

Richfield Police Department

2015 Annual Report



Marijuana Bales
In excess of 100
pounds.
Recovered from
a semi tractor-
trailer hauling
watermelons
from Arizona





RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

4450 WEST STREETSBORO ROAD
RICHFIELD, OHIO 44286
(330) 659-9500
(330) 659-0677 FAX

Keith D. Morgan
Chief of Police

Honorable Bobbie Beshara
Mayor, Village of Richfield
RE: Annual Report, 2015

Mayor Beshara,

It is with pleasure that I submit the annual report on behalf of the Richfield Police Department.

In 2015 the department was the purchased new 800 Megahertz radios to replace all portable and mobile radios. Many of the current radios were purchased in the 1990's and are going to be obsolete in the near future. This purchase will accommodate the eventual crossover from our current radio system which is owned by the Village, to a countywide system that is owned and maintained by Summit County. The radios have been delivered and, at this writing, are being programmed prior to installation.

In addition to the replacement of three patrol vehicles, and SUV was purchased to replace a Ford Explorer that was 13 years old. The Ford Explorer that was being used as a chief's vehicle was outfitted with equipment for the animal control officer. The chief's vehicle was replaced with an unmarked Ford Interceptor.

In 2015 an additional part-time police officer was hired, as were two part-time dispatchers. They were a welcome addition to the Police Department. All three completed their respective training very quickly and efficiently and were able to assume their duties in a timely fashion.

The communications division continued to provide dispatch services for the Peninsula Police Department (covering Boston Township), Boston Heights Police, Valley Fire and Rescue (providing services to Peninsula, Boston Township, and Boston Heights) and the service departments of Richfield, Richfield Township, Peninsula, Boston Township, and Boston Heights.

A new collective bargaining agreement was reached with the FOP Lodge 66 which will be in effect until December 31, 2017.

Respectfully Submitted



Keith D. Morgan
Chief of Police





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MISSION STATEMENT

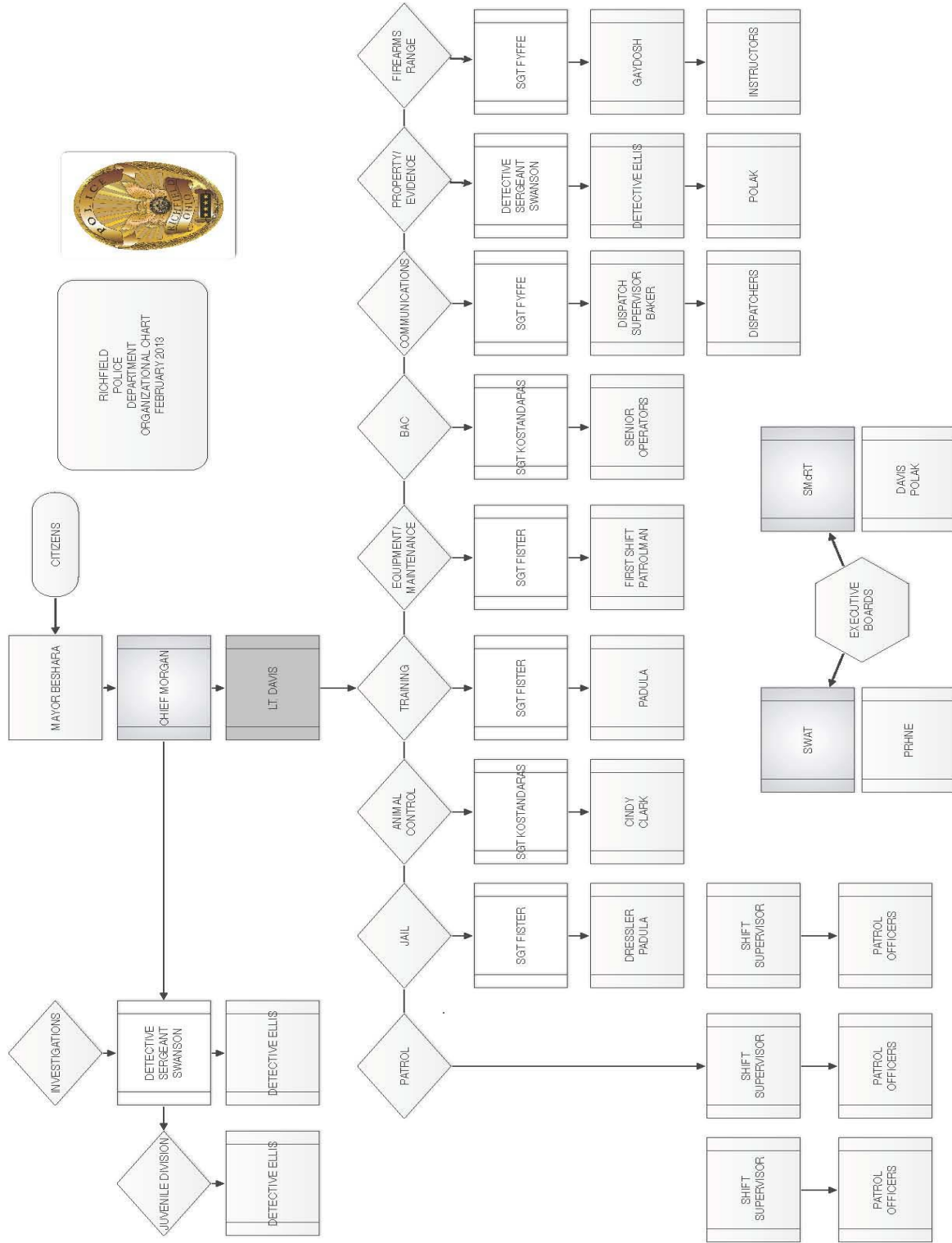
The Men and Women of the Richfield Police Department are committed to being a professional and caring organization dedicated to the concepts of personal excellence, continuous improvement, integrity, teamwork, and service to our community.

