

O'Fallon Police

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter – Oct/Nov 2021



After 22 years as a police officer and 8 years as Director of Public Safety for the City of O'Fallon, **Police Chief Eric Van Hook** has announced his retirement from the City of O'Fallon. Chief Van Hook began in career as a police officer for the City of O'Fallon in 1990. His last day will be November 11, 2021.

“Eric Van Hook directed O'Fallon's Public Safety Department through some of its most important, and fastest growing years in history. O'Fallon is known as one of the safest communities in the area, and Eric has had an important role in that,” said Mayor Herb Roach. “He has served with professionalism, expertise, and bravery. We owe him a debt of gratitude. The entire community will miss his leadership.”

During his tenure as Director, O'Fallon's Public Safety Department became a leader in the region. Chief Van Hook has a long list of accomplishments through his career, including the growth of the O'Fallon Police Department to 50 sworn full-time police officers, establishment of the Metro East Communications Center (MECOMM), a joint 911 dispatch center in partnership with Fairview Heights, Creation of O'Fallon's first diversity recruitment initiative, numerous officer-wellbeing strategies, an officer body-worn camera program, and continuance of O'Fallon's mission of building strong community partnerships and the pursuit of safety for all citizens.



“It has been one of the highest honors of my life to serve the City of O'Fallon. It's a wonderful place to live, work, and serve. I have been a police officer my entire adult life and while I will miss the job. I know that O'Fallon will continue to be a leader in the region.”

- Chief Eric Van Hook



Congratulations to Lt. Craig Koch on his retirement from the O'Fallon Police Department. October 7 marked the end of a 24-year career with the O'Fallon Police Department.

Lt. Koch joined OPD in June 1997 after serving four years with the Perry County Sherriff's Department as both a corrections officer and patrol deputy. Prior to his service in Perry County, Lt. Koch served honorably as a Marine with the United States Marine Corps.

Lt. Koch has enjoyed an incredibly successful career in O'Fallon serving as a Field Training Officer, narcotics agent for MEGSI, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Patrol Lieutenant. He is the only member of our organization to hold all three sergeant positions. Lt. Koch was also one of the founding members of the OPD Honor Guard.

During his assignment with MEGSI, Lt. Koch served as the Deputy Director of the task force. Lt. Koch was also active in the Major Case Squad of Greater St. Louis attaining the supervisory position of Report Officer.

Lt. Koch is also a Use of Force Instructor for OPD and has been an instructor for the SWIC Police Academy for over 20 years. In addition to his service to the Law Enforcement community, Lt. Koch is active with Veteran's support groups in the area including The Patriot Guard, the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association and a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.

Lt. Koch has served our nation and our community with pride, honor, and integrity. We are proud to call him one of O'Fallon's Finest. Thank you for your dedicated service, Lt. Koch!

The retirement of Lt. Koch created an opportunity for two promotions. On October 11, Sgt. Eric Buck was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Officer Clay Hoff was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Congratulations to Lt. Buck and Sgt. Hoff!



Lt. Eric Buck



Sgt. Clay Hoff



Special Olympics Fundraiser

On **Friday, October 22**, Texas Roadhouse at 1412 Central Park Circle is hosting a "Tip-a-Cop" event to benefit Special Olympics Illinois! Special Olympics Athletes and O'Fallon Police will be at the restaurant from **4pm to 10pm** greeting guests, selling Torch Run merchandise, and accepting donations. Texas Roadhouse is generously donating 10% of their sales for the **ENTIRE DAY** to Special Olympics!

Dine-in and to-go orders are included.

This will be our last big Special Olympics Fundraiser of 2021. We hope to see you all there!



Thanks to all of you who joined us the evening of October 5 for the annual **O'Fallon Police Night to Unite!** We had a great time and we hope you did too!



THANK YOU to our sponsors for helping us host another successful Night to Unite!



WOLFERSBERGER FUNERAL HOME
— SINCE 1946 —



Food and Beverage provided by:





HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Please take a moment to discuss the following safety tips from [SafeKids.org](https://www.safekids.org) with your children:

- **Cross the street at corners**, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- **Put electronic devices down**, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children **to make eye contact with drivers** before crossing in front of them.
- **Always walk on sidewalks** or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to **never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars**.
- Join kids under age 12 for trick-or-treating. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, tell them **to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups**.



Trick-or-Treat hours for the City of O'Fallon are from **6 – 9 p.m. on Sunday, October 31, 2021.**

We would like to remind everyone of the “**Porch Light Code**”.

- If you are welcoming trick-or-treaters to knock on your door, leave your porch light, or driveway light on.
- If you do not wish to have trick-or-treaters approach your home and door, please leave your porch light, or driveway light off on Halloween.

Trick-or-treaters should only approach **well-lit homes** and residences. Please pass by any locations that do not have their lights on.

