

# O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – January 2021



## O'Fallon Fraternal Order of Police Cops n' Kids 2020

Once again the O'Fallon Wal-Mart was filled with smiling faces (well we think anyway) as police officers and kids enjoyed two days of O'Fallon FOP's Cops and Kids event. On December 13 & 20, members of OPD took a total of **53 children** shopping for toys, clothes, and gifts!

Thank you to all our sponsors who continue to support the O'Fallon Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #198 financially and emotionally. It is appreciated more than you know!

This event was started in 2001 by retired OPD & FOP member Mark Berry and we have held the event every year since then.



## Officer Todd Jones Retires

Officer Jones (Ocean 47) started his career with OPD on January 2, 1997 and January 2, 2021 was his last day with the department.

Some of you will remember Officer Jones from his many years as the School Resource officer at O'Fallon High School. In addition to his time on the street and in the high school, Officer Jones has been active with our Police Explorer Post, Youth Academy, and numerous community outreach activities these past two decades. He has served on the ILEAS WMD team, was a Field Training Officer, and was one of our founding Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) instructors.

He has loyally and faithfully served the community of O'Fallon for 24 years. We wish him well in his retirement.

Thank you for your service Officer Jones!



PROGRESS/Mark Raeber

The O'Fallon Police Department's School Resource Officers, from left to right, Todd Jones, Diane Coppotelli and Det. Jim Cavins will be spending more quality time with the students this year.



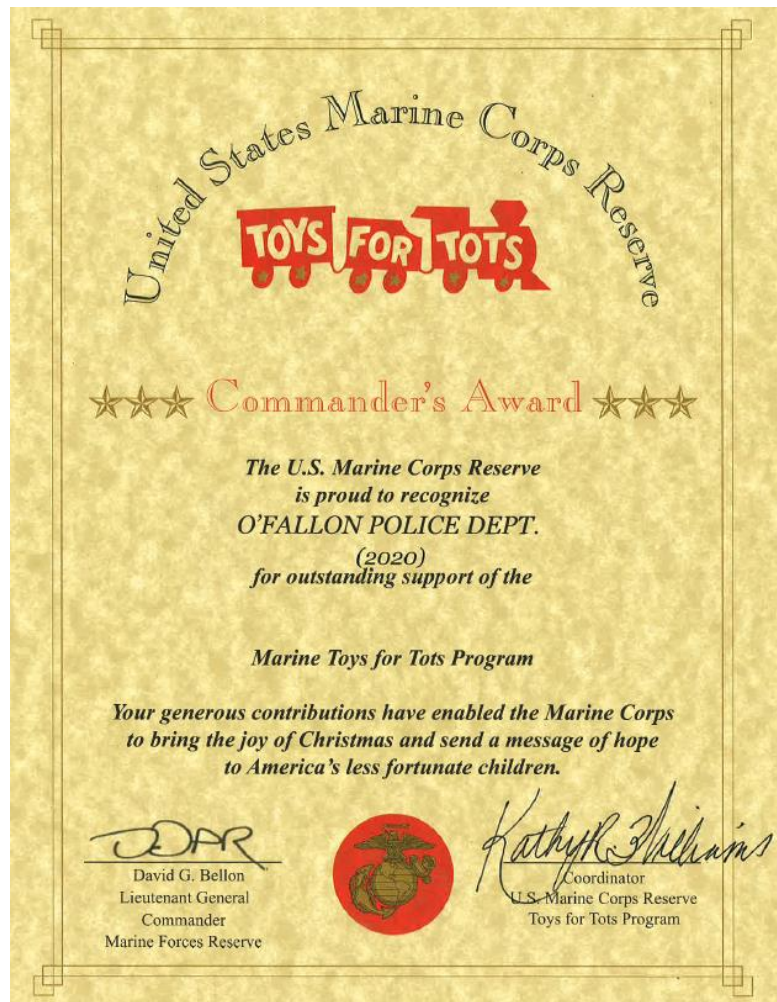
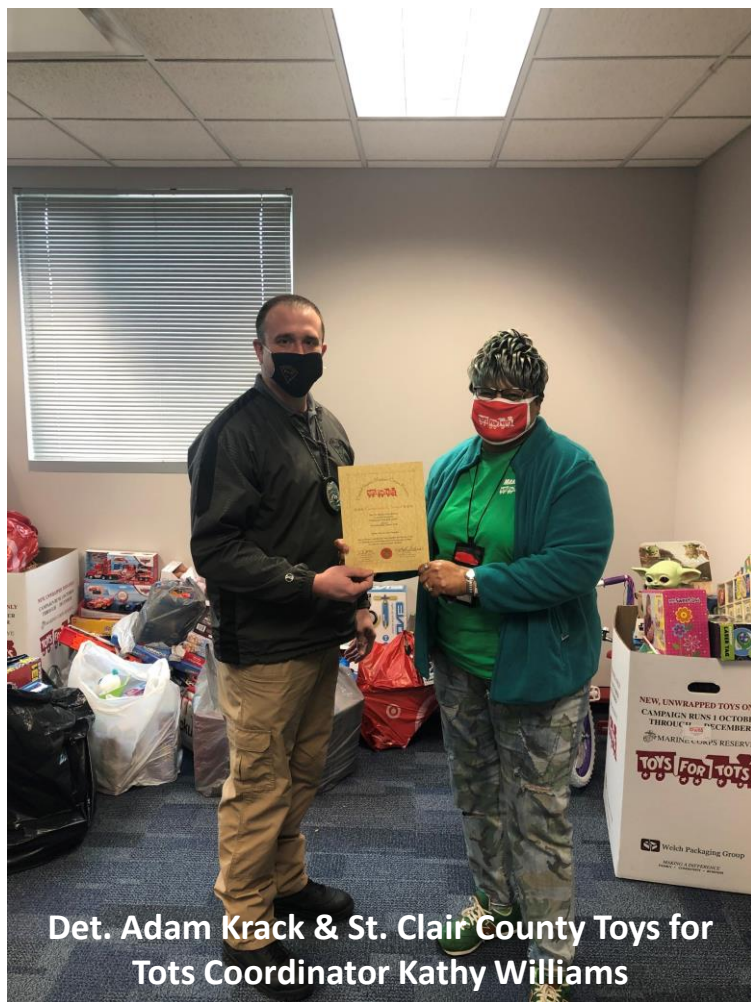
Please join us in welcoming **Officer Zachary "Ty" Seeger** (Ocean 123) to the O'Fallon Police Department. Officer Seeger comes to O'Fallon with about 1.5 years of experience at the Chesterfield Missouri Police Department.

