

# O'Fallon Public Safety

Monthly Newsletter – February 2024



We wanted to take a moment to publicly recognize our 2023 Civilian of the Year, Brian Bower, and our 2023 Officer of the Year, Dan Hesselbacher. Congratulations to both of these gentlemen; we're glad they're part of our team!!!

## Civilian of the Year – Lead Telecommunicator Brian Bower

Bower serves as a Lead Telecommunicator (LTC) (crew supervisor) in the Metro East Communications Center at the O'Fallon Police Department. LTC Bower is a skilled telecommunicator and has a vast knowledge surrounding the duties and technology within the telecommunications center. His expertise lends itself invaluable as he helps to guide the center towards reaching its objectives of precision and efficiency. LTC Bower's ability to share insights and offer innovative solutions demonstrate his dedication to excellence and his commitment to our organization.



## Police Officer of the Year – Officer Daniel Hesselbacher

Officer Hesselbacher served in the United States Air Force for 20 years prior to joining the O'Fallon Police Department. He currently serves within the Patrol Division at OPD. Additionally, Ofc. Hesselbacher is one of the department's armorers and is a member of the department's Honor Guard Unit. He is consistently one of the most proactive police officers on the department. Officer Hesselbacher routinely uses his skills and intuition to fully investigate calls for services, and in several cases linking his investigations to other crimes which were committed not only in O'Fallon, but in other jurisdictions. Ofc. Hesselbacher's positive attitude and drive to succeed are an example to all officers!



At the SIPCA/SILEC Awards Banquet held mid-January, O'Fallon PD was well represented. Sgt. Brian Gimpel nominated and presented the Bob Hardy Award to Fox 2 Journalist Jasmine Huda for her ongoing support of Law Enforcement.



Sgt. Gimpel also nominated and presented O'Fallon Resident Jimmy Ford with the Outstanding Citizen award for his dedication and service to the Special Olympics Torch Run this past year. Jimmy Ford has been involved in organizing fundraising efforts of well over \$40,000 this past year as well as the donation of a wheelchair accessible bus to a local special olympics team.

Lastly, the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #198 received the unit award for their philanthropic and community outreach in 2023. The O'Fallon FOP is the gold standard for what every FOP should strive to be. This past year the FOP donated \$105,000 to charitable causes and organizations in the community. The two largest donations was \$25,000 to the All Abilities Playground and \$25,000 for the wheel chair accessible van for the PTOEC.



**We are extremely proud of all our award winners!**

# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!



On January 4<sup>th</sup>, we had the pleasure of welcoming our newest officer, Brett Pellicciotti, to the O'Fallon Police Department. Officer Pellicciotti was administered the Oath of Office by Commissioner Ed Martinez. Brett is a veteran of the United States Navy and also worked for the US Forest Service as part of a Hotshot Crew, battling wildland fires.

In addition to all the current members of OPD here to welcome him, Retired Officer Jay Spanley was in attendance. Officer Spanley was badge number 42 when he served with OPD; Officer Pellicciotti is badge number 142.

Congratulations Officer Pellicciotti!!!! We're excited to have you as part of our team.



**We have some Pawesome news to share with you all!!**

Please join us in welcoming O'Fallon's newest employee, Public Safety Comfort Dog, Jujube. Jujube is a 2 1/2 year old black Lab and was trained by SIT Service Dogs in Ava, IL. She is excited to begin her new job of receiving pets, belly rubs, and neck scratches.



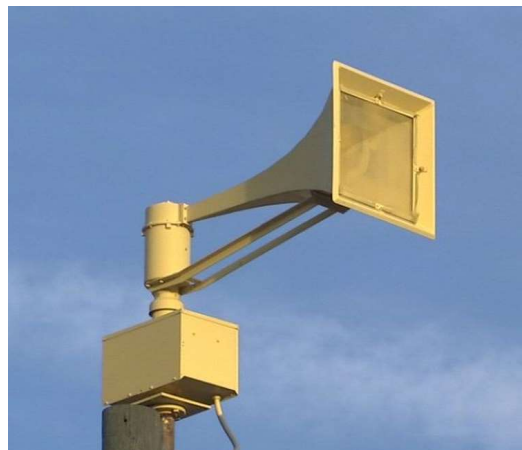
Jujube will live at the public safety building, cared for by Police, EMS, and MECOMM staff. We look forward to introducing her to you in person at our many community events. Rumor has it Jujube is considering starting her own Instagram page. Stay tuned for more details



We want to give a huge thank you to Furchild for pampering our little Jujube. After her bath she was treated to a shopping spree and picked up some much needed supplies to help brave the cold, and some fun toys to keep her happy in-between petting sessions with our first responders. Furchild did a great job brightening her day, almost as much as Jujube brightens ours.

Many thanks to everyone at the Shiloh Veterinary Clinic for taking such good care of our Public Safety Comfort Dog Jujube last week during her checkup. She thoroughly enjoyed her visit and loved getting to know Mary Kathryn and Dr. Kinnunen.

Due to inclement weather, testing of our sirens in January was postponed. Testing will return to its normal schedule (first Tuesday of each month) at 10 AM on February 6<sup>th</sup>.



