



O'Fallon Update

The Official Quarterly Publication of the City of O'Fallon, Missouri

Spring 2012 • www.ofallon.mo.us

Casino Night & Mouse Races to raise funds for Brendan's Playground

Bring your friends and family out for an exciting night of games and fun—all for a great cause. The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a night of casino games and mouse races to raise funds for the new water feature at Brendan's Playground. The water feature will allow children to cool off during those hot summer months, and it is crucial for children whose bodies have difficulty regulating temperature.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 31 at the O'Fallon Elks Lodge, 1163 Tom Ginnever Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the races begin at 7. Participants must be 21 or older. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes beverages and snacks.

Seats are limited, so sign up today! Register by phone at 636-379-5606 or in person at either the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Office or the Renaud Spirit Center. Or register online at www.ofallon.mo.us/ParksandRec.

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Get outdoors and enjoy O'Fallon



Whatever your interests, you're sure to find plenty of springtime fun and excitement here in O'Fallon.

April offers volunteering events to beautify roadsides, clean creeks, and get parks ready for summer picnics. Volunteers also are needed to seat patrons for the play.

Fort Zumwalt Park is the site of two mini-festivals, the Garden Expo on April 14, and Founders' Day on May 5. At the Garden Expo, you can get a free pine sapling, and pick up tips, tools and plants to help your yard and garden look great this summer.

On Founders' Day, bring the family and your camera to capture the kids having fun washing laundry on a washboard, making rope and milking a cow.

Also on May 5, fitness and fun are key elements of the RSC Fitness Festival at the Renaud Spirit Center. The day starts with a 5K Run/Walk and continues with activities like the Family Fitness Challenge.

On May 18, baseball season gets underway at T.R. Hughes Ballpark with the River City Rascals' season opener against the Rockford RiverHawks.

The following week, on May 23, the ballpark parking lot will host the Public Works Fair. This free event includes train rides and a chance for kids to sit in the driver's seat of some of the big machinery used by City crews. And, in June, relax at the Jammin' Outdoor Concerts in Civic Park on Tuesday evenings, with a new 6:30 p.m. start time.

In addition, look for some new features to Westhoff Park as City crews will start work on a new water feature for Brendan's Playground and a brand new skate park.

With so much going on, let's all get outside and enjoy our hometown!

Bill Hennessy, Mayor

New format for the *O'Fallon Update*

This Spring issue of *O'Fallon Update* marks the first edition of an expanded newsletter with an easier to use *Parks & Rec Guide*. This new format provides more space to bring residents the latest City news and events.

For example, check out the new Project O'Fallon page for the latest on major road and construction projects around the City, and the Police Bulletin page, with all the latest from the O'Fallon Police Department. Seniors, you can find news specifically for you in the Senior Corner. And, in each issue, we'll take a look at O'Fallon in a new and interesting way with a special feature story on page 11.

See reverse for Spring *Parks & Rec Guide*

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636-379-5586
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636-379-5585
jhaman@ofallon.mo.us

Ward 4 Councilmembers

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636-379-5587
bhowell@ofallon.mo.us

Jeff Schwentker
636-379-5580
jschwentker@ofallon.mo.us

Ward 5 Councilmembers

Mike Pheney
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Michael Snowden
636-379-5588
msnowden@ofallon.mo.us

Residents with disabilities and seniors are encouraged to file for rebates on 2011 utility and phone taxes

Are you an O'Fallon resident who is age 65 or older or a City resident who has been determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration? If you meet age or disability requirements and income limits, you may qualify for rebates on taxes paid on your 2011 gas, electric and phone bills.

To qualify, residents must have an annual adjusted gross income that does not exceed:

- \$38,950 for a single person.
- \$44,500 for a married (two-person) household.
- Social Security income is not counted.

Utility tax rebate filing will begin on Monday, April 2, and continue through Thursday, May 31, at O'Fallon City Hall. City staff will be on hand to assist residents during business hours, Monday through Friday.

Residents seeking rebates must file in person and bring:

- A photo ID with your O'Fallon address (driver's license, state ID or passport).
- Copies of 2011 bills for gas, electricity, and phone and cell phone service; bills must show an O'Fallon address.
- A copy of your 2011 federal income tax return.
- Proof of Social Security disability, if you are disabled.

You can help speed the filing process by picking up a rebate form at O'Fallon City Hall or online at www.ofallon.mo.us. For more information, call the Citizens First Center at 636-379-5553, or email citizensfirst@ofallon.mo.us.

Need \$5,000 for home repairs?

