

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – November 2020



Help Prevent Crimes of Opportunity

O'Fallon and many other communities in our area have recently experienced a surge in vehicle burglaries and thefts. In nearly every case, the burglars are not breaking windows or defeating locks; they are merely opening **unlocked doors** and stealing the contents inside. In some cases, the burglars even find **keys to the vehicle** inside and steal the whole car. No forced entry, no “hotwiring,” just easy crimes of opportunity. The O'Fallon Police Department patrols your neighborhoods looking for criminal activity day and night, but when a criminal can be in and out of an unlocked vehicle within seconds, these crimes are difficult to spot and prevent.

Please do your part to make your homes and vehicles difficult targets for crime. **Always LOCK your doors and windows and remove valuables from view.** If you see suspicious activity, report it immediately by calling **618-624-4545 ext. 0** or **9-1-1**. Please provide our dispatcher with as many details as you have as well as your name and phone number so a Police Officer can follow up with you if necessary.

**“See Something,
Say Something”**

LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



**ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR
CLOSE ALL WINDOWS**

TAKE VALUABLES WITH YOU OR KEEP THEM OUT OF SIGHT

Surveillance Camera Registration

Do you have surveillance cameras on your home or business? If so, please let us know so we can use your footage to help solve crimes in your neighborhood!

Register Here:

<https://www.ofallon.org/police-department/webforms/private-video-surveillance-camera-registration>

All we need is your contact information so we can ask you to review your video if a crime is reported in your area



O'Fallon Police Body Worn Camera Program

O'Fallon, Illinois – The City of O'Fallon is excited to announce the implementation of the O'Fallon Police Department's Body Worn Camera Program. In early July, the department began researching body worn cameras and obtained bids from various companies. After an extensive research and an evaluation period, the department decided on the Axon 3 Body Camera from Axon Enterprise. Axon is the nationwide leader in body worn cameras and is the company that brought the Taser to the market.

"This is another example of the leadership position of the O'Fallon Police Department," said Mayor Herb Roach. "O'Fallon's Police Department is the most professional, well-trained, and passionate departments in the State of Illinois."

The O'Fallon Police Department's use of body worn video camera technology will be a valuable tool in accurately documenting events, actions, conditions, and statements made during investigative stops, field interviews, arrests, and critical incidents.

Body cameras are a valuable asset intended to assist department officers in the prosecution of certain offenders by augmenting an officer's testimony with a video/audio record of the incident. Although it does not capture everything the officer sees, it will be beneficial for court and will document a clearer picture of what happened during an incident.

The use of the cameras increases transparency and provides an opportunity to capture the good work that the police officers do on a daily basis. Additionally, this equipment will enable department administrators to conduct periodic reviews of officer-citizen contacts, for quality control purposes and will aid in the investigation of citizen complaints.

After receiving training, all officers will be issued a body camera and will be wearing it while in uniform. The program became operational the week of October 19, 2020.

"We have always strived to deliver exemplary service to our community while maintaining a high level of professionalism and transparency. Body Cameras will be a valuable tool to help us continue this mission." Chief Eric Van Hook stated.

The cost of the body cameras will be funded through seized funds with a possibility of grant funding in Spring 2021. The initial cost of the cameras and hardware totaled \$46,845 with annual licensing and storage costs of \$14,500.

Axon 3 Body Camera



On Monday, October 26, we kicked off **Red Ribbon Week** with the help of our local Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) office and some eighth graders from Carriel Jr. High School. The students braved the cold weather and walked to the Police Department where they assisted Captain Matevey with Raising the Red Ribbon flag.

For the entire week, we flew the Red Ribbon flag to remind our kids to **Be Happy, Be Brave and Be Drug Free.**



For more information about Red Ribbon Week, visit <https://www.redribbon.org/>

**WARNERS'
WARM-UP**

**Teaming up to keep the
Bi-State warm since 2001**



**Operation
Food Search**

For the past several years we have partnered with the [Kurt Warner First Things First Foundation](https://www.kurtwarner.org/) and [Operation Food Search](https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/) for their annual **Warners' Warm-up Coat Drive** by serving as a collection point for **new and gently-used winter coats of all sizes**. The drop off location is at the O'Fallon Police Department (285 North Seven Hills Road).

