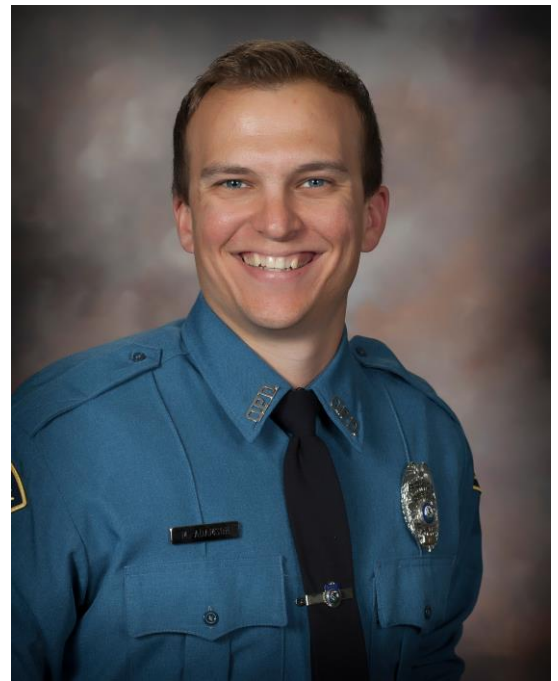
Lt. Schmidtke started with OPD on January 2, 1997 after serving in the United States Air Force. He has served this department as Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, DARE Officer, and School Resource Officer. Lt. Schmidtke was also assigned to MEGSI (a regional drug investigation task force) for several years. Lt. Schmidtke also served as a Deputy Report Officer on the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy session 265.

In addition to his duties at OPD, Lt. Schmidtke has served the Law Enforcement community for many years as an instructor at the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy. Because of his hard work and dedication, He was promoted to Sergeant and then Lieutenant in 2012. For the past several years, Lt. Schmidtke has been serving as our Investigations Lt.

Perhaps one of Lt. Schmidtke's greatest accomplishments is yet to be fully realized. Over the past several years, he has been instrumental in creating and implementing the department's peer to peer support program. He plans on remaining active with the team even in retirement. His dedication to the mental health of our officers and telecommunicators is truly commendable.

Thank you, Lt. Robert Schmidtke for being a mentor and friend to so many of us at the O'Fallon Police Department. Congratulations on your retirement!





On March 23, we presented Officer Michael Adamson with the **2020 Officer of the Year Award**.

Officer Adamson joined the O'Fallon Police Department in 2015. Although he has only been with our department for a few years, he has quickly become a leader and mentor to many of our young officers. He currently serves in the patrol division as a Field Training Officer and is a member of the ILEAS Special Response Team. His strong work ethic and dedication to the community are just a few of the many reasons we are proud to call Officer Adamson one of our own.

Congratulations Officer Adamson, the 2020 O'Fallon Police Officer of the Year!

Please join us in congratulating Telecommunicator Michael Shewmaker for his selection as the 2020 O'Fallon Police Department **Civilian of the Year**. Michael has been a TC for MECOMM since 2019. He has routinely exhibited excellence and dedication to the communications center. His positive attitude and strong work ethic are second to none.

Mike exemplifies the characteristics of a MECOMM Telecommunicator. We are proud to have Mike on our team!





Paramedic Jason Butler has been named the **O'Fallon-Shiloh EMS 2020 Employee of the Year.**

Paramedic Butler has been with O'Fallon EMS for 14 years. Currently he serves as an Regional Field Training Officer, ILEAS Mobile Field Force member, and coordinates with the St. Louis area children's hospitals to track children with Special Needs in our community (STARS) Program.

During this past year he assisted in our first Virtual EMS Week due to COVID. Paramedic Butler's skill set is exceptional and his dedication and compassion to his patients is commendable. We are excited and proud to call him one of our own!

Please join us in welcoming the newest O'Fallon Police Officer, Chad Finnan. Officer Finnan took the oath of office on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. The oath was administered by OPD Commissioner Ed Martinez.

Officer Finnan started his first full week of the SWIC Police Academy the last week of March and is expected to graduate from the police academy in the beginning of July. Following the police academy, Officer Finnan will start his Field Training Program.

We are excited to bring Officer Finnan on board and look forward to him graduating the police academy!





TAKE THE CHALLENGE

SIGN UP FOR THE O'FALLON POLICE YOUTH ACADEMY

**Open to all students entering the
8th & 9th Grades**

**June 14, 2021 to June 18, 2021
8:00am-3:45pm**

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

O'Fallon Police Department Tour
O'Fallon Emergency Medical Services Tour
Certification in CPR & AED Use
K-9 Demonstration
Virtual Simulation Pistol Training
Crime Scene Processing
Live-Fire Pistol Shooting
O'Fallon Honor Guard Demonstration
SWAT Demonstration
O'Fallon Fire House #4 Tour & Demo
O'Fallon Historical Society Tour

\$25.00 participation cost **to be paid on the first day of the academy**. Confirmation letters will be mailed to students in early May with additional details.

Applications are available online
(www.ofallon.org/police-department) & at the O'Fallon Police Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Patrolman Callahan #106 at 618-624-9596 or bcallahan@ofallon.org

<https://www.ofallon.org/programs/pages/youth-police-academy>



Your Illinois
One-Call System

Call **811** or Click Before You Dig.
It's a Free Service.

You may be surprised by what's buried in your yard. That's because most electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies are delivering utility services underground. Across the country, every nine minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without calling a one-call center such as JULIE first.

Protect yourself and your family. State law requires you to notify JULIE at least two business days (excludes weekends and holidays) before **any** digging project regardless of the project size or depth. Even if you are digging in the same area as a previous project, notify JULIE. **This is a free service.**

You can prevent injury and avoid damage by following these five important steps:

- Pre-mark or outline the proposed dig area using white paint or flags
- Call or [click](#) JULIE before you dig
- Wait 2 business days
- Respect the marks
- Dig with care

More information can be found at <https://www.illinois1call.com/>



Have you heard about O'Fallon Fire-Rescue's Explorer Post?

Explorer Post 4300 is open to girls and boys interested in learning about the fire service. Explorers who have participated in the program have gone on to complete college level Fire Science and EMT/Paramedic degree programs and have joined the ranks of the Fire Service as Volunteer or Career Firefighters.

Are you or do you know a graduate of 8th grade and between the ages of 14 and 18 who is interested in team building, hands-on skills, emergency medical skills and physical fitness? If so, this program may be a good fit! Everyone is welcome to stop in and observe training on Thursday evenings. Please check out our page for additional information.

<https://ofallonfire.com/explorer-post/>