Could you use an extra \$5,000 to help with home repairs? Projects like replacing an aging heating/cooling unit, repairing a roof or replacing windows are a few of the eligible repairs for O'Fallon's Home Improvement Loan Program.

Why not find out if you qualify? The City has funds for five-year forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 to help low- to moderate-income O'Fallon homeowners who meet income and other guidelines, and the funds can be used to address City code violations as well as to improve homes.

More information about O'Fallon's Home Improvement Loan Program is available at www.ofallon.mo.us/Grants. Or, call 636-379-5411, or email jhawkins@ofallon.mo.us.

Play a round of golf for a great cause at the annual Project HOME Golf Tournament

Tee off on Friday, May 11 at the annual Project HOME Golf Tournament. One hundred percent of the proceeds go to helping low-income homeowners with needed home repairs and special assistance for low-income residents with disabilities.

The golf tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 11:30 a.m. at The Falls Golf Club, 1170 Turtle Creek Drive, O'Fallon 63366.

The cost is \$100 per golfer for 18 holes of golf, lunch and dinner, beverages, contests, games, raffles, prizes and a silent auction. To register for the tournament, or to be a sponsor or donate funds and supplies for Project HOME, please call 636-379-5411, or email jhawkins@ofallon.mo.us.

Citizens First Center
636-379-5553

City Hall
636-240-2000

Police (Non-emergency)
636-240-3200

O'Fallon Senior Center
636-272-4180

Trash and Recycling
636-272-0477

O'Fallon Water & Sewer
636-281-2858



Springtime Fun!

www.ofallon.mo.us/Events

O'Fallon Founders' Day V+

Saturday, May 5

10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fort Zumwalt Park

Enjoy an interactive day of old-fashioned fun, with free admission and parking at the annual Founders' Day celebration. Kids can try their hand at washing clothes the pioneer way, learn to milk a cow, walk on stilts, make rope, and shop at the general store with points earned by participating in activities.

Live entertainment includes music by the award-winning Curreykorn family bluegrass band and a vaudeville-style magic and comedy show by Hagerman the Magician. New demonstrations include experimental archaeology, primitive tool use and basket weaving. Period artisans, including a candle-maker, sheep-to-shawl wool spinner, beekeepers, woodcarvers, quilters, a rope-maker and a broom squire, will be doing live demonstrations. The St. Charles Model Railroad Club exhibit will be open with free admission, and historic Heald Home tours will be available at \$2 per person. Festival vendors, food and beverages are available.

For more information, visit www.ofallon.mo.us/FoundersDay or contact the Tourism and Festivals Department at 636-379-5614 or mseymour@ofallon.mo.us.

Volunteers are needed to greet visitors and to teach 19th Century games. Contact the Volunteer Services Department at volunteer@ofallon.mo.us, or call 636-379-5507. Visit www.ofallon.mo.us/Volunteer for additional opportunities and information.



V+ indicates opportunities for volunteers. Contact Volunteer Services at 636-379-5507 or volunteer@ofallon.mo.us.

O'Fallon Jammin' Outdoor Concerts V+

June 5 - August 21 (Tuesdays)

New time! 6:30-9 p.m.

Civic Park Bandstand

Bring your family, friends and neighbors to free concerts in Civic Park on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9 p.m. Genres include rock 'n roll, country, rhythm and blues, Motown, oldies, pops, swing, big band and jazz.

Admission and parking are free. Concessions will be available, and an ADA-accessible playground and path are near the bandstand. Bring chairs or blankets for lawn seating. Coolers are permitted, but they are subject to inspection by police officers, park rangers and Parks Department personnel. For safety's sake, no glass containers are allowed in the park. O'Fallon Jammin' is sponsored by the O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Department with support from local businesses. June concert dates are:

- June 5 Trixie Delight
Rock 'n roll dance music
- June 12 Back in the Saddle
Country music
- June 19 The Others
Variety of rock, contemporary and country
- June 26 O'Fallon Jazz Band and the O'Fallon Community
Concert Band
Patriotic selections

See the complete band schedule at www.ofallon.mo.us/Jammin. For more information, call 636-379-5614.

O'Fallon Jammin'



outdoor concert series

“Like” O'Fallon events on Facebook.
www.facebook.com/VisitOFallon

www.ofallon.mo.us
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O'Fallon's Heritage & Freedom Fest 2012 V+

Monday, July 2, 5-10 p.m.

Special Family Night!

Tuesday, July 3, 5-11 p.m.

Wednesday, July 4, noon-10 p.m.

