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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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*For Immediate Release*  
*September 26, 2006*

### **O'Fallon's stories, photos in Sesquicentennial history book**

Filled with rarely-seen photos of people and long-gone places, history, facts, opinions, and first-hand accounts, *O'Fallon: A Good Place to Live*, will be available for purchase beginning Monday, October 2 through the end of the year. Cost of the limited edition, hard-cover book about O'Fallon from frontier times to 2006 is \$35. Locations are:

- The Bank of Old Monroe, 401 T.R. Hughes Boulevard, O'Fallon, Missouri 63366  
9 a.m. – noon, Saturdays, only
- O'Fallon Municipal Centre (City Hall), 100 North Main Street, O'Fallon MO 63366  
9 a.m. – noon, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, only
- The book may also be purchased by calling Pat or Lewis Swinger of Wabash Realty at (636) 240-4588.

The illustrated history book, a first for the city, is the legacy of the O'Fallon Sesquicentennial Steering Committee in honor of the O'Fallon's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1856 – 2006). Neither an encyclopedia of O'Fallon facts nor a nostalgic review, the book aims to, as the introduction explains, "provide a readable hopscotch of important milestones linked by the people who have played central roles in the city's evolution and

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change.”

The book’s title, *O’Fallon, Missouri: A Good Place to Live 1856-2006*, is based on road signs that first appeared near City limits during Mayor Paul A. Westhoff’s “City of Progress” initiative, which “encompassed everything from [the city’s first] sewers to youth programs and citywide beautification.” Westhoff served three non-consecutive terms between 1939 and 1961.

Stories of change and adaptability – the book’s twin themes – include Civil War tensions in the community, slavery and emancipation, destructive twisters and fires, orphan trains, and a list of community “firsts”: the first electric service (a 10-volt dynamo or direct current generator in the back of a store), the first telephones (on “party lines” that allowed anyone in town with a phone to listen in), the first fire-fighting equipment (a hand-cart with a chemical to extinguish fires), the first car cruising site (Main Street between the Dairy Shed and the Frosty Top), and O’Fallon’s first subdivisions.

The book, which is dedicated to O’Fallon’s favorite citizen, Raleigh “Mr. History” Jessup, began as an original draft prepared by writer John R. Morris from materials and information submitted to the O’Fallon Historical Society. Pat Swinger, president of the Sesquicentennial Steering committee, edited the draft and augmented it with research, interviews, additional articles, and detailed notes on sources. Illustrations and photos are taken from individual and family photo collections, the O’Fallon Historical Society, the John J. Buse Collection (Missouri’s Western Historical Manuscript Collection), the O’Fallon Photo Club, the City of O’Fallon and others.

For more information on the O’Fallon Sesquicentennial, go to [www.celebrateofallonmo.com](http://www.celebrateofallonmo.com). Or contact either Pat or Lewis Swinger at (636) 240-4588, or [info@celebrateofallonmo.com](mailto:info@celebrateofallonmo.com).

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