

# O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – June 2020



## A Message From O'Fallon Police Chief Eric Van Hook

Greetings,

The tragic death of George Floyd while in custody by Minneapolis police officers has sparked outrage across the nation. As I watched this disturbing video, I, much like you, was overcome with emotions of anger, frustration, and confusion as to why these things are happening. As law enforcement officers, we swore an oath to serve our communities with compassion, dignity, and respect. George Floyd was not afforded any of these rights. There is no place for abuse in our profession and police leaders must stand up and confront these failures.

As your Chief of Police, I want to assure you we do not tolerate the brutal and negligent behavior observed in the video by the Minneapolis officers which led to the death of George Floyd. We pride ourselves on being one of the most thoroughly trained police departments in the area. We train and emphasize the importance of using de-escalation tactics to reduce the potential for confrontations that endanger law enforcement officers and community members. As stated in the 10 Shared Principles, we value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value. This is one of the tenants of our policing philosophy.

We have worked hard for many years to build relationships and trust within our community. Incidents like this can tarnish the dedication and reputation we have worked so hard to build. I do not want the reckless and horrific actions of four Minneapolis police officers to define our profession and our department. I implore you to continue working with us to make O'Fallon a community we can all be proud of and call home.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and please contact me if you have any questions.

*Chief Eric Van Hook*  
*O'Fallon Police Department*  
*285 North Seven Hills Road*  
*O'Fallon, IL 62269*  
*618-624-4545*

## Dan Wunder Retirement

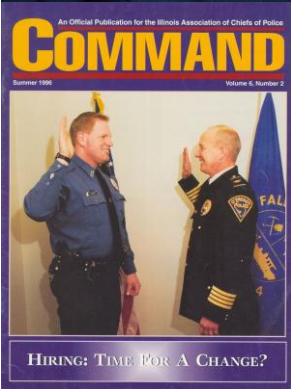
On May 20, 2020, Officer Wunder officially retired after 27 Years of Service to the Citizens of O'Fallon.

Officer Wunder began his career with the O'Fallon Police Department on May 21, 1993. Throughout his tenure at OPD, he has served in virtually every special assignment we offered. For many years, Officer Wunder patrolled the streets with his loyal partner K-9 Danny. These two were responsible for countless criminal apprehensions and drug arrests during their time together. These cases also resulted in several awards from the United States Police Canine Association and German Shepard Dog Club of St. Louis.

After his time as a Canine Handler, Officer Wunder was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division as a Detective. During that time, he served on the Major Case Squad and was promoted to a Deputy Report Officer. Additionally, Officer Wunder spent time as a member and supervisor for the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southern Illinois where he focused his attention on the illegal trafficking of drugs in the metro east.

Dan has been a leader, mentor, and friend to many officers, both in our department and in law enforcement throughout the region. As a firearms instructor for the Police Academy, he has passed on his knowledge and experience to countless new recruits throughout the last 27 years.

Officer Wunder's dedication and commitment to Law Enforcement and the citizens of O'Fallon will be missed. We wish you well Officer Wunder and thank you for your 27 years of Service to O'Fallon.



PROGRESS/Lori Bell  
K-9 handler Dan Wunder found his niche with the O'Fallon Police Department when he was paired up with his partner, Danny, nearly five years ago.



## **RESTORE ILLINOIS – PHASE 3 (Recovery)**

On May 29, 2020, Illinois moved to Phase 3 of the “Restore Illinois” COVID-19 Response Plan. In order to move into phase 3, the following requirements were met: The rate of infection among those surveillance tested is **stable or declining**. COVID-19-related hospitalizations and ICU capacity remains **stable or is decreasing**. ***Face coverings in public continue to be required.*** Gatherings of **10 people or fewer** for any reason can resume. Select industries can begin returning to workplaces with **social distancing and sanitization practices** in place. Retail establishments reopen with **limited capacity**, and select categories of personal care establishments can also begin to reopen with **social distancing guidelines and PPE**.