Ozzie Smith Sports Complex

Celebrate America's freedom in style with professional fireworks displays, nationally-known bands, thrilling carnival rides, family-friendly entertainment, free kids' activities, and festival food and beverages. Mark your calendars for the Heritage & Freedom Fest Parade on Main Street at 9:30 a.m. on the Fourth of July!

Festival admission and parking are free. Fees are charged for carnival rides, midway games, concessions and vendor merchandise. Visit www.heritageandfreedomfest.com for updates and more information, or call 636-379-5614.

Enter O'Fallon's Independence Day Parade V+

Be a part of one of the most popular events of the summer, O'Fallon's Heritage & Freedom Fest Parade, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4.

This year's theme is "Salute Our American Heritage." Prizes of \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place will be awarded to the "Best Musical Float" and "Most Patriotic Float," with trophies for "Best Color Guard." In addition, "Best Overall" entries will be awarded \$500, \$400 and \$300 for first, second and third place. Originality, music and mechanical movement earn extra points.

A complete list of rules and requirements are listed on the applications, which are available at www.heritageandfreedomfest.com/Parade. Or, pick up an entry form at the Renaud Spirit Center, City Hall or the Parks and Recreation Office. Mailed applications must be submitted or postmarked by noon on Friday, May 25.

For questions, contact O'Fallon's Office of Tourism and Festivals at msteinmann@ofallon.mo.us or call 636-379-5574 or 636-379-5605.

Firecracker 10K, 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

Wednesday, July 4

7 a.m., T.R. Hughes Ballpark

Everyone is invited to register for this healthy, family-friendly event sponsored by the O'Fallon Chamber of Commerce. The course is USATF certified, and T-shirts will be available to the first 1,000 registered runners and walkers. The cost to enter the 1-Mile Firecracker Fun Run/Walk is \$15 through June 21, and \$20 from June 22 through race day. The cost for either the 5K and 10K events is \$25 for early registration, and \$30 from June 22 through race day. To register, call 636-240-1818, or visit www.ofallonchamber.org/firecracker.

River City Rascals Baseball

Baseball season is back! O'Fallon's own River City Rascals are bringing exciting family fun to T.R. Hughes Ballpark. This year, the Rascals are lowering concession prices, and offering more food and drink options than ever before. Bring your whole family out to T.R. Hughes for a new and improved experience!

2012 Home Schedule

Game times: Monday - Saturday: 7:05 p.m.; Sunday: 6:05

May 18-20	Rockford RiverHawks
May 22-24	London Rippers
May 29-31	Traverse City Beach Bums
June 1-3	Evansville Otters
June 14-16	Joliet Slammers
June 20-22	Gateway Grizzlies
June 23-25	Normal CornBelters
June 30-July 2	Normal CornBelters
July 13-15	Lake Erie Crushers
July 19-21	Florence Freedom
July 25-27	Gateway Grizzlies
July 31-August 2	Washington Wild Things
August 7-9	Schaumburg Boomers
August 21-23	Southern Illinois Miners
August 28-30	Evansville Otters
August 31-Sept. 2	Windy City ThunderBolts

Directions

From I-70, take Exit 219 at T.R. Hughes Blvd. Turn north on T.R. Hughes and drive for approximately one mile to parking.

Parking

All general parking is free. The lot is located on the southwest corner of T.R. Hughes Blvd. and Tom Ginnever Ave. Handicapped and VIP parking is available near the ballpark entrance.



O'Fallon Parks and Recreation Night is Sunday, May 20 at T.R. Hughes Ballpark! See page 16 in the *Parks & Rec Guide* for details.



Project O'Fallon

City Infrastructure Updates

www.ofallon.mo.us/Projects

Road crews begin improvement projects

As the weather improves, City crews and local contractors will be working throughout O'Fallon. The following are a few of the projects residents may notice:

- *2012 Crack seal, concrete and asphalt programs:* More than \$2 million in repairs to local subdivision and collector streets are scheduled to begin in late spring and early summer. Currently, City roads are being evaluated to determine which areas are most in need of repairs.
- *Bryan and Mexico Road turn lanes:* Crews will be upgrading and/or adding turn lanes at many major intersections. These improvements, which are funded in large part by a federal grant, will improve traffic flow and safety along two of O'Fallon's major thoroughfares. Right-of-way acquisition for this project currently is underway and construction should begin later this year.
- *Feise, Knaust, and Belleau Creek Roads sidewalk improvements:* New sidewalks will be constructed along Feise Road from Bryan Road to Highway K and on Knaust Road from Chance Drive to Lunenburg Drive, and the sidewalk on Belleau Creek Road north of Mexico Road will be extended. These improvements, which are funded primarily by federal grants, will make pedestrian traffic much safer in these largely residential areas. Right-of-way acquisition is underway and construction should begin later this year.

