

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter - July 2019



Citizen Police Academy Accepting Applications!

The O'Fallon Police Department will be hosting its 8th annual Citizen Police Academy from **Sept 4 – Oct 23, 2019**. 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 Wednesday 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.



O'Fallon Police, Fire, & EMS Host "Pop-up BBQ"

On Tuesday, June 25, OPD hosted a "Pop-up BBQ" in the White Oak/N. Cherry neighborhood. Police Officers, Firefighters, and EMTs had emergency vehicles on display and residents enjoyed a free dinner from the grill! We look forward to hosting more of these events this summer so don't be surprised if one pops up near you!





Captain James Cavins Retires from O'Fallon PD; Hired as Police Chief in Town and Country, MO



O'Fallon Police Captain James Cavins DSN 26 has announced his retirement from OPD, effective July 5, 2019. Cavins was sworn in as an O'Fallon Police Officer on August 3, 1990 and attained the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain during his 29-year career. Cavins is active in the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis and holds the rank of Deputy Commander. Captain Cavins' father, Ron Cavins, served as a dispatcher from 1983-2002, and his mother, Joan Cavins, was often referred to as "OPD's biggest fan," since she attended many charitable events and social gatherings and was quick to offer gratitude and encouragement to every OPD member. Please join us in congratulating CHIEF Cavins as he begins the next chapter of his career as Police Chief in Town and Country, MO!



PROGRESS/Eric Bugger
Jeff Wild, right, shared the Flame of Hope Award with the entire O'Fallon Police Department, particularly his long-time Torch Run partner Det. Jim Cavins, who nominated the police lieutenant for the award.



Policeman gets award for rescue

By CHERYLEATON News-Democrat

O'FALLON — City officials presented its first medal of valor Monday to a police officer who helped rescue a Florissant, Mo., man Thursday who tried to commit suicide by jumping off the Poplar Street Bridge.

Officer Jim Cavins was given the medal by Mayor Kristi Vetri and City Council members during the council meeting Monday night.

"It's because of his action that city awards this medal of honor for his heroism," Vetri said as she pinned the medal on Cavins' uniform.

Cavins was with KSD radio helicopter pilot Allen Barklage on Friday morning promoting the O'Fallon Firemen's Picnic when they spotted Bruce Barnes jumping from the Poplar Street Bridge.

Barklage hovered inches above the water and Barnes grabbed onto the skid, the landing support of the helicopter. When Barklage raised the helicopter about four feet, Barnes lost his grip. They went down for him a second time and when Barnes grabbed the skid, Cavins got out and held onto Barnes arm until nearby barge workers were able to pull him to safety.

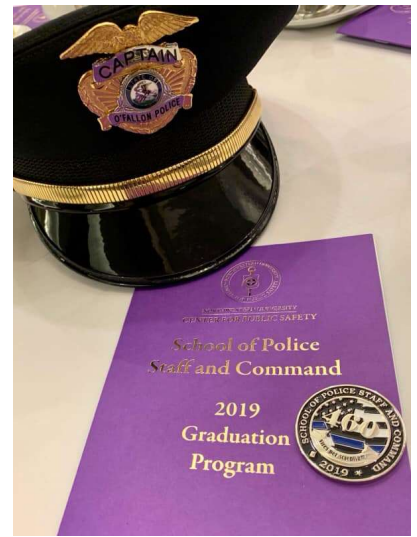
Sauget Police officer John "Vito" Parisi and St. Louis officer Gerald Harrell also helped in the rescue.

Barnes, who said he was despondent over his job and personal problems when he decided to jump off the bridge, said he has since changed his mind about killing himself. He was hospitalized for only one night and was released June 14.

Cavins said he did not expect to be rewarded for helping to save Barnes' life.

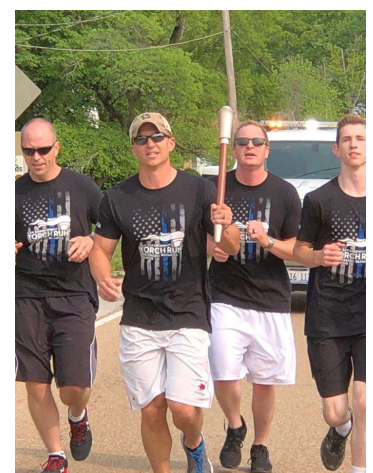
"It was just out of instinct," he said. "Just a reaction of wanting to help somebody."