Before that, Officer Seeger served 2.5 years in the United States Coast Guard.

We are excited to have Officer Seeger join our department and he will start his training on Wednesday.

Thanks to YOUR generous donations, the **O'Fallon Police Department** collected hundreds of toys in support of the **U.S. Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots" drive!** **THANK YOU** for helping to bring smiles to the faces of children in need!

Since 1947 The Marine Corps and Toys for Tots Has Been Making a Difference in the Lives of American Families. For more information about the mission and history of Toys for Tots, visit <https://www.toysfortots.org/>



Look at all those TOYS!!!



## Santa Reads Letters from Children

Since we weren't able to host Breakfast with Santa this year, O'Fallon Police Department Detectives contacted Santa directly.

Children from O'Fallon wrote letters the first two weeks of December and Santa came by the Police Department on December 21st. We recorded Santa reading the children's letters and sent the recordings to their parents via email or text message. The Police Department received 76 letters in total.

Thank you to all the families who participated and allowed us to be a part of your Holiday!

## 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>



**O'FALLON FIRE RESCUE**  
Proudly serving since 1891

## O'Fallon Fire Rescue 2021 Recruiting Drive

Do something BIG in 2021. Become a Volunteer Firefighter!

We're looking to fill our ranks with local citizens who have a passion to serve. For more information, visit: [https://www.facebook.com/pg/OFallonFireRescue/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/OFallonFireRescue/posts/?ref=page_internal)

## Winter Driving Safety

For more tips visit:

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips#winter-driving-tips-road>

Driving safely in winter weather can be a challenge for even the most experienced driver. It's easy to forget after months of mild conditions that snow and ice demand careful driving and special preparation for your vehicle. But when 17 percent of all vehicle crashes occur during winter conditions it's clear that we could all use a refresher when it comes to making our way through a winter wonderland.

### **Ready Your Vehicle**

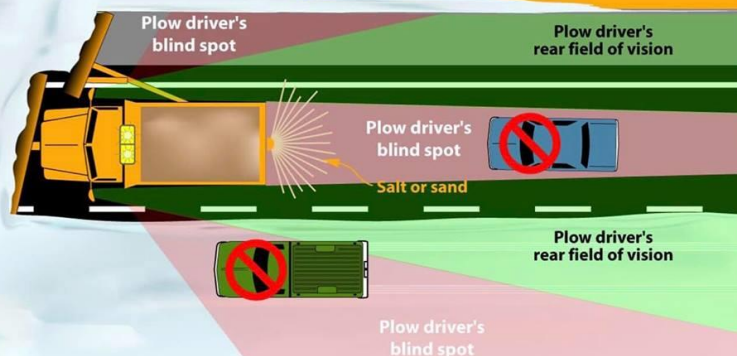
Driving safely begins before you even get on the road. Regular tune-ups and maintenance are the starting point for safe driving year-round. In winter, pay special attention to your vehicle's battery, wipers, coolant, tires and other systems that can take a beating when the temperature drops. If you're using snow tires, have them installed before the snow begins to fall. When you know your vehicle is ready for the road, clear your car of snow, ice or dirt from the windows, forward sensors, headlights, tail lights and backup camera.

### **Ready Yourself**

Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered road. Increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you. Also remember that every vehicle handles differently; this is particularly true when driving on wet, icy, or snowy roads. Take the time to learn how it handles under winter weather driving conditions. Before heading out, know the weather and traffic conditions, and plan your route accordingly. Always wear your seatbelt and make sure all passengers are properly restrained. Put the phone away and keep your eyes on the road.

**Use caution when approaching a snowplow.  
Snowplows typically operate at 25-35 mph.**

**Never pass on the shoulder side of a plow.  
Plows will move snow to the shoulders.**



**Don't assume plow drivers see you.  
Their fields of vision are limited.**

\* Tips courtesy of [www.nhtsa.gov/](https://www.nhtsa.gov/)