For detailed updates on these and other projects around the City, visit www.ofallon.mo.us/projects.

O'Fallon to participate in East-West Gateway Regional Plan; citizen participation is encouraged!

The City of O'Fallon is part of a regionwide planning effort along with the cities of Lake Saint Louis and Wentzville that seeks to coordinate housing, transportation, environmental, and economic development planning across the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. As residents, you will have the opportunity to share your expectations for your community by participating in a series of public meetings.

The first meeting will be held on March 29, from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Lake St. Louis Community Clubhouse. Residents also may voice their opinions by taking a brief online survey at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/STL_RPSD_Baseline.

New skate park coming to Westhoff Park

The City of O'Fallon's Parks and Recreation team will soon be adding another new feature to O'Fallon's Westhoff Park. Construction will begin in April on a new 10,600-square-foot skate park with a goal of opening the park in time for summer skating.

The skate park was designed with significant input from a group of O'Fallon's young skateboarding enthusiasts who participated in numerous public meetings during the planning process and suggested many of the planned features.



Addressing stormwater issues at home

Clean water is vital to good health. To help keep urban pollution out of local water supplies, innovative technology like rain gardens, green roofs and rain barrels can help capture and direct urban stormwater naturally. Why is that important? Reducing the volume of stormwater runoff helps prevent pollutants from contaminating creeks, lakes and rivers, and our main sources of drinking water.

- *Rain gardens:* Rain gardens look like ordinary gardens, but they are located in depressed or low-lying areas, so that stormwater drains into them, and then percolates down into the soil. To improve drainage, amend the soil with grit, peat and compost. Then, plant it with flowers and shrubs to soak up the rainwater.

For more information about rain gardens and other green technologies that can help us protect our water resources, visit www.ofallon.mo.us/Stormwater or email micheleg@ofallon.mo.us.



Upcoming Events

www.ofallon.mo.us/Events

O'Fallon Garden Expo **V+**

Saturday, April 14

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Fort Zumwalt Park

Get ready for the prettiest yard and garden you've ever had by talking to experts and shopping for live plants and garden accessories at the Garden Expo. Find out which plants - from azaleas to zinnias - grow best in our area, get expert answers to questions about lawn and garden issues, chat with local garden club members, and listen to master gardeners discuss the latest topics and trends. Fifty evergreen saplings will be given away by the City's Landscaping Division. An Arbor Day tree planting ceremony will begin at 9:15 a.m.

Expo admission is free; Heald Home tours are \$2. For more information, please contact jhoisington@ofallon.mo.us or call 636-379-5605.

O'Fallon TheatreWorks presents *Annie, Jr.* **V+**

Fridays and Saturdays, April 20 - 21 and April 27 - 28, 8 p.m.

Sundays, April 22 and April 29, 2 p.m.

O'Fallon Municipal Centre (City Hall)

The whole family will enjoy *Annie, Jr.* Based on the comic strip adventures of "Li'l Orphan Annie," the one-act Broadway musical by Thomas Meehan appeals to audiences of all ages, thanks to 11-year-old Annie's spunkiness, a cast of colorful characters, and memorable music that includes "Tomorrow," "Maybe," and "It's a Hard Knock Life." The musical will be performed on the stage in the auditorium-theater in City Hall.

Beginning March 19, discounted tickets will be available for purchase, saving \$2 over box office admission. To order tickets in advance, call 636-474-2732, or come to the Renaud Spirit Center. The cost is \$10 for general admission (ages 18-64), and \$8 for students (ages 6-17) and seniors (age 65 and up). Ages 5 and under are admitted, free. For an additional \$2 each, tickets can be purchased at the box office, which opens one hour before the start of each show. For more information, please visit www.ofallon.mo.us/ParksandRec/OTW.

V+

indicates opportunities for volunteers. Contact Volunteer Services at 636-379-5507 or volunteer@ofallon.mo.us.

Visit the O'Fallon Historical Society's Log Cabin Museum

2nd and 4th Sundays, May - September

Open May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, July 8 and 22, August 12 and 26, and September 9 and 23.

12-3 p.m., Civic Park

Meet and chat with the people who know O'Fallon's history best and tour this historic log cabin. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

The museum's collection of O'Fallon artifacts includes a doll-house-sized replica of Zumwalt's Fort, Wabash Railroad items, 19th Century clothing, an immigrant's trunk, a folding bed for covered wagon travel, small town business items and more. A history book, *O'Fallon, Missouri: A Good Place to Live*, is available for purchase. Tours are available by appointment, too; just email your request to info@ofallonmohistory.org. For more information, visit www.ofallonmohistory.org.