We believe in the dignity of all citizens and desire to protect individual rights. We aspire to contribute to the quality of life in the community of Richfield by providing efficient Law Enforcement services. We take pride in our professional performance and image.





RICHFIELD
POLICE
DEPARTMENT
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
FEBRUARY 2018





Richfield's Law Enforcement History

The Richfield Police Department can trace its law enforcement tradition back to 1816. The first law enforcement official was a constable who was elected to office. Two of the first known constables were John Bigelow and Isaac Hopkins. One of the most colorful constables was Arthur Scobie who served from 1920 to 1935. Constable Scobie wore boots and a western style hat. He rode a horse in order to perform his duties.

Web Orcutt and Joseph Smith also served as constables in the 1920's, while Preston Fauble was the first motorcycle officer. In the early 1930's, Orcutt, Smith and Fauble changed careers and were each elected to the office of Justice of the Peace.

William Guthrie was the last constable of Richfield and the first to have a car with two-way radio. An auxiliary captain, Charlie Palmer, and Virgil Newton served as deputies. The constable system was replaced by the Summit County Sheriff in 1962. Three local men, Tom Fisher, Ed Peffer, and Lee Weber were sworn in as deputies. The Summit County Sheriff continued to serve in Richfield until 1970, shortly after the Village of Richfield was formed. The formation of the Village resulted in two entities: Richfield Township and Richfield Village.

In 1970 the Richfield Village Police Department was formed. Tom Fisher was chosen to be the police chief, a position that he held until 1988. The Township continued its affiliation with the Summit County Sheriff's office. Richfield Township did have a police chief, Dave Arbogast, who was appointed in 1984. Chief Arbogast worked in conjunction with the Sheriff's department. The Township formed their own department with six additional officers joining Chief Arbogast.

John Walsh was appointed as Tom Fisher's replacement in 1988. Chief Walsh served in that capacity until 2001. Chief M.D. Canter was the third police chief for the Richfield Police Department with his appointment in 2001. In that same year the Richfield Township Police Department was dissolved. Richfield Township contracted with the Richfield Village Police department for police services. In 2002 the police department moved into a new facility.

Chief Canter completed over 44 years of law enforcement service with his retirement in 2012. Keith Morgan was named as his successor.

There have been many changes since John Bigelow and Isaac Hopkins took their oaths of office in the early 1800's. The law enforcement mission remains the same, to protect and serve the citizens of Richfield.



CHIEFS OF POLICE

John Walsh
1988 to 2001



Dave Arbogast
Richfield Township



Tom Fisher
1962-1988



Dale Canter
2001-2012



Keith Morgan
2012-Present



Training

The training focus for 2015 reflected the changing needs of those persons we come into contact with, as well as the constantly evolving criminal element.

