

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – August 2021



Citizen Police Academy Accepting Applications!

The O'Fallon Police Department will be hosting its 9th annual Citizen Police Academy from **Sept 7 – Oct 26, 2021**. The program will be taught by members of the O'Fallon Public Safety Department and guest speakers from other agencies. This academy is open to O'Fallon citizens or persons working in the City of O'Fallon. There will be a tax deductible \$25 course fee to the participants; which will be donated to “The BACKSTOPPERS, Inc.” The Academy is designed to give participants a realistic view of the day to day operations of public safety work by providing instruction, practicals, and education on numerous topics. The Academy will be open to the first 20 qualified applicants, who are 21 years of age or older. **Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6 – 9 PM.**

Applications and additional details can be found here:

www.ofallon.org/citizens-police-academy

Please follow the link and return your application to Leah Wilson at lwilson@ofallon.org or drop it off at the Police Department.





Thank you [Peel Brewing Company](#) and thank you O'Fallon!! The fundraiser at Peel on July 14 was a huge success. With your help, we raised more than \$1800 for Special Olympics Illinois. These events are so important for our favorite athletes and we couldn't do it without your support! Stay tuned to the OPD social media pages for more upcoming opportunities to help support Special Olympics!



It's "Back to School" time and the O'Fallon Police Department would like to remind drivers that citations for **speeding in school zones** carry **heavier penalties** than standard tickets.

[625 ILCS 5/11-605](#)

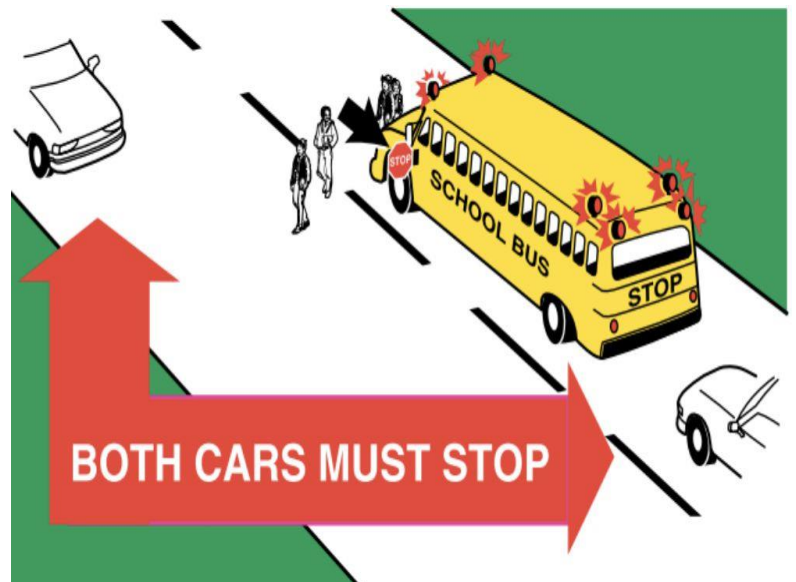
In addition to a **mandatory court appearance**, violations of this Section are punishable with a **minimum fine of \$150** for the first violation and a **minimum fine of \$300** for the second or subsequent violation.

For the purpose of this Section, a school day begins at **7:00 AM** and concludes at **4:00 PM**.

When a school bus is traveling on a two-lane roadway and is stopped to pick up or drop off students, **the vehicles in all lanes of traffic must stop**. Vehicles should stop at least 20 feet before reaching the school bus to allow pupils to cross the roadway safely.

[625 ILCS 5/11-1414](#)

*"the Secretary of State shall **suspend** for a period of 3 months the driving privileges of any person convicted of a violation..."*



Battery Donation Program – Help Save a Life

[O'Fallon Fire Rescue](#) remains committed to ensuring every resident has at least one working smoke and carbon monoxide detector in their home. Each year, OFR encounters numerous detectors that lack working batteries in them. As a result, OFR installs hundreds of batteries in residential smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure families in our community are safe and protected.

We are blessed to serve a community that supports its fire department above and beyond what others in the region experience. Desserts and other food & gifts are routinely dropped off at our stations in appreciation for what our volunteer firefighters do for the community. While we love these delicious treats, consider donating a pack or two of batteries to the department. Your battery donations would allow the department to protect other families in the community.