Patriotic ceremonies

Armed Forces Day Ceremony

Saturday, May 19

11 a.m., O'Fallon Veterans Memorial Walk

Everyone is welcome to join in honoring the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces at O'Fallon's stirring Armed Forces Day ceremony.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 28

11 a.m., O'Fallon Veterans Memorial Walk

In memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, everyone is invited to this moving ceremony honoring U.S. soldiers who gave their lives in time of war.



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O'Fallon Update
City of O'Fallon Newsletter

Springtime volunteers, we need you!

Get outdoors this spring with projects that beautify parks, clean up roadsides and protect our creeks and lakes from pollution. To volunteer, contact O'Fallon's Volunteer Services at volunteer@ofallon.mo.us or 636-379-5507.

Alternative Spring Break

March – April

Students, faculty and families are invited to participate in eco-friendly activities planned at three City parks. This promises to be a stay-cation with impact.

Parks Partners Day – Civic Park

Saturday, April 7

9 a.m.–12 p.m., Civic Park

Spring in Civic Park means picnicking, children playing outdoors, festivals and concerts. Help us get this park ready for the crowds with a variety of projects designed to spruce up this popular family destination.

Mission: Clean Stream

Saturday, April 14

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Help the City maintain clean water supplies and encourage native plants and wildlife to thrive by removing debris from local creeks before it has a chance to move downstream.

Mission: Clean Parks

Saturday, April 14

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Get one of our premier baseball parks ready for the season by mulching trees, clearing fields of debris, adding protective material to playgrounds, and painting benches – we'll make this diamond of a park sparkle.

National Volunteer Week

Sunday – Saturday, April 15–21

Take time to thank the volunteers who enable O'Fallon to build a "community of service." And, consider becoming a much-appreciated O'Fallon volunteer yourself!

Earth Day

Saturday, April 21

9–11 a.m.

Go green and help O'Fallon sustain a clean environment where nature can flourish. Projects include local creek cleanups, planting flowers, sprucing up parks, and getting playgrounds ready for safe fun.

Global Youth Service Week

Monday – Saturday, April 23–28

Energetic teens who find it fun to volunteer with friends enjoy hands-on projects developed with them in mind. Schools, homeschoolers, scouts and youth groups are encouraged to contact us regarding meaningful service projects for volunteers ages 12–18.

National Join Hands Day

Saturday, May 5

9–11 a.m.

This nationwide day of volunteering is designed to unite youth and adults in achieving common goals. Get family and friends involved and join others from around the community in an environmentally-friendly project.

O'Fallon's Public Works Fair

Wednesday, May 23

10 a.m.–2 p.m., T.R. Hughes Ballpark parking lot

O'Fallon's Public Works Department provides our City with clean drinking water, sanitary sewer services, well-maintained streets, trash and recycling collection and more.

In celebration of National Public Works Week, the community is invited to O'Fallon's kid-friendly annual Public Works Fair to see specialized City equipment, including snow plows, a paint striper, backhoes, a radar trailer, street sweeper, water main break service truck and more. Admission is free, and activities include:

- Free train rides for all ages.
- Giveaways, free hot dogs, chips, soda and water.
- Safety awareness games and activities for kids, and educational material for adults.
- Machines will be set up so that kids can help City staff operate the equipment.
- Kids can sit in the drivers' seats of big machinery and trucks, or check their ball pitching speed at the radar trailer booth.

Veterans Exhibit

Sunday, June 10

1–4 p.m., Heald Home

Cost: \$2 per person at the door; includes house tour

A special exhibit of medals, uniforms, and memorabilia by members of the O'Fallon Veterans Commission will be on display throughout the Heald Home in Fort Zumwalt Park. Visitors also can chat with veterans and thank them for serving our country.

Don't miss a tweet! The City of O'Fallon's Volunteer Services is on Twitter.



@CityVolunteer



Police Bulletins

O'Fallon Police Department Briefs

www.ofallon.mo.us/PD

O'Fallon Safety Town registration opens April 4

Give kids a first-class course in safety by enrolling them in O'Fallon's 27th Annual Safety Town.

O'Fallon Safety Town is a nationally-accredited program that uses a simulated town layout to teach children ages 4½ through 6½ how to stay safe. The two-week sessions will be held at Fort Zumwalt South Middle School, 300 Knaust Road.

Cost of the program is \$60 per child, and \$40 for each additional child in the same family. Costs must be paid in full when children are enrolled. Space is limited, so early enrollment is encouraged. Only parents or legal guardians may enroll children.