Two additional officers attended CIT training sponsored by NAMI of Ohio. The skill sets acquired in CIT works to ensure officers have an understanding of those with mental illness (or who are in emotional crisis) and strives to treat them with dignity and respect while still accomplishing the police mission. Currently seven of our officers have received this valuable training.



The proliferation of cell phones has crept into almost every aspect of criminal activity from narcotics to fraud, requiring detectives be well-versed in the latest investigative techniques by attending classes in cell phone mapping and employing spread sheets in cell phone data interpretation.

The focal point of Continuing Professional Training in 2015 as required by the State of Ohio addressed Ohio's nexus with Human Traffickers, their victims and the lethality of Domestic Violence.

Our long term relationship with the FBI National Academy afforded the opportunity to attend trainings that offered strategies to effectively deescalate the civil unrest that can result from police shootings, while another session exposed the extensive distribution networks in use by Mexican cartels

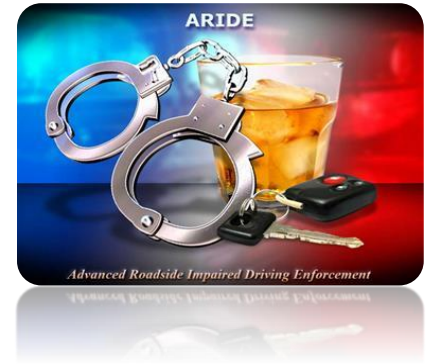
Officers attended narcotics training regarding designer and synthetic marijuana, bath salts and their often violent and tragic after effects



As the volume of traffic on our streets and highways grows, our contact with traffic violators grows as does the potential danger. Our officers attended the traffic stops and vehicle approaches instructor update to impart the knowledge learned to others.



Related to both narcotics and traffic is an increasing number of traffic violators impaired on illicit and prescription drugs in conjunction with alcoholic beverage consumption. Additional officers attended the federally funded A.R.I.D.E. training to become more effective and proficient in detecting and apprehending these impaired individuals. A.R.I.D.E. is additionally one step in the progression towards certification as a D.R.E. Drug Recognition Expert in traffic enforcement.



The ever present threat of terrorism and the growing number of home grown violent extremists, both domestic and international, was examined by officers attending SLATT (State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training) as well as Homeland Security ILO (Information Liaison Officer) training



Other specialized training topics attended in 2015 included:

- 01- Public Information Officer Workshop
- 02- Traffic Reconstruction with Video Best Practices
- 03- Tactical Leadership
- 04- A.L.i.C.E. Training Instructor Update
- 05- Low Light Handgun Marksmanship
- 06- Vehicle Crush Dynamics Introduction
- 07- Critical Asset Risk Management
- 08- Ohio Public Records Laws Update
- 09- National TIMS (Traffic Incident Management System) Training
- 10- Use of Force and Documentation Training



Investigations

The detective bureau is staffed by Detective Sergeant Mike Swanson and Detective Amy Ellis. Det. Ellis also serves as the Juvenile Detective and works closely with the schools, parents, and children.

In 2015 the detective bureau investigated 138 cases. Among the investigations were 50-thefts/fraud/forgeries, 8-B&E/Burglaries, 11-Assaults/Domestics, 17-phone harassment/menacing, 4-Sex Crimes, 5-Heroin related overdoses, 1-Structure Fire, and 4-Deaths.

1-search warrant of a residence was served, as were numerous subpoenas and court orders. Additionally, 22 Felony arrest warrants/indictments and 12- Misdemeanor arrest warrants were obtained.

Below is shoe print evidence that led to the arrests of (3) suspects involved in a 2015 burglary on Boston Mills Road, in which the door was kicked in.



All of the case work involves countless hours of investigation which includes, but is not limited to, crime scene processing, victim-witness and suspect interviews, surveillance, report writing and warrant preparation. Additionally, many hours are spent coordinating efforts with The Summit County Common Pleas Court, The Akron Municipal Court, The Summit County Juvenile Court and their prosecutor's offices, as well as other state and federal agencies.





These photographs were taken from scenes in which Heroin/Fentanyl caused deaths in 2015. One suspect was charged with Manslaughter related to the death of an overdose victim.

The detective bureau also conducts background investigations for police department applicants and other Richfield employees. This is a very involved process that requires hours of research and investigation into the applicant’s background. It includes interviews of the applicant, their past employers, references and neighbors of the applicant. The background investigation process is similar to any other investigation, which is why it’s typically assigned to detective bureaus.