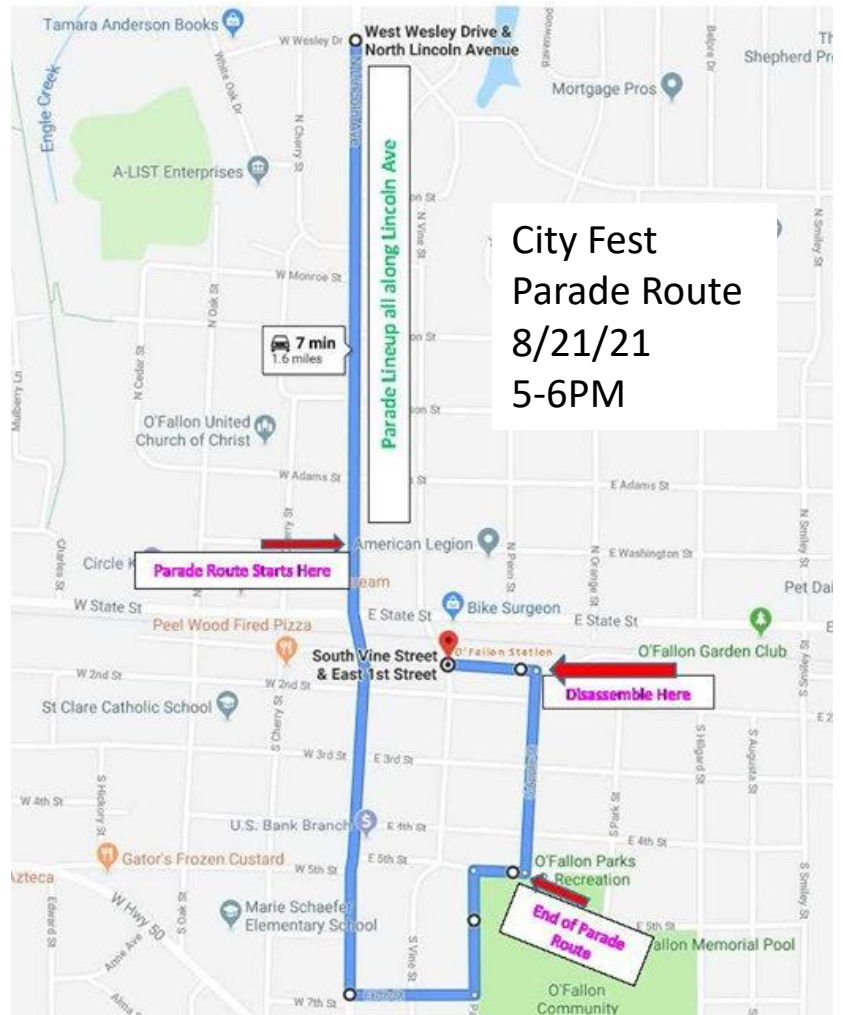
We are in specific need of **Duracell or Energizer brand 9 volt and AA batteries**. If you have any questions, please call 618-624-4515.



[O'Fallon City Fest](#) will be held in the Community Park at 401 E. Fifth Street on Friday, August 20 & Saturday, August 21.

Parking on side streets will be restricted as indicated by temporary signs. *Violators will be subject to tow at the vehicle owner's expense.*

Please be courteous to the residents who live in the area of the park. Don't park on private property without permission and don't leave trash behind.



Beginning Monday, August 2, 2021, **Venita Drive between Taylor Road and Simmons Road** will be **closed** due to road construction. Venita Drive will be reconstructed with new storm sewer, curb and gutter and an asphalt surface. Drivers are urged to use Highway 50 to North Green Mount Road onto Obernueffeman Road as a detour route.

The work is anticipated to be completed by November 24, 2021, weather permitting.

For more information, please contact the O'Fallon Public Works Department at 618-624-4500 Ext. 3.

Venita Drive Detour

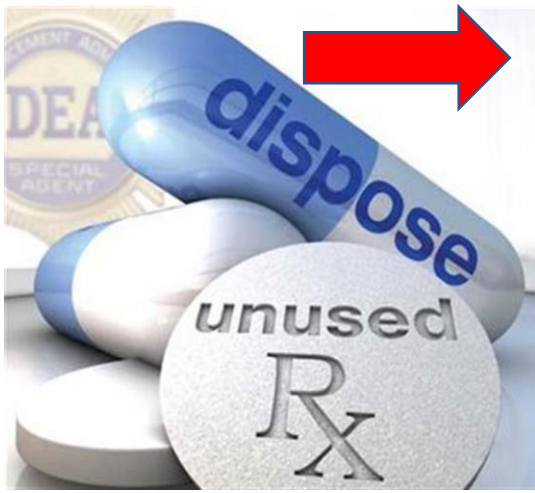
O'Fallon

0 195390 780 1,170 1,560 Feet



IDOT is tentatively planning to start resurfacing of **W. Highway 50 between Schantz Drive and Hartman Lane on August 23rd**. This work will be done a night starting at 7pm with only lane restrictions. None of the on and off ramps or Highway 50 will be closed entirely during construction. Please plan for some delays and watch out for workers. More details will be released on ofallon.org when available.





REMINDER! OPD hosts a **Drug Take Back Event** the first Saturday of every month in the lobby from 11AM – 1 PM.

Safely disposing of medications:

- Keeps the medication out of our water supply
- Keeps addictive and dangerous medicine from falling into the wrong hands

***We cannot take any needles, inhalers or liquids**

O'Fallon PD Special Needs Information Program

As a reminder, the O'Fallon Police Department has a **Special Needs Information Program**. This program is critical to locate someone who has been separated from their families, schools or caretakers. You can self enroll or enroll someone as a caretaker.

Important information for First Responders includes current photographs, physical descriptions, contact information for the individual, and medical information that will help with safety and behavioral concerns regarding the individual. This includes what they are attracted to, where they have been located before, and if they currently use any kind of tracking device.

Once all the information is collected the individual's information will remain confidential and will be secured in the O'Fallon Police Department's database so it can be provided to First Responders when necessary.

To enroll, visit:

<https://www.ofallon.org/police-department/webforms/special-needs-information-program>



Prevent Crimes of Opportunity

- **LOCK** your cars and roll up windows
- Never leave valuables (purses, electronics, tools, etc) in view
- **LOCK** your home and don't forget the windows
- If you see something, say *something!*