To prepare for trick-or-treaters:

- Clean up.** Put away tripping hazards, such as garden hoses, toys and bikes. Clear wet leaves and other debris from the sidewalk.
- Turn the lights on.** Replace burned-out bulbs to ensure visibility at the walkway and front door.
- Control your pets.** Take no chances that your pet might be frightened and chase or bite a child at your door.

BBQ Blues & Brews

Big George & The NGK Band
Special Raffles
Speed Demons And Friends Car Cruise

All Proceeds Benefit
the O'Fallon Police, EMS &
Fire Rescue Explorer youth
education programs

When: Thursday, October 21st
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Where: Keystone Place at Richland Creek
1050 Fountain Lakes Drive, O'Fallon, IL

Food will be available for purchase and there will be a cash bar featuring beer, wine and soft drinks.
Come & Enjoy Pork Steak, Baked Beans, Potato Salad & a Cookie All For just \$8 Per Plate.

Keystone Place
At Richland Creek
A Life Fulfilling Retirement Community

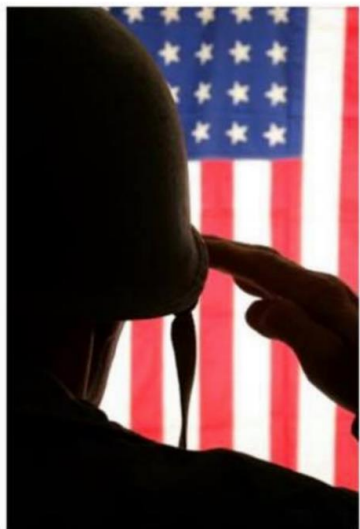
VFW Veterans Day Parade

Thursday, November 11, 2021 at 2pm
RAIN OR SHINE THE PARADE WILL NOT DELAY OR CANCEL

Interested in being IN the parade, email us



SGT. CHARLES A FRICKE VFW POST 805
221 West First Street,
O'Fallon, IL 62269
618-624-6575
vetdayparade805@gmail.com



- ★ Starts on South Hilgard
- ★ Turns West (left) on Third Street
- ★ Turns North (right) on Lincoln Ave
- ★ Turns West (left) on First Street
- ★ Ends at VFW Post 805

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE

WHERE: Begins at corner of State and Vine Streets
Ends at corner of E. First and Vine Streets

WHEN: Parade lineup starts at **12:00 Noon**
Parade begins at **12:30 PM**
Costume awards at **1:15 PM** O'Fallon Stn

COSTUME CONTEST CATEGORIES

- DECORATED BICYCLES/WAGONS
- SUPERHEROS AND VILLAINS
- CHILDREN UNDER 3 YEARS OLD
- SCARIEST
- FLOATS
- FAMILY
- PETS



1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE MEDALS AWARDED IN EACH CATEGORY

ADDITIONAL 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD PLACE WINNERS FOR OVERALL BEST COSTUMES

TRICK-or-TREAT DOWNTOWN

Trick-or-Treating at numerous downtown businesses **after** parade and costume awards at O'Fallon Station

LOOK FOR THE PUMPKIN
In the window of participating stores

LOTS OF GAMES

PRIZES FOR BEST COSTUME

FUN FOR ALL

Parade and Trick-or-Treat brought to you by:



O'Fallon's Three Rotary Clubs and
Downtown Merchants/Businesses



SEE WWW.OFALLONROTARY.ORG

O'FALLON, IL



§ 131.08 BURNING LEAVES AND OTHER YARD WASTE.

The outdoor burning, within the corporate city limits, of leaves, vines, tree limbs, tree trunks, lawns, grass cuttings, shrubbery and all materials accumulated as a result of the care of lawns, shrubbery and trees is **hereby banned and shall not be permitted at any time**, except as follows: burning shall be allowed year-round on property zoned A-Agriculture, but only for waste generated on the premises, and as regulated by the current adopted edition of the International Code Council (ICC) Code , or as otherwise regulated by the city.

Source:

<https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/ofallon/latest/overview>

Burning leaves and other yard waste is prohibited by O'Fallon City Ordinance 131.08.

What are some alternatives to burning leaves and polluting the air?

Chip it

A chipper or shredder converts your branches and yard waste into useful mulch or the perfect compost pile.

Compost it

You can convert dead leaves and grass clippings into healthy food for your plants and yard rather than polluting the air. Composting is a convenient and affordable way to manage yard waste.

Curb it

Weekly collection of yard waste is included in Waste Management's standard service rate of \$21.75 per month and will be collected on the same day as trash.

Unlimited amounts of yard waste will be collected year round. Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, vines, hedges, shrub and tree trimmings, smaller tree branches, household and yard plants, and holiday trees.

More Information:

<https://www.ofallon.org/waste-management/pages/yard-waste>



OPD will participate in the DEA's National Prescription Drug take back event on **Saturday, October 23** . We will take your unused or unwanted medications for safe disposal from **10 AM – 2 PM**. This will take place at the Public Safety Facility (285 N. Seven Hills Rd.)

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**