In 2016 the Detective Bureau is focusing on the heroin epidemic plaguing our community. We plan to continue with training, enforcement, education and working with county, state and federal agencies to combat the epidemic.



Property Room

The property room is staffed by Det. Sgt. Mike Swanson, Det. Amy Ellis and Ptl. David Polak. There is a constant flow of property and evidence that passes through the property room each year. Each piece of property/evidence must be packaged, labeled, logged and properly stored, while maintaining a proper chain of custody. Det. Ellis typically handles the day to day operations of the property room. The property room also manages all of the digital evidence i.e.: photographs and in-car camera data. Det. Amy Ellis and Ptl. Polak have been keeping up with this task along with their other duties.



Contraband seized and entered into the property room from a 2016 traffic stop. \$17,840.00 was forfeited to our department.

Many pieces of evidence are submitted to the crime lab every year for analysis. This process is also managed in the property room. The evidence must be prepared for submission, and after analysis it's returned to our property room. The accompanying lab reports that follow then must be filed appropriately and or forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

In 2015, the property room cataloged 490 pieces of property and evidence.



In 2016, we want to integrate a bar code scanning system, to assist in the overall management of the property room. A bar code scanning system would help in maintaining the chain of custody, locating specific items quickly, general inventory, and creating destruction orders.

Communication Center

Tim Baker oversees the daily operations of the dispatch center. There are currently seven full time dispatchers and four part time dispatchers. In 2015 the dispatch center processed 29,901 calls for service which is an increase from the 29,058 in 2014. The dispatch center serves Richfield Village, Richfield Twp., Peninsula and Valley Fire District, and Boston Heights Police Department.

In 2015 we hired 2 additional part time dispatchers to complement the current staff. Part time dispatchers may only work 29.5 hours a week and they generally are a second person on a shift. We strive to have two dispatchers working each shift.



Below is a breakdown of calls for service by community:

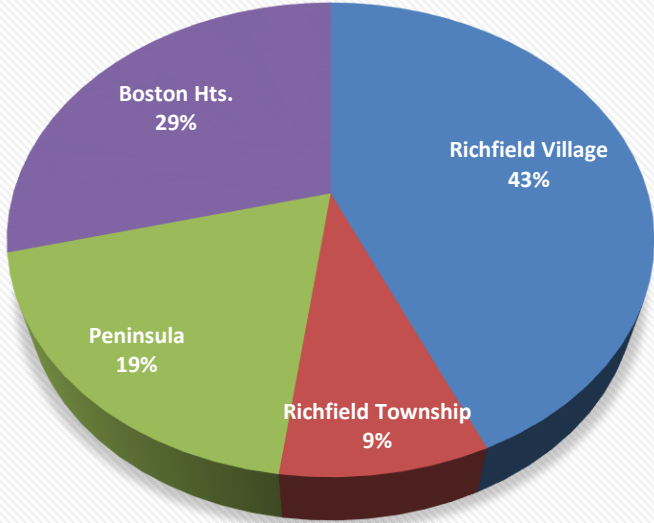
	2014	2015
Richfield Village	12,696	12,972
Richfield Township	2,411	2,607
Peninsula	4,563	5,662
Boston Hts.	9,388	8,660

These totals reflect all departments within the community, Police, Fire, Service.

Our Records department consists of Tim Baker and Matt Cern who oversee all requests that come in through the Police Department. In 2015 we processed 571 requests for records, this is an increase from the 454 requests in 2014. The records bureau purchased a module for the Records Management System to be able to submit traffic crash reports directly to the state electronically. In the past, copies of reports were made and sent to the State via U.S. Mail.

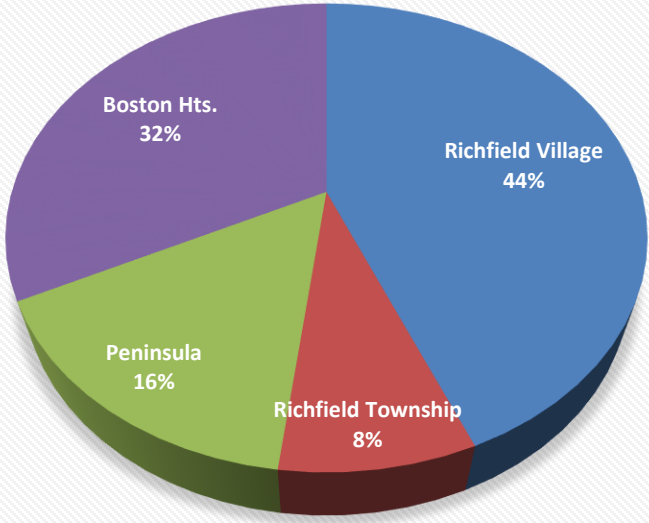


2015 Dispatch Call For Service Breakdown



■ Richfield Village ■ Richfield Township ■ Peninsula ■ Boston Hts.