Parents can select morning or afternoon classes. Safety Town course dates are:

Session I June 4-15

33103	M-F	9:00-11:30A	Morning class
33106	M-F	12:30-3:00P	Afternoon class

Session II June 18-29

33104	M-F	9:00-11:30A	Morning class
33107	M-F	12:30-3:00P	Afternoon class

Session III July 9-20

33105	M-F	9:00-11:30A	Morning class
33108	M-F	12:30-3:00P	Afternoon class

Registration opens at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4. To register in person, come to the Renaud Spirit Center during normal business hours, and pay with cash, check or a credit card. To register online, visit www.renaudspiritcenter.com and click on "Register Online." Enter the 5-digit course code listed above to choose your class.

For more information about O'Fallon Safety Town, visit www.ofallon.mo.us/PD/SafetyTown.

O'Fallon Police Department adds Prescription Drug Take-Back Drop Box at City Hall. See page 10.



O'Fallon Police Officers honored by VFW

Four O'Fallon police officers were honored at the 33rd annual VFW Post 5077 Community Appreciation Awards banquet. The awards are given in recognition of public servants who go above and beyond the call of duty in their professions.

O'Fallon Police Officers Michael Aronson, Montana Stephenson and Rebecca Berra received Line of Duty Life Saving Citations for quick thinking and actions that saved the lives of three people. Officers Aronson and Stephenson successfully performed CPR on an elderly man who had no pulse. Rebecca Berra, who is a confinement officer, prevented a man from committing suicide. Officer Aronson received a second award for physically stopping a man from jumping off the I-70 overpass into traffic.

Police Officer Deric Dull received the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award for the successful identification and prosecution of numerous crimes, including burglaries, stealing, and the distribution of heroin. Officer Dull also provided key information to the St. Charles County Drug Task Force, resolved a volatile domestic disturbance peacefully, and identified a child predator who was on the verge of victimizing additional children.

Citizens' Police Academy 2012

For a dynamic course in police operations, enroll in the O'Fallon Police Department's Citizens Police Academy. Beginning March 15, the six-week class will meet from 6:45-9:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The final class will be held on April 25. Enrollment is generally open to area residents who are at least 18, and to 17-year-old graduating high school students. Cost for the course is \$30.

The Citizens Police Academy stresses hands-on training and participation, and provides a chance to ride with an officer on patrol. The course includes an introduction to firearms training, tours of the St. Charles County Sheriff's Department and the St. Charles County Department of Corrections facility, and presentations by professionals on identity theft, cyber crime, crisis negotiations and more.

Applications are available online at www.ofallon.mo.us/PD/CPA and at the O'Fallon Police Department, 100 North Main Street, O'Fallon, Missouri 63366. Applicants must not have a felony conviction, an outstanding warrant, or a misdemeanor arrest for moral issues. For more information, please email jcook@ofallon.mo.us or call 636-240-3200.



Roscoe's Den



Trash and Recycling Announcements

www.ofallon.mo.us/Green

O'Fallon's recycling collection reaches record levels

The City of O'Fallon's recycling program ended 2011 on a high note as O'Fallon residents recycled more than 23 percent of all items collected by Environmental Services crews, the largest annual total in the City's history. Overall, the volume of O'Fallon's recycling increased nearly 8% over previous years. These results make O'Fallon one of the area's top recycling communities.

Once again, congratulations to O'Fallon residents for leading the way in recycling, and helping keep the City's trash collection expenses down.

Enroll in O'Fallon's convenient yard waste disposal

With lawns and shrubs greening up and needing more maintenance, spring is a great time to sign up for the convenience of curbside yard waste service.

Because yard waste can pollute creeks, streams, rivers and lakes, it is illegal to dump leaves and grass into City storm sewers, and it is also illegal to discard yard waste in the trash.

Residents can enroll in yard waste collection at any time by contacting the Environmental Services Department at ofallonrecycles@ofallon.mo.us or 636-272-0477. The cost for weekly yard waste service is only \$7.50 per month, or \$22 per quarter.

Roscoe's Tip: Two million plastic bottles are used in the U.S. every 5 minutes, and each one can be recycled into a new product.



Roscoe, O'Fallon's Recycling Raccoon

Free large item drop-off for residents

Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20

7 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Just in time for spring cleaning, O'Fallon residents are invited to bring items that are too large to fit into trash containers to the City's waste transfer station at 1572 Progress West Lane during quarterly bulky-item drop-off days. Be sure to bring a photo ID with your O'Fallon address. Residents must unload their own items.

