

**Off The Cuff Of...**  
**Chief Edward J. Delmore**

It is a pleasure to write my first article for CUFF. On September 7, I was sworn in as the city's 5th police chief. I would like to thank the Mayor, the Alderman, and the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for placing their trust in me.

I have always admired the men and women of the FHPD. Throughout law enforcement circles they are regarded as highly trained and motivated professionals. I know that they are dedicated to doing the right thing for the community and protecting it at all cost. They have pride in what they do and they do it well.

Some of our employees have served the city for more than 30 years and others have begun police careers this month. I look forward to working with them all.

My predecessors laid the groundwork and implemented a model for a modern police agency. Today, the residents of Fairview Heights continue to enjoy a low crime rate and a great place to live. This is by design and not accident. It is the result of a significant and on-going partnership between our professionals and the residents of this community. This newsletter, in fact, is an example of that partnership and our effort to keep you, the people we serve, informed about the activities of our agency.

It is also the result of forward-looking elected officials. We depend on these leaders who know the importance of investing in law enforcement. We appreciate the resources they provide. We appreciate the resources they provide.

We also enjoy a reputation as a safe city for the tens-of-thousands of shoppers who flock here to take advantage of our unparalleled retail opportunities. I assure you that we will continue to work diligently to maintain that reputation.

In closing, I offer an invitation. If you have a suggestion about how we can provide better service, a question, or comment, please feel free to contact me at 489-2150.

Edward J. Delmore  
Chief of Police

Chief Edward J. Delmore pictured at the right, with his wife Ann, and his brother Richard

**Chief Delmore Biography**

Ed Delmore, 44, was born in East St. Louis and grew up in Fairview Heights. In 1974 he joined the Fairview Heights Police Explorer Post and in 1976, he attended the first Fairview Heights Police Youth Academy. He graduated from Belleville Township High School East. In 1979 he joined the Caseyville Police Department as a telecommunicator. In 1982 he accumulated leave and paid his own way through the Police Academy at Belleville Area College.

After graduation, Delmore began his career as a sworn officer with the Chester Illinois Police Department. In 1984, he joined the Collinsville Police Department where he worked in the patrol division. In 1989 he was assigned as an undercover narcotics investigator with the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and named Collinsville's Policeman of the Year in 1990.

In 1992 Delmore created and supervised a highly successful criminal interdiction unit which seized record amounts of illegal narcotics and other contraband from drug traffickers. In 1996 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief of Police. He served in this capacity until his retirement from Collinsville in August of this year.

Since 1994 Delmore has taught advanced techniques to police officers and administrators

throughout the United States. He holds adjunct faculty positions with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA, the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety, and St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL. He is an Associate Police Training Specialist at the University of Illinois' Police Training Institute. He has lectured for the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and at the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, VA.

Delmore earned an Associates Degree in the Administration of Justice from Belleville Area College (SWIC), a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Western Illinois University and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and of the Administrative Officer's Course at the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute.

Delmore lives in Fairview Heights with his wife Ann, a Caseyville Police Officer. They have three teenage children. Delmore's brother Richard, is a Sergeant with the Southern Illinois University at the Edwardsville Police Department.

### **FHPD ACQUIRES SPEED TRAILER**

The Fairview Heights Police Department purchased a speed trailer last year with locally donated funds. The trailer has been in non-stop use since it was put into operation. The Police Department actively solicits input from the community as to locations where speeding vehicles are a perceived problem. The trailer is a useful tool to the department and allows us to determine if more alternative actions are needed to address these problems.

If you are aware of an area that experiences speeding vehicles, please contact the FHPD at 618-489-2100 and ask to speak to a shift supervisor or bring the area to the attention of your alderman. The trailer is in great demand and it may take a little while before it is deployed in your area.

### **IRS FORM SCAM**

The IRS has recently passed on information regarding a current scam that attempts to solicit personal information from the public. The suspect sends a letter to the unsuspecting victim purporting to be from the "taxpayers bank" indicating that the bank is updating their files in order to exempt the taxpayer from reporting interest or having tax withheld on interest paid on his or her bank accounts or other financial dealings. Legally, banks must report interest to the IRS and taxpayers must include it as income.