### **What’s Open?**

**Churches:** Full safety recommendations from the Illinois Department of Public Health can be viewed here: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/places-worship-guidance>

**Gatherings:** All gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed with this limit subject to change based on latest data & guidance

**Travel:** Travel should follow IDPH and CDC approved guidance

**Health care:** All health care providers are open with DPH approved safety guidance

**Education and child care:** Remote learning in P-12 schools and higher education; Limited child care and summer programs open with IDPH approved safety guidance

**Outdoor recreation:** State parks open; Activities permitted in groups of 10 or fewer with social distancing

### **Businesses:**

- Manufacturing:** Non-essential manufacturing that can safely operate with social distancing can reopen with IDPH approved safety guidance
- “Non-essential” businesses:** Employees of “non-essential” businesses are allowed to return to work with IDPH approved safety guidance depending upon risk level, tele-work strongly encouraged wherever possible; Employers are encouraged to provide accommodations for COVID-19-vulnerable employees
- Bars and restaurants:** Open for delivery, pickup, and drive through only
- Personal care services and health clubs:** Barbershops and salons open with IDPH approved safety guidance; Health and fitness clubs can provide outdoor classes and one-on-one personal training with IDPH approved safety guidance
- Retail:** Open with capacity limits and IDPH approved safety guidance, including face coverings

For more information visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-phase-3> and <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx>



# Fireworks Safety

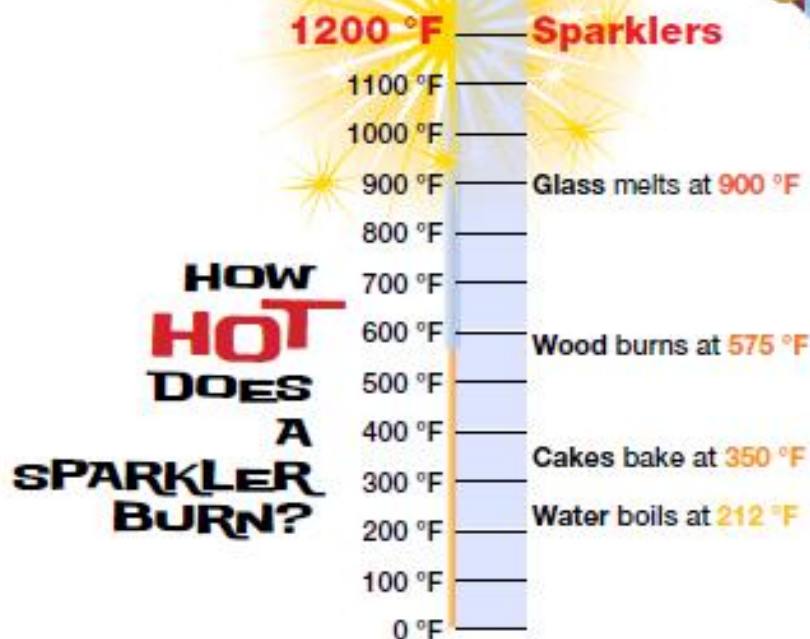
Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. However, they are not safe in the hands of consumers. Fireworks cause thousands of burns and eye injuries each year. People can enjoy fireworks safely if they follow a few simple safety tips:

## BE CAREFUL!

- » Be safe. If you want to see fireworks, go to a public show put on by experts.
- » Do not use consumer fireworks.
- » Keep a close eye on children at events where fireworks are used.

## CONSUMER FIREWORKS

**NFPA is opposed to consumer use of fireworks.** This includes sparklers and firecrackers. Even sparklers burn hot enough to cause third-degree burns.



## FACTS

- ! Fireworks cause an average of almost 18,500 reported fires per year.
- ! Sparklers account for more than one-quarter of emergency room fireworks injuries.

O'Fallon Fire Department



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division - 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

## REMINDER

**Fireworks are ILLEGAL**, as prohibited by Illinois State Law (435 ILCS 35) and O'Fallon City Ordinance (137.42).

All Illinois Laws can be viewed at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)

All O'Fallon Ordinances can be viewed at <https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ofallon/latest/overview>

Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals!

### **\*SAVE THE DATE\***

O'Fallon City Fireworks Display  
Sunday, July 5, 2020

More details will be available later  
this month!

## **Crime Prevention Tip**

OPD would like to remind everyone to secure your valuables to help prevent theft!

- **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!*



# Neighbors

The New Neighborhood Watch™

The O'Fallon Police Department is excited to be joining the **Neighbors by Ring app** in efforts to reduce crime in our Community. This app will allow the O'Fallon Police Department to inform the community about crime and safety events so you can always stay informed. The Neighbors by Ring App also allows you, the user, to see something and share something directly with O'Fallon Police Department. You do not need Ring devices to participate, anyone with any camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App! We are encouraging each and every one of you to spread the word out to the community about the Neighbors App. **To download please text "jointoday" to 555888.** Remember if you see something, share something and report it to the O'Fallon Police Department at 618-624-4545.