Please note that some items cannot be accepted by law, such as yard waste. For a list of acceptable and unacceptable items, please visit www.ofallon.mo.us/ES.

Memorial Day trash and recycling collection schedule

Due to the holiday on Monday, May 28, all trash and recycling collection will move to the next day, with Monday's service moving to Tuesday, and so forth through the week.

For more information about O'Fallon's refuse and recycling program, please visit www.ofallon.mo.us/ES or call 636-272-0477.

Go natural for a safe and healthy lawn

Everybody loves green grass, but bright green may not indicate a healthy lawn. Lawns dosed with fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides and pesticides are not 100% safe for children, pets or wildlife.

That's why natural lawn care is growing in popularity. For a safe and healthy lawn, follow these basics:

- Mow with a mulching mower that will chop grass and leaves into bits that sift into the lawn, replenishing it with nutrients.
- Mow high; three inches is a good height for healthy grass, and it keeps weeds at bay, too. Low mowing (two inches or less) stresses grass, can cause bald spots in the lawn, and calls for more watering.

Senior Corner

Welcome to the O'Fallon Senior Center

The Senior Center is a great place for ages 60+ to meet and make friends over Bingo, pool, and card games like Pinochle. The center, which is operated by the Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (MEAAA), also offers daily opportunities for exercising, arts and crafts, and many other activities. Delicious hot lunches are served weekdays from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the spacious cafeteria and activity room. The menu changes daily, with classics like baked ham, chicken, lasagna, catfish, meatloaf, roast turkey, and more. The lunch is available for a donation of \$3.25.

The O'Fallon Senior Center is open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 106 North Main Street, O'Fallon (63366). To find it, turn into the O'Fallon Municipal Centre (City Hall) parking lot and look for the one-story brick building at the east end of the parking lot, off Sonderen Drive.

For more information, call the Senior Center at 636-272-4180, or visit www.ofallon.mo.us/Seniors.

Police add Drug Take-Back Drop Box at City Hall

The O'Fallon Police Department has added a Prescription Drug Take-Back Drop Box for all residents. The drop box provides a safe and free way to discard old or unused medications and keep them out of the hands of those who could abuse them.

All residents need to do is drop unused or expired prescription medications into the drop box inside the O'Fallon Police Department lobby, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The drop box is designed to handle small, residential quantities of old prescriptions and cannot handle sharp or hazardous materials. Please contact Sgt. Robert Kendall at 636-379-5680 with any questions.

Women's Health Fair at O'Fallon Senior Center

The O'Fallon Senior Center will host a Women's Health Fair on Wednesday, May 16 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The event will feature various health screenings, exercise program demonstrations, vendors, and more.

Have a concern or question for the City?
Visit the Citizens First Center at www.ofallon.mo.us/CFC or call 636-379-5553.

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O'Fallon Update
City of O'Fallon Newsletter

Media Center

Stay connected with O'Fallon on social media

Want to be the first to know what's going on around the City? Follow O'Fallon on Twitter! O'Fallon has several Twitter feeds that will keep you informed with the latest news, events, volunteer information and Police Department updates:

City Hall news and updates	@CityofOFallon
Major activities and events	@VisitOFallon
Parks and RSC events	@OFallonParksRec
Police Department	@OFallonPolice
Snow removal efforts	@OFallonSnow
Volunteer events and updates	@CityVolunteer

O'FallonTV takes YouTube to new heights

You Tube See for yourself what's happening around the City at www.youtube.com/OFallonTV.

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A Walk in the Park with Bill Mueller

By Peggy Whetzel, Staff Writer

Regardless of the weather, Bill Mueller, 69, likes to take a daily stroll in a City park with Bandit, his little dog.

“Last year, we missed only two days, and that was because the snow was too deep for driving,” said Mueller.

Typically, Bill carries a plastic bag to collect any litter along the route, like fast food wrappers, picnic ware, and bottles and cans. Occasionally he even finds money.

His personal anti-litter campaign stems from a sense of ownership and paying back. “These are public parks,” he said. “They belong to all of us, and we need to take care of them.”

A retired paint tinter for Glidden Paint, Bill usually chooses parks that are closest to his home: Civic Park, Paul A. Westhoff Park and his favorite, Fort Zumwalt Park. He and Bandit enjoy walking along Fort Zumwalt’s nature trails, which are lined with oak, hickory, hackberry, persimmon, redbud and dogwood trees. And he enjoys glimpses of wildlife, including turkeys, hawks, songbirds, deer, turtles, ducks and geese.

