

Off The Cuff Of...Chief Steve Springer

As we are all aware, our country is currently facing some perilous times as Operation Iraqi Freedom continues. Caution and vigilance is the order of the day and each member of our community needs to pay special attention to their surroundings. Residents need to be on the alert for activities and persons that they feel may be out of place or suspicious in nature. I realize that the term “suspicious” is much like the concept of “beauty” – it’s all in the eyes of the beholder. Further, activity that one person feels is suspicious may be considered normal or routine by someone else. However, any time someone notices what they believe to be something of a suspicious or unusual nature, I strongly encourage them to report it to the police. The police department will gladly investigate the matter to determine the true nature of the situation. Although the vast majority of reported suspicious activity is later determined to be of a perfectly innocent nature, there are always those occasions where the activity is in fact criminalistic in nature. In our country’s current environment, our concerns are not just for criminal matters but for homeland security measures as well. We would much rather be safe than sorry. So, I strongly encourage everyone to stay alert to the activities and environment around them and to notify the police department immediately if they encounter or detect anything of a suspicious nature.

On a lighter note, construction on the new police facility continues to move rapidly forward. Tentative construction timetables project that within the next six weeks, the interior of the new facility should be completed. Due to the adverse weather we have had this winter, it is expected that completion of the exterior work will take a little longer. Although this has been a long and challenging project, we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and hope to soon occupy our new facility.

Also, since the last CUFF Newsletter, Ptl. Jeremy Kempfer, Ptl. Brandy Maroon, and Ptl. Jamie Smith have completed their field training processes and are now on solo patrol. The addition of these new officers to our patrol force is a significant benefit to the operation of the police department.

In closing, I would like to say that I believe the CUFF Newsletter to be an extremely valuable crime prevention tool for our community. Through the CUFF Newsletter, we have been able to present numerous, important crime prevention tips and general information regarding the Fairview Heights Police Department to every resident in our community. Therefore, I would like to express my appreciation to all those whose sponsorships and support of the CUFF Newsletter serve to make it possible.

STEPHEN M. SPRINGER
Chief of Police