

# O'Fallon Public Safety

Monthly Newsletter – May 2023



This past week, Chief Kirk Brueggeman attended the 2023 Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) in Lombard, IL along with several other law enforcement leaders. Topics presented at the conference included the Bureau of Justice Assistance Valor Program, Communication and Social Media, the response to the Highland Park July 4th Active Shooter Incident, Operationalizing the Ten Shared Principles, Recruiting, Developing, and Retaining the Next Generation of Officers, Rethinking Response to Common Calls, Officer Health and Wellness, and Getting Back to Basics - Preparing Officers for Today's Environment.

Additionally, Chief Brueggeman was sworn in as the ILACP Vice President at large for Region 1. While serving in this role, Chief Brueggeman will assist ILACP members in southern and central Illinois (63 counties in total) with keeping informed on important legislative updates and priorities, training and educational opportunities, and provide member agencies with a strong voice on the ILACP board. **Congratulations** Chief Brueggeman!

# Congratulations!



Sixteen weeks have passed since we officially hired Ofc. Marshall Goodman, Ofc. Jessica Thornton, and Ofc. Gavin Gonzalez. Today, these officers, graduated from Session 149 of the Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy. It's been a lot of hard work and time away from their families. They will now spend the next 14 weeks in our Field Training Program.



**MAY IS  
MOTORCYCLE  
SAFETY  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**

**MOTORCYCLISTS:  
RIDE SMART,  
BE SAFE!**



**LOOK TWICE. SAVE A LIFE.**



The Police Explorers are performing their annual Camp Card Fundraising. The Greater St. Louis Council took our ideas and comments from previous years and created a 2023 Camp Card geared specifically for the Metro-East. Businesses you can receive discounts/free stuff from include:

Ace Hardware  
Burger King  
Casey's  
Denny's  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Great Clips  
Greater St. Louis Area Council Scout Shops  
Kauffman Photography  
Lion's Choice

Papa John's  
Popeye's  
Raging Rivers  
Rally's  
Sky Zone Trampoline Park  
Sure Shot  
Texas Roadhouse  
Twist and Bounce  
Upper Limits Rock Gym & Pro Shop

Stop in the Public Safety Building to purchase a card and thank you for supporting your local O'Fallon Police Explorer Program (the future generations of law enforcement)!

# TAKE THE CHALLENGE



## SIGN UP FOR THE O'FALLON POLICE YOUTH ACADEMY

### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

O'Fallon Police Department Tour  
O'Fallon EMS Tour  
Certification in CPR & AED  
K-9 Demonstration  
Virtual Simulation Pistol Training  
Crime Scene Processing  
Live-Fire Pistol Shooting  
O'Fallon Honor Guard Demo  
SWAT Demonstration  
O'Fallon Fire Tour & Demo  
O'Fallon Historical Society Tour



\$25.00 participation cost to be paid on the first day of the academy. Confirmation letters will be mailed to students in early May with additional details.

Applications are available online & at the O'Fallon Police Department.

ONLINE: <https://bit.ly/3AwwAgx>

If you have any questions, please contact Detective Benjamin Callahan at 618-624-9596 or [bcallahan@ofallon.org](mailto:bcallahan@ofallon.org)



## April 26<sup>th</sup> Denim Day Fundraiser Supports Fontabella Maternity Home

Caritas Family Solutions is a nonprofit social services agency that works to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of vulnerable people in Southern Illinois, from before birth through the golden years.

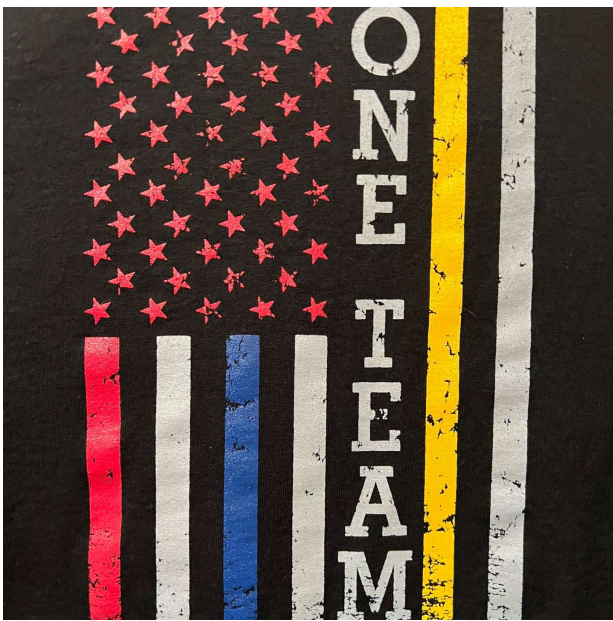
When a woman of any age experiences an unplanned pregnancy, she may also suddenly find herself homeless. Her family may kick her out and her partner may abandon her. She may have a substance abuse problem, be involved in human trafficking, or be the victim of domestic violence. Her choices are extremely difficult, as she is now alone and carrying a tremendous responsibility.

Through the support of the case manager and around the clock House Mentors, each resident develops action steps and milestone goals that build upon each other to help her succeed as an independent successful woman and mother.

### **Program Statistics**

- The average Annual Operational Cost is \$175,742
- Average length of stay is 11 months.
- Served a total of 102 moms since 2010
- The average age of women served is 24 years old.
- 90 babies have been born since 2010.

This year, we raised over \$200 for Fontabella Maternity Home. Thank you to all who participated!



April 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The men and women of the Metro East Communications Center (MECOMM) not only service the residents of O’Fallon, but the City of Fairview Heights, as well as the Village of Shiloh. They serve as an integral part of our public safety teams.