As he and Bandit make their rounds, Bill sometimes stops to chat with Parks and Recreation staff members. “I know a lot of the guys, almost everybody at Fort Zumwalt,” he said. “They’re always friendly. And they seem to enjoy their jobs.”

Bill has also chatted with Jesse Francis, the specialist who is rebuilding Zumwalt’s Fort, a project funded by the O’Fallon Community Foundation. Francis is using period tools to shape the features of the log house reconstructed on the site of the Jacob Zumwalt family home. Said to have been fortified with a stockade fence during the War of 1812, the home served as a settler fort, sheltering as many as 10 families at a time from Native American attacks.

Until he moved to O’Fallon, Bill, a native of St. Louis County who appreciates history, did not know that the War of 1812 reached as far as Missouri Territory. As Bill notes, most histories focus on the sea battles fought off the American East Coast and on the Great Lakes.

Whether it’s local history, wildlife or a chance to get some daily exercise with Bandit, Bill appreciates all that City parks have to offer. “O’Fallon has nice parks, more so than a lot of cities of the same size,” he said.

“These are public parks. They belong to all of us, and we need to take care of them.”



Calendar

All public meetings and Municipal Court proceedings are held at O'Fallon Municipal Centre (City Hall), 100 North Main Street, unless otherwise noted.

www.ofallon.mo.us/Events

March

- 1-31 Oak Leaf Artist Guild exhibit, "Treasures"
Cultural Arts Gallery in the Renaud Spirit Center, free
- 14 Board of Adjustment, 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Veterans Commission, 7 p.m.
- 20 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, 5:30 p.m.
- 21 Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Senior Advisory Committee, 2:30 p.m.
Public Works Commission, 7 p.m.
- 22 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.
- 28 O'Fallon Convention & Visitors Bureau, 5 p.m.

April

- 2 Utility tax rebate filing opens, 8 a.m.,
City Hall, through May 31
- 4 Safety Town registration opens, 8 a.m.
Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Advisory Green Council, 5 p.m.
- 5 Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 7 Parks Partners Day, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Civic Park
- 8 Easter, Renaud Spirit Center CLOSED
- 9 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.
- 10 Parks Board, 7 p.m.
- 11 Board of Adjustment, 5:30 p.m.
- 12 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Melissa R. Davidson photo exhibit through May 25
Cultural Arts Gallery in the Renaud Spirit Center, free
- 14 Garden Expo, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fort Zumwalt Park, free
Mission: Clean Stream, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Mission: Clean Parks, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 16 Veterans Commission, 7 p.m.
- 17 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Senior Advisory Committee, 2:30 p.m.
Public Works Commission, 7 p.m.
- 20, 21 Musical, *Annie, Jr.*, 8 p.m., O'Fallon City Hall
- 21 Earth Day, 9-11 a.m.
- 22 *Annie, Jr.*, 2 p.m.
- 23 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.
- 26 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.

- 27, 28 *Annie, Jr.*, 8 p.m., O'Fallon City Hall
- 29 *Annie, Jr.*, 2 p.m.

May

- 2 Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Advisory Green Council, 5 p.m.
- 3 Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 5 Founders' Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Fort Zumwalt Park, free
RSC Fitness Festival, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
National Join Hands Day, 9-11 a.m.
- 7 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.
- 8 Parks Board, 7 p.m.
- 9 Board of Adjustment, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 Project HOME Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m.
- 14 Veterans Commission, 7 p.m.
- 15 Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Senior Advisory Committee, 2:30 p.m.
Public Works Commission, 7 p.m.
- 19 Armed Forces Day Ceremony, 11 a.m.
O'Fallon Veterans Memorial Walk
- 19, 20 Bulky Item Drop-off, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Waste transfer station, 1572 Progress Lane
- 20 Parks and Recreation Night at T.R. Hughes Ballpark
- 23 Public Works Fair, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
O'Fallon Convention & Visitors Bureau, 5 p.m.
- 24 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 Alligator's Creek opens for the season, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 28 Memorial Day, City Hall CLOSED
Renaud Spirit Center OPEN, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Memorial Day Ceremony, 11 a.m.
O'Fallon Veterans Memorial Walk

June

- 5, 12 Jammin' concert, 6:30-9 p.m., Civic Park bandstand
- 6 Municipal Court, 9 a.m.
Advisory Green Council, 5 p.m.
- 7 Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 11 Municipal Court, 6 p.m.
- 12 Parks Board, 7 p.m.
- 14 City Council, 7:30 p.m., workshop, 5:30 p.m.

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Visit the City of O'Fallon's website, www.ofallon.mo.us, for the latest news and meeting agendas. Most meetings are broadcast live and on demand at www.ofallon.mo.us/OFallonTV.