# Dine to Donate

Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Peel Wood Fired Pizza

104 S. Cherry Street, O'Fallon, IL

Special Olympics Athletes and O'Fallon Police Officers will be at Peel Wood Fired Pizza in O'Fallon, IL during the dinner rush greeting guests and selling Torch Run merchandise.

**SHOW THIS FLYER TO YOUR SERVER**

**(Printed or on your Phone)**

Peel will donate **20%** of their sales for the **ENTIRE DAY** to Special Olympics Illinois! Dine-in and Carry-out orders apply!

**Dine-in or  
Carry-out!**

**\*Use code 2024  
for online  
orders!\***



**Special  
Olympics  
Illinois**



# OEMS END OF YEAR AWARDS



Above: Paramedic Pat Lenz awarded 2023 EMS employee of the year.

Paramedic Pat Lenz was awarded 2023 EMS employee of the year at the end of year awards dinner. Pat was awarded employee of the year due to his exceptional dedication, and extraordinary work ethic. Throughout the year Pat has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, professionalism, upon many other attributes. Pat remains dedicated to our mission by remaining active in our department outreach programs, including his commitments as an EMS Crew Leader, CPR Instructor, Explorer Advisor, Child Safety Seat Technician, and his most recent accomplishment as our Lead Field Training Officer.



Paramedic Nick Fensom received the Peer Recognition Award



Paramedic Nick Grotowski received the Peer Recognition Award



Supervisor Jeremy Sherman received the Community Outreach Award



# O'Fallon Fire News & Notes

The O'Fallon Fire Department would like to recognize two major accomplishments within our department. Both fine men have brought great pride to the department. We are honored to call them one of our own.

We would first like to congratulate Ray Flaiz on his retirement! Ray originally was with the department from 1997-1998 but had to depart due to military transfer. He returned to us from 2003-2010 before he again had to transfer. He came back to us in 2017 and is officially retiring in 2024 with 15 years of combined service to our great community.

During his long career as a firefighter, Ray also served on the Hellotis Volunteer FD in Texas, Fosterburg FD in IL, and MidAmerica Crash Fire Rescue & Public Safety.

Ray wore many hats beside a basic firefighter. He also served as an apparatus engineer/driver, recruiter, first aide supply officer, CPR instructor and trustee for the association.

In 1998, he was awarded the City Medal of Valor and St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Distinguished Service Award for saving a life at a residential home explosion and



**Ray Flaiz**

structure fire on Mother's Day 1998.

We are so thankful he chose to spend most of his career here in O'Fallon and we want to wish him well on his next chapter and enjoy being a "Retiree"!

We would also like to honor Dan Lindow on earning Firefighter of the Year for 2023!

Dan started firefighting as something to do to help his community while working odd hours. It did run in his family after all. His uncle and great grandpa were both firefighters and his dad was a police officer. He always enjoyed helping people.

After completion of EMT B in 2014, he signed up on a local fire department as a volunteer firefighter/EMT. He left after 5 months when he married Audrey. The next week after his honeymoon he signed on to volunteer with O'Fallon.

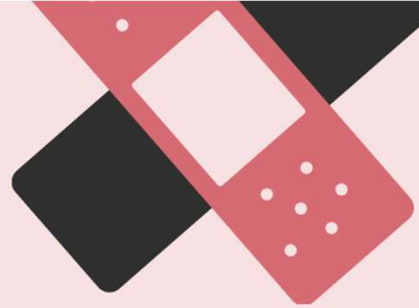


**Dan Lindow**

In 2017 he completed Basic Operations Firefighter while becoming a new dad and having 3 shift changes at work. It was a hard year, but he made it through. Dan was quoted as saying "after hundreds of calls, just when he says he has seen it all, something new comes along."

Dan has a full-time job working with trains along with his family (wife and 3 kids). Dan is a top responder to the calls, attends the weekly trainings and always volunteers to drive the truck to the events in our community and surrounding areas all while balancing his job and family life. He is always there to answer the call when someone needs help. Dan told me that he has every 5-year-old boys dream of working on trains and putting out fires!

Congratulations Dan on a job well done!



## O'FALLON FIRE RESCUE

CHIEF BRAD WHITE APPLIED FOR A GRANT, WHICH REDUCED THE COST, TO HELP THE FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE 3 NEW AED'S FOR SUPPORT VEHICLES 4390, 4391 AND 4395.

THESE ARE PHILIPS HEARTSTART DEFIBRILLATORS USED TO PROVIDE TREATMENT OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSE OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST BY DELIVERING A SHOCK QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY.





# Husqvarna Cut Off Saw

OFR recently purchased 3 cut off saws to go into our ladder trucks 4319, 4349 and our Squad 4320.

These small, lightweight saws help firefighters to make cuts at awkward angles and heights, work from ground and aerial ladders, in tight quarters and even indoors.





# **O'FALLON FIRE YEAR END REVIEW FOR 2023**



## **Total # of Calls - 1217**

- A. Fire 1077
- B. EMS Aid 140



## **Mutual Aid - 62**

- A. Aid Given 36
- B. Aid Received 26



## **Carbon Monoxide Checks - 67**

- A. Carbon Monoxide incidents 16
- B. Carbon Monoxide activation due to malfunction 20
- C. Carbon Monoxide detector activation, no CO 31



## **Vehicle Accidents - 212**

- A. Accidents with injuries 139
- B. General clean up 73