The "bank" correspondence encloses a phony form "W-9095, Application Form for Certificate Status/Ownership for Withholding Tax" that purports to come from the IRS and seeks detailed personal and financial data. The letter urges the recipient to fax the completed form to a specific number within 7 days or lose the reporting and withholding exemption, resulting in withholding of 31% on the account's interest. The scheme promoters then use the faxed information to impersonate the taxpayer and gain access to the taxpayer's finances. The IRS says that the form looks quite real although no Form W-9095 actually exists.

If you are in doubt of any received correspondence purporting to be from your bank, please call the bank or contact the Police Department and we will be glad to assist you in determining the legitimacy of the correspondence.

### **IDENTITY THEFT**

It is that time of the year again when the holiday shopping season starts. With the large crowds, long lines, and heavy traffic also comes other problems – identity theft. During the holiday season, criminals become more active looking for and getting more victims of identity theft. Identity theft is defined as someone using your personal information, such as your social security number, credit card number, your name, or any other items fraudulently. When someone does this, they leave a wake of credit problems and headaches for the victims.

There are ways to protect yourself when you are shopping for the holidays. When you pay with a

credit card or a debit card, make sure you receive your receipt from the cashier, and do not discard it in a trash can. Some receipts have your credit card number printed on it, which could fall into the wrong hands. When you use your debit card and enter your personal identification number, make sure to keep it private. Identity theft thieves, known as "Shoulder Surfers" may be watching.

When paying with a check, do not allow the cashier to write your social security number on your check when she/he asks for identification. It is not required to give your social security number to anyone or to any private company. When out shopping, and in general, leave your social security card at home and not in your purse or wallet. As you know, thieves also are opportunistic and might take your purse or wallet. If that did happen, it would make it that much easier for the thieves to obtain a credit card or other credit in your name if your social security card was also taken.

Any time you make a payment using checks and mail them, do not put them in your residential mailbox with the flag up. This is a signal to an identity thief that there are checks in your mailbox. Thieves will take your checks from your mailbox, "wash the check" and make a purchase with the check. Washing your check means that they take off the handwritten information you wrote with a pen on your check. They will then complete the now blank check to obtain goods or services. It is always recommended to mail your bills that you paid for by check by placing them into the U.S. Postal boxes or by taking them directly to the post office. If you find yourself a victim of identity theft, you can fix the problems. It may be a headache, but your good name and credit can be restored. Many people learn they were victims of identity theft through several ways. Some are through credit card statements, bank statements overdraft notices, collection agencies, or companies calling for payment on an account that you did not know was opened in your name. The first thing to do is to contact the agency where the identity theft transaction took place. Then contact the financial institution which provided the credit or funds. Sometimes this information may be obtained from a credit report. Cancel all of the accounts which might be affected and obtain new account numbers. Then contact Equifax, Experian and TransUnion, which are three major credit reporting agencies. Place a flag on your account, so if there are any future attempts to establish credit in your name, it will be looked at with more attention.

The next step is to contact the local police department where the actual crime took place, and the Federal Trade Commission to file reports with each agency. You may be required to complete affidavits for some or all of the government and private financial agencies where you report an identity theft. Identity theft is a growing concern. With awareness and careful financial practice, you can greatly minimize your exposure to becoming a victim of identity theft.

If you have questions or concerns about identity theft, don't hesitate to contact the Fairview Heights Police Department and ask questions.

### **ASSISTING SENIOR CITIZENS**

There are many services available to help senior citizens so they can maintain an appropriate standard of living and continue living in their own home. These services include assistance with housekeeping needs such as general housecleaning and laundry, transportation for necessities, companionship, and guidance with financial issues. Many of these services are only available with a referral and the elder services officer at FHPD can make the referral after a need is brought to our attention.

The main focus of agencies that provide these types of services is to assist an individual so that they are able to maintain an appropriate standard of living and remain in the surroundings they are most comfortable with. These agencies understand that most people would prefer to remain in the privacy and comfort of their own home. Contrary to popular belief, they work hard to keep the senior citizens in their homes rather than placing them in an assisted living home.

Recently FHPD Officers responded to an elderly person's home for a call only to find they were living in deplorable conditions, unfit for humans as well as the 3 animals inside. This could have been avoided if someone had called to make a report. If you are aware of an individual who may be in need of assistance please contact the FHPD. We count on the assistance of the community in bringing these to our attention. This report can be made anonymously.