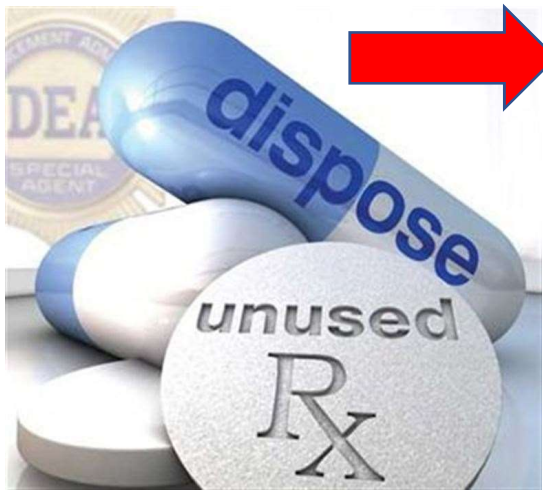
Congratulations to Captain Kirk Brueggeman on his graduation from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command Class 460! This 10-week course is a challenging and rewarding law enforcement management program. Class 460 was held at the Tennessee Highway Patrol Training Academy in Nashville, TN. Joining Capt. Brueggeman at graduation was his wife (Maura), children (Max, Kira, and Reese), Chief Eric Van Hook, Capt. Jim Cavins, and Retired Capt. Mick Hunter.



On June 3, members of the O'Fallon Police Department carried the torch through town as part of the annual **Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics**. OPD participates in numerous fundraisers throughout the year for Special Olympics and we love the time we get to spend with the athletes.

For information on how you can contribute to this great organization, follow **O'Fallon PD** on **Nextdoor** and **Facebook** for upcoming local events and visit www.soill.org/illinoistorchrun/





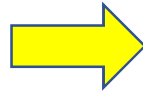
REMINDER! OPD hosts a **Drug Take Back Event** the first Saturday of every month in the lobby from 11AM – 1 PM.

Safely disposing of medications:

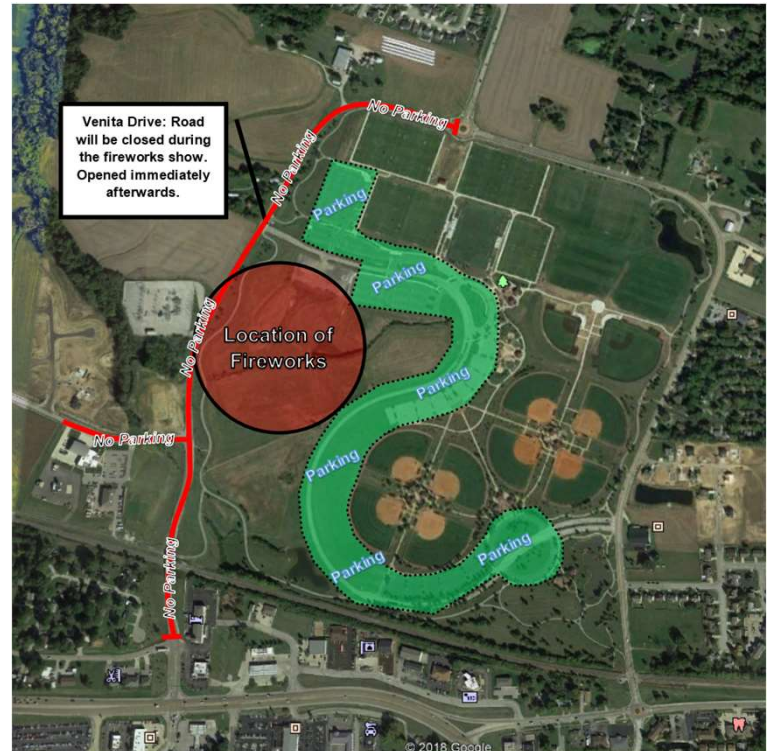
- Keeps the medication out of our water supply
- Keeps addictive and dangerous medicine from falling into the wrong hands

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

Fireworks Over O'Fallon will be held on **Sunday, July 7, 2019** at dusk (approximately 8:30 p.m.). The fireworks will be launched near the west entrance of the O'Fallon Family Sports Park. Spectators are asked to view the show from safe and legal parking areas. All parking lots in the Family Sports Park and Hesse Park will be open and park restrooms will be open during the event. Park concession stands will **not** be open.



For more information on this and other O'Fallon Events, please go to www.ofallon.org



SAVE THE DATE:

- O'Fallon Cityfest: August 16 & 17
- O'Fallon PD Night to Unite: October 1



OPD Recruitment

Testing for Police Officer candidates was conducted on May 18, 2019 at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville. If you or someone you know is interested in a career in law enforcement, please go to www.wearthebadge.com to submit your contact information to be notified of the next testing cycle. Lateral Entries (current law enforcement) applications are accepted year-round.

Important Contacts

Police/Fire/EMS **Emergency – 911**
Non-Emergency Police – 624-4545
Non-Emergency Fire – 624-4515
City Hall – 624-4500
Neighborhood Watch Contact
Det. Nick Schmidt 624-9542
nschmidt@ofallon.org