2014 Dispatch Call For Service Breakdown



■ Richfield Village ■ Richfield Township ■ Peninsula ■ Boston Hts.





B.A.C. Datamaster

Sergeant Nick Kostandaras is responsible for the Breathalyzer Equipment; Patrolman Scott Dressler assists him.

The B.A.C. Datamaster is an Infrared Electronic Breath Alcohol Measuring Instrument used for determining the alcohol concentration in a person’s breath. The B.A.C. Datamaster is approved by the National Traffic Safety Administration and by the Ohio Courts. The B.A.C. Datamaster measures the grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath. The B.A.C. Datamaster is an essential tool used for the prosecution of impaired drivers and for the prosecution of underage drinkers. In the State of Ohio, the Prima Facie Evidence for a subject under the influence of alcohol is .08 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

The B.A.C. Datamaster instrument check is required every seven days not to exceed 192 hours. The operation and instrument checks are overseen by Sgt. Kostandaras with Ptl. Dressler assisting. The instrument checks are done to insure the integrity of the tests and the instrument. A senior operator who has been certified by the Ohio Department of Health can only conduct an instrument check. The Richfield Police Department has twelve senior operators and seven standard operators. The Standard Operator may only administer a test to a subject and are not authorized to conduct an instrument check. The Standard Operators have also been certified by the Ohio Department of Health.

The B.A.C. Datamaster was used 48 times from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 for DUI’s and alcohol related calls for service.

The following is a breakdown of the use of the B.A.C. Datamaster for 2015:

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Richfield Arrests:	36	29	7
Peninsula Police:	3	2	1
OSP:	6	5	1
Bath	1	1	0
National Parks	2	2	
Totals	48	39	9

The following is a breakdown by months:

January	4	July	5
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Page # 2

February	6	August	6
March	6	September	5
April	4	October	4
May	3	November	1
June	3	December	1

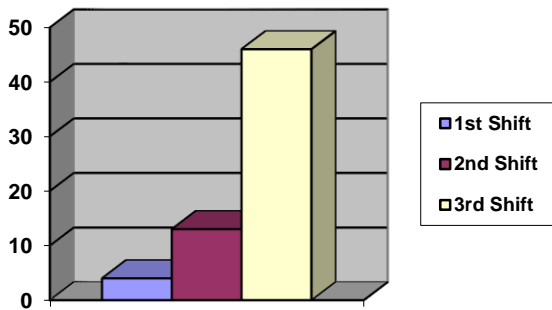
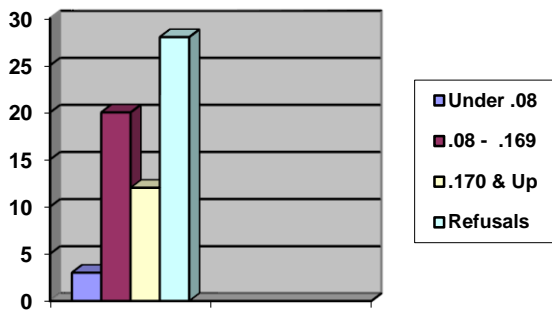
The following is a breakdown by the test results:

Under .08	2
.08 To .169	15
.170 and up	11
Refusals	20
Highest test given	.297

The following is a breakdown by the shifts:

Day shift	1
Afternoon shift	11
Midnight shift	36
Totals	48





The B.A.C. Datamaster and the Intoxilyzer 8000 was also used by several Police agencies in Summit County for proficiency testing of officers. Statistics nationwide reveal that drunk drivers cause a fatal accident once every fifteen minutes. The numbers listed in this report do not tell how many lives may have been saved by removing 48 DUI suspects from the roads. Fortunately, we will never know because they were taken off our roads before a fatality occurred.