This year’s theme at MECOMM is “One Team”. When they’re not answering your calls or assisting our public safety departments, they spend time educating our community. This week TC Michelle Foster visited the Colonnade and Revela senior living centers as part of OPD’s Senior Education Series. She spoke as to the mission of MECOMM and the services they provide.

We’re thankful to the men and women of MECOMM for the dedication and professionalism they display each and every day!



The O’Fallon Police Department was awarded a \$3,984 grant from the [Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation](#) to purchase three additional automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories. Our department is incredibly humbled to receive this vital equipment to continue to keep O’Fallon safe and protected. On behalf of the O’Fallon Police Department and its members, we would like to thank the Foundation and our local Firehouse Subs restaurant in Fairview Heights for their unwavering support.



# OEMS Employee Spotlight: Patty Hefner



Given that May is mental health awareness month, O'Fallon EMS wants to highlight a founding member of the peer support team as our spotlight feature. Last year, EMS was invited to join the existing peer support structure run by PD. This was a no brainer and we have been thrilled with sharing resources and ideas across departments. We sat down with peer support liaison Paramedic Patty Hefner to talk about her work and passion for mental health.



**Why does a multi-department approach work well for your peer support team?** We've found that when it comes to public safety we are all a team with different specialties. By having such a broad range of professional experience we can provide a tailored response to any individual that reaches out for help. We want to get it right the first time when the stakes are high.

**Why is mental health important to this team?** Mental health is a matter of crew readiness. We'd never let our coworkers and community partners go into the field with a blown knee. Its not so different, except it can be harder to see and harder to ask for help. We need to stay healthy for ourselves, families, and the citizens we serve.



L: Patty provides hands on learning last year at a stop the bleed class at EK.  
R: Patty with a group of kids at the most recent Station 4 open house.

**What is the most important contribution to the peer support structure?**

I have been given the opportunity to attend a wealth of training as the peer support liaison. One of the best ways we support the department is through Critical Incident Stress Debriefings. After critical calls, anyone who was on scene or involved in care from dispatch all the way down to the hospital staff is given a chance to come together for a guided debriefing. This has been shown to speed healing and allow providers to see that no one has to struggle alone. I am part of an in-house team that can quickly provide this kind of care.

**What kinds of things do you do to minimize stress in your job?** I make it a practice to "keep my boots at work" meaning that I don't take work home and I don't bring home to work. It lets me be "Paramedic Patty" at work and a mom and wife at home. Outside of that, I like to workout both on and off duty. It helps me to be the best version of myself.



Top L: Patty and Doug Sutphin at a stand by for the Swansea dive team. Top R: Patty at the most recent run review speaking to Anthony Perez of St Elizabeth. Bottom L: Patty at last year's Shiloh trunk or treat with her new friend Captain America Bottom R: Patty at the MEPA shop with a paramedic.



# Stop The Bleed in MAY!

May is Stop the Bleed awareness month. Stop The Bleed is the lay person's answer to dealing with serious bleeding with limited tools and minimal training. Last year, O'Fallon EMS took on the impressive task of training every district 90 employee in this life saving skill set. We estimate that over 600 unique individuals had hands on and classroom learning on bleeding control. Staff learned how important they can be in the chain of survival and were given the tools and skills to provide life saving care. This ranges anywhere from how to properly apply pressure to how and when to deploy a tourniquet for single limb hemorrhages. Here's a look back at some of our instructors and participants in action!

Top L: Nick Fensom teaching a recent class to the Park and Street departments.

Center L: Nick teaching a class at EK.

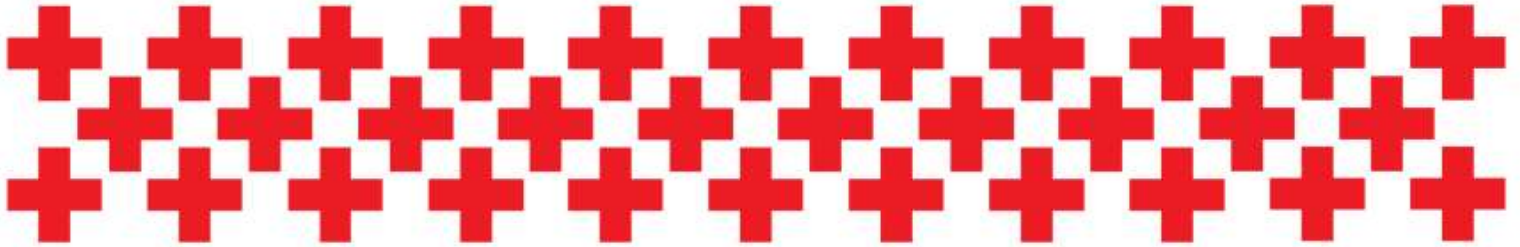
Bottom L: A group photo of a typical class size taken at EK.

Bottom R: Two EK staff members practice wound packing with real gauze and a simulated wound



**American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**O Fallon IL Fire Department**

**May 5, 2023**  
**11:00am to 4:00pm**

**Community Room**  
1215 Taylor Road  
O Fallon, IL 62269

Come give 5/1 thru 5/19 for a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of your choice

For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) and enter: OfallonFire to schedule an appointment.

# 8TH GRADE CAREER FAIR

The O'Fallon/Shiloh Chamber of Commerce hosted a Career Fair for 8th graders at the Regency Conference Center on April 24, 2023.

Deputy Chief, Doug Barron, from O'Fallon Fire Rescue talked to the kids about what it's like to be a firefighter and the opportunities it can provide them.



8th graders from Fulton, Joseph Arthur, Carriel, Shiloh, and St. Clare were all in attendance.

