

# O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter - June 2019



Chief Van Hook receiving IACP award 04/26/19

As mentioned in a previous Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, O'Fallon Police **Chief Eric Van Hook** was named the **2019 Police Chief of the Year** by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Chief Van Hook officially received the award on April 26 during the association's annual awards banquet in Oak Brook, Illinois.



Speaking of Awards, The O'Fallon Police Department is proud to announce that **Detective Brian Gimpel** has been awarded the **State of Illinois VFW Investigator of the Year Award!** Det. Gimpel was awarded the local VFW award this past December and his nomination was forwarded to the State Organization. He will receive his award at a ceremony in Springfield, IL on June 15, 2019. Det. Gimpel was also named OPD's Officer of the Year in 2017 and he is the primary coordinator for OPD's involvement with the Special Olympics Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Captain Brueggeman & Chief Van Hook presenting Detective Brian Gimpel with the 2017 Officer of the Year Award



2018 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics



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**

Warm weather has arrived and that means an increase in bicycle and pedestrian traffic all over town. The O’Fallon Police Department would like to remind motorists and cyclists to exercise caution and share the road. Bicycles and Motor Vehicles have **the same rights to use the roadway** as well as the **same responsibilities to obey all traffic laws**.



**DRIVE SAFELY**  
**RIDE SAFELY**



## **Bicycle Safety (for cyclists)**

<http://icsw.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/bike/kidsandbikesafetyweb/>



- **Go With the Traffic Flow.** Ride on the right (same direction) as other vehicles. Go with the flow, not against it.
- **Obey All Traffic Laws.** A bicycle is a vehicle and you’re a driver. When you ride in the street, obey all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- **Yield to Traffic When Appropriate.** Almost always, drivers on a smaller road must yield (wait) for traffic on a major or larger road. If there is no stop sign or traffic signal and you are coming from a smaller roadway (out of a driveway, from a sidewalk, a bike path, etc.), you must slow down and look to see if the way is clear before proceeding. This also means yielding to pedestrians who have already entered a crosswalk.
- **Be Predictable.** Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Signal your moves to others.
- **Stay Alert at All Times.** Use your eyes AND ears. Watch out for potholes, cracks, wet leaves, storm grates, railroad tracks, or anything that could make you lose control of your bike. You need your ears to hear traffic and avoid dangerous situations; don’t wear a headset when you ride.
- **Look Before Turning.** When turning left or right, always look behind you for a break in traffic, then signal before making the turn. Watch for left- or right-turning traffic.
- **Watch for Parked Cars.** Ride far enough out from the curb to avoid the unexpected from parked cars (like doors opening, or cars pulling out).



## **Bicycle Safety (for motorists)**

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/bicycle-safety>



- **Yield to bicyclists as you would motorists** and do not underestimate their speed. This will help you to avoid turning in front of a bicyclist traveling on the road or sidewalk, often at an intersection or driveway.
- In parking lots, at stop signs, when backing up, or when parking, **search your surroundings for other vehicles, including bicycles.**
- **Drivers turning right on red should look to the right and behind** to avoid hitting a bicyclist approaching from the right rear. Stop completely and look left-right-left and behind before turning right on red.
- **Obey the speed limit**, reduce speed for road conditions and drive defensively to avoid a crash with a cyclist.
- **Give cyclists room.** Do not pass too closely. Pass bicyclists as you would any other vehicle—when it’s safe to move over into an adjacent lane.



## Summer Employment Opportunities!

O'Fallon Parks & Recreation has seasonal job opportunities this summer. One of the positions they are looking to fill is **Pool Manager**. View the details and requirements here:

<http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ofallonil/jobs/2317298/pool-managers-2019?page=2&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>

Other employment opportunities with the City of O'Fallon can be found here:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/ofallonil>



# LOCK IT OR LOSE IT

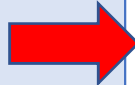


### Prevent Crimes of Opportunity

- **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!*

### O'Fallon Police Department History:

O'Fallon PD's first squad car was a 1954 Ford Mainline purchased at Huller Ford located at 615 South Lincoln Avenue. Pictured from left to right are Arthur Huller, Mayor Henry Hesse and Patrolman Eugene Ferguson.



### SAVE THE DATE:

- Fireworks in the Park: July 7
- 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](http://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](mailto:nschmidt@ofallon.org)