Metro SWAT



Metro SWAT Police Officers from Summit and Portage Counties make up the Critical Response Team known as Metro Swat. There are fifteen board members comprised of member agency police chiefs. Of this fifteen, three are chosen to serve on the board of directors. Richfield is an active member of the regional unit.

The team was formed in 1990 so the member communities could combine their resources to deal with unusual situations that would exceed the capabilities of individual departments. The Richfield Police Department contributes two members to the team. Officer Rudy Prhne serves as a tactical officer and Officer John Petrovich serves as command security and technical support to the team. Richfield Fire Department also contributes Paramedic Mike Lester to the team as a Swat Medic. The team is activated when a crisis situation develops. The team is trained to cope with problems that a regular Police unit is neither equipped nor trained to handle. These situations include active shooters, snipers, barricaded suspects, hostage incidents, violent felons and high risk warrants. The team is also activated in search and rescue missions, crowd control and other circumstances that would require a department needing additional manpower.

The member departments include: Aurora, Boston Twp, Brimfield, Copley, Fairlawn, Hudson, Kent, Kent State University, Lakemore, Macedonia, Munroe Falls, Northfield, Peninsula, Portage County Sheriff, Ravenna, Richfield, Silver Lake, Springfield Twp, Stow, Streetsboro and Twinsburg. Team members train a minimum of once a month in addition to attending tactical seminars and schools. There are currently 49 members that make up the Metro Swat Team.



Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMcRT)



The Summit Metro Crash Response Team (SMcRT) is Summit County's first multi-jurisdictional crash response team. Investigators are assembled from 15 police agencies throughout Summit County and include officers from Bath, Boston Heights, Copley, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Hudson, Norton, Macedonia, Peninsula, Richfield, Summit County Metro Parks, Silver Lake, Stow, Tallmadge and Twinsburg. SMcRT also works closely with the Summit County Engineer's Office, the Summit County Medical Examiner, our municipal and county prosecutor's offices, and joining in 2016 will be the Summit County Sheriff's office Crash Team members.

The Unit is divided into three response teams that rotate on-call each week. One or more members of each team are Level III Crash Reconstructionists or Level II Technical Crash Investigators who have training in Vehicle Dynamics, Crush Deformation, Low Speed Impact, Commercial Vehicles, Motorcycles, Occupant Kinematics, Lamp and Tire Analysis, Evidence Collection and Court Room Testimony. Other team members are Basic Crash Investigators who assist the Reconstructionists in data collection and evidence preservation.

The Unit is investigative only and does not initiate any enforcement action. Investigators support and advise the requesting agency as to the causes and factors involved in the crash and can provide an agency with a professional and scientific analysis and reconstruction of a serious crash. Participation in the Unit serves to multiply our resources in a crash emergency, both in terms of manpower as well as equipment which is shared among the participating agencies. This assures a quick and professional response in an emergency as well as an expert investigation.

Officer Polak is an active team member on the Summit Metro Crash Response Team. Officer Polak is a Level II Crash Investigator and plans to continue his training to become a Traffic Crash Reconstructionist. The training Officer Polak attended in 2015 was Crush and Energy training in January. Officer Polak also became certified to be an Event Data Recorder Technician. Officer Polak is on call two weeks a month on a rotation basis for SMcRT with this he assists in gathering evidence and collecting data. Officer Polak has responded to call outs requested by Fairlawn, Tallmadge, and Cuyahoga Falls within the year 2015. The SMcRT team on average is requested to respond to major crashes ten times a year. SMcRT holds monthly trainings at Hudson Police Department where they review past callouts and new policies and procedures.



Richfield Jail

The Richfield jail is located within the police department; the facility consists of five jail cells: holding cell, detox cell and three twelve day cells. These cells can be used to detain adults for a maximum of 288 hours. The jail is available to detain individuals at any time our department warrants it, once the jail is occupied with a detainee it is to be staffed by patrol officers. The detainee is evaluated by a booking officer (road patrol), which in turn gives a grade from Level 1 to Level 4. If a detainee is given a level 4, the detainee shall be checked every hour by a road patrol officer, any level given other than a 4, our department shall have an officer staffed in jail control to observe the detainee.

Richfield Jail Staff shall consist of following officers: Paul Fister, Tony Padula, and Scott Dressler. Each officer on a rotation basis of every third week shall be responsible for filling out a jail checklist done on Sunday or day closest to Sunday depending on Officer's schedule. At conclusion of performing the list, the list will be put in a notebook, kept by Officer Dressler's and Padula's Desk.