The 20th annual drive will take place from **October 25- November 7th** and we are proud to once again take part. We encourage everyone to donate and help us spread the word by telling your family, friends and neighbors.

For more information, visit: <https://www.kurtwarner.org/> and <https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/>

Opportunities to watch Guns 'n Hoses and support The Backstoppers, Inc



ABOUT

Guns 'N Hoses is presented by the nonprofit St. Louis Guns 'N Hoses Boxing Association and is sponsored by Budweiser and Grey Eagle Distributors, the Anheuser-Busch wholesaler in St. Louis County. Since its inception in 1987, Budweiser Guns 'N Hoses has raised \$8.5 million to benefit The BackStoppers, a nonprofit organization that assists families of first responders who have died in the line of duty.

Due to Covid-19 there will be **no ticket sales** this year. St. Louis Metro Boxing Showdown will be on **LIVE TV on Fox 2, 7-9 PM on Wednesday, Nov. 25th.**


You will see the Opening Ceremony, bouts, and there will be a telethon in progress so you can [make a donation](#) and show your support.

The [BackStoppers](#) supports families of fallen heroes by paying off all debt, providing health and dental insurance, reimbursing for out-of-pocket medical expenses, covering tuition and educational costs from day care through university, and assisting with miscellaneous extraordinary expenses. Currently supports approximately 80 families with 70 dependent children

- Supported over 170 families since 1959
- Provides roughly \$2 million in assistance annually
- Program expense ratio is an average 81% over the last six years

For a list of watch parties, including one at **Marcus Theater** in O'Fallon, IL, please visit <http://stlgunshoses.com/watch-parties/>

WE HONOR




Lieutenant/Fire Marshal
Ronald W. Wehlage
DeSoto Rural Fire Protection
District lieutenant

WE HONOR



Officer
Tamarris Bohannon
St. Louis Metropolitan
Police Department

WE HONOR



Captain (Retired)
David Dorn
St. Louis Metropolitan
Police Department

Resurgence Mitigations

As detailed in the July 15 Restore Illinois resurgence plan, new mitigations will be applied if a region’s positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8 percent for three consecutive days, or if a region experiences a sustained increase in the positivity rate (increases in 7 out of 10 days) AND sustained increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness or reduction in hospital capacity that threatens surge capabilities (availability of ICU or med/surgical beds under 20 percent). If a region has exceeded IDPH criteria that trigger additional mitigations to combat a resurgence of COVID-19 and prevent uncontrollable spread, new measures are necessary to curtail further spread.

Regions that are experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 will operate under these new mitigation requirements:

SETTING	MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS
Bars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All bars close at 11pm and may reopen no earlier than 6am the following day • No indoor service • All bar patrons should be seated at tables outside • No ordering, seating, or congregating at bar (bar stools should be removed) • Tables should be 6 feet apart • No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting • No dancing or standing indoors • Reservations required for each party • No seating of multiple parties at one table
Restaurants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All restaurants close at 11pm and may reopen no earlier than 6am the following day • No indoor dining or bar service • Tables should be 6 feet apart • No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting • Reservations required for each party • No seating of multiple parties at one table
Meetings, social events and gatherings (including weddings, funerals, potlucks, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit to lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors • No party buses • Gaming and Casinos close at 11:00pm, are limited to 25 percent capacity, and follow mitigations for bars and restaurants, if applicable
Organized group recreational activities (fitness centers, sports, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change • All Sports Guidance effective August 15, 2020, remains in effect • Outdoor Activities (not included in the above exposure settings) continue per current DCEO guidance

IDPH will continue to track the positivity rate in regions requiring additional mitigations over a 14-day monitoring period to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigation should remain in place. If the positivity rate averages less than or equal to 6.5 percent over a 3-day period, the region will return to Phase 4 mitigations under the Restore Illinois Plan. If the positivity rate averages between 6.5 percent and 8 percent, IDPH will continue to monitor the region to determine if additional mitigations are needed. If the positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8 percent after 14 days, more stringent mitigations can be applied to further reduce spread of the virus, which could include reducing capacity on organized group recreation, fitness or other activities supported by local contact tracing data and temporary suspension of certain activities.

Source: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/COVID-19-Resurgence-Mitigations.pdf>
 Follow the latest regional metrics at: <https://dph.illinois.gov/regionmetrics>