

SPD Shop With A Cop Helps 60 Local Children

By James B. Bartle

Sullivan Police, "Shop With A Cop" held their 4th Annual event on Saturday, December 13, with Sullivan Wal-Mart, 130 Park Ridge Dr., Sullivan, and members of the Missouri Highway Patrol, Missouri Park Rangers, Missouri Department of Conservation, Oak Grove Village Police, and Crawford County Sheriff's Department.

The event, being the fourth solo effort by Sullivan Police, was held before 2021 with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department; however, SPD sought to hold their own event to allow county dep-

uties to work in other areas in rural.

The event on Saturday brought various law enforcement officers together to aid Sullivan, with 60 local children having a brighter Christmas.

The total grew from 21 kids in 2022 to 60 kids in 2025, according to Sullivan School Resource Officer Sgt. Jade Allen.

This year alone, Sullivan Police were able to raise \$12,000 to help in the program, and with the number of children, other area law enforcement were more than

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Photo by James B. Bartle

SULLIVAN POLICE DEPARTMENT HELD their 4th Annual "Shop With A Cop" on Saturday, December 13. There were 60 local children who were able to participate with the above law enforcement officers from Sullivan Police Department; Missouri Highway Patrol; Missouri Park Rangers; Missouri Department of Conservation; Oak Grove Village Police; and Crawford County Sheriff's Department. See related article.

Early Race Develops In Sullivan With Incumbents Filing In School Board

By James B. Bartle

Filing for many municipal, school and other government bodies opened on Tuesday, December 9, and will conclude on Thursday, December 30, for the April 7, 2026, municipal election.

In the City of Sullivan, two-year positions will be open for Aldermen in Wards One, Two, and Three, along with the unpaid position of City Collector.

Early filing has brought a race in Ward One as incumbent Mark Dalton is

being challenged by former Alderman and Mayor Gary Pondrom. Incumbents Ward Two, Jesse Alexander, and incumbent Ward Three, George "Randy" Coates, have filed for re-election.

No one has filed for the unpaid position of City Clerk.

In the Village of Oak Grove, two positions with two-year terms will be open for filing, while in the Village of Miramigosa, three trustee positions with two-year terms will be open, and the Town of

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24-Hour Subscription Drive This Friday On Missouri Possum Radio

Hosted By James Bartle, Morning Show Host And Publisher

Missouri Possum Radio, found on the iHeartRadio app, on the website of my-sullivannews.com and the-possamradio.com, will hold a 24-hour subscription drive to bring awareness to community newspapers and the success of the Sullivan Independent News and New Haven Independent News.

The broadcast will begin at 12 a.m. Friday morning and will last until 12 a.m.

Saturday morning. This will be the second annual event that Missouri Possum Radio has hosted for its sister business with broadcast morning show host James Bartle, who is also the publisher of the two newspapers.

"We continue to battle to keep our newspapers in print and bring the news on all our

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Photo by James B. Bartle

JENNINGS FAMILY DELIVERED toys Monday, December 15 for the 19th Annual Toy Drive at Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital. See related article.

Jennings Family Delivers Joy During Annual Toy Donation At Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital

For the 19th consecutive year, the Jennings family has donated toys to children at Missouri Baptist Sullivan Hospital this holiday season. Through this long-standing tradition, the family hopes to provide a much-needed distraction and comfort for patients and their families.

The annual donation is made in honor of Robert Jennings, who tragically lost his life at 9 years old after being struck by a vehicle. Robert spent several days in the hospital before succumbing to his injuries. In the wake of this loss, the Jennings family has dedicated themselves to

ensuring that other children who are hospitalized at have a family member in the hospital can find joy in a new toy during what can be a stressful time.

Robert's mother, Shawn, said he was a very caring individual, always looking out for and helping others. In fact, because Robert had shown interest in the organ donor information on his older son's driver's license, Robert became an organ donor and went on to provide life-saving gifts to two children and two adults.

The Jennings family has

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Annual Toy Donation

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fundraisers throughout the year, supported by their family, friends and community members, to allow them to purchase

the toys and continue the long-standing tradition. Now, in addition to their holiday toy donations, the Jennings family helps raise awareness for organ donation.