The Richfield Jail Staff belongs to the North Coast Correction Manager's Association. The association is comprised of Jail Administrators and Corrections Officers from County Agencies, Local Municipalities and Correctional Facilities throughout the region.

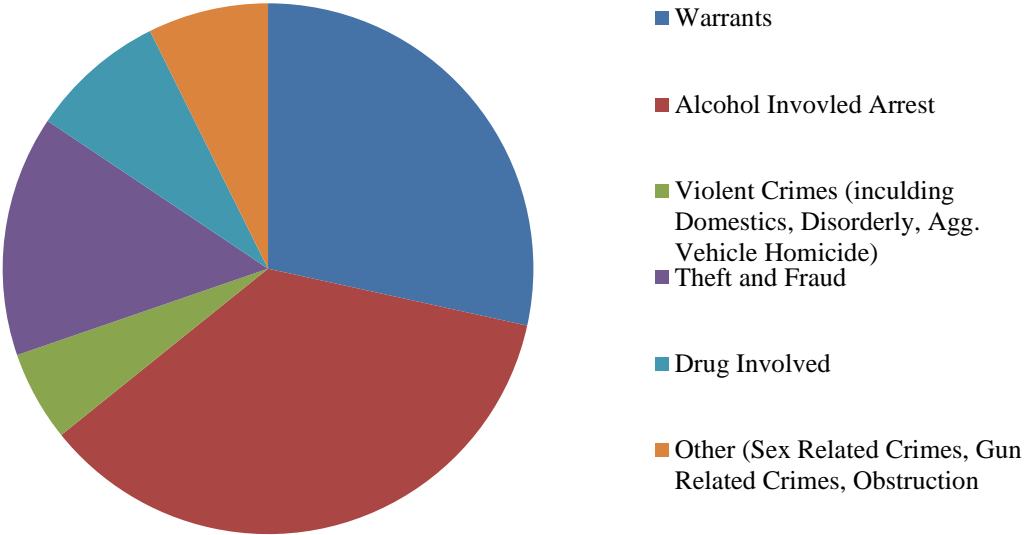
In 2015 the Richfield Jail has continued its partnership with University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center, as our Medical Control under the direction of Dr. Anthony Daher. Dr. Daher conducted a jail in-service training for our department which included Health Screening, and Suicide Prevention. Also Ahuja Medical Center is providing meals for inmates under the direction of Steve Savanick, General Manager of Nutritional Services. Officers once every month travel to Ahuja Medical Center to receive Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinners. These meals are kept in our jail freezer, frozen and used as needed. If the Richfield Jail is in need of more meals due to an increase in prisoners we can call and pick up anytime between the hours of 10:00a.m. and 6:00p.m. Ahuja Medical Center under direction of a Dietician provided one hundred meals that included: drinks, fruit, vegetables, and breads to the Richfield Jail.

Richfield Jail policy states that any inmate residing in the Richfield Jail shall upon their release clean their cell under the direction of a Richfield Officer. This policy includes the Detox Cell, Holding Cell, Intake Areas, as well as the Twelve-day Cell. As of this date the policy has operated within the intent it was written.

In 2015, the Richfield Jail had a total of 107 prisoners, the offense ranged from: Driving under Suspensions, OVI's, Richfield Warrants, other Department Warrants, and Assault on a peace Officer, Felony Warrants. Felony Warrants are processed through our jail and then transferred to Summit County Jail.



2015 Richfield Jail Activity



The Richfield Jail Staff are expected to follow and maintain the standards set forth by the state of Ohio. The Richfield Jail has good policies and procedures to direct staff members in the performance of their job tasks and duties while inmates reside in the jail. The Richfield Jail staff along with Road Patrol carries out their duties in a manner that will preserve the high standards of professionalism expected by the community of Richfield.



Summit County OVI Task Force



In 2015 the Summit County OVI Task Force conducted twenty-four checkpoints countywide.

A total of 6,482 vehicles were checked as a result of the checkpoints conducted by the task force.

423 vehicles were diverted to the secondary checkpoint area for further sobriety testing or other violations.

A total of seventy people were arrested for OVI during the checkpoints, with a breakdown as follows:

67 arrests over the age of 21

03 arrests under the age of 21

54 people provided breath samples over the legal limit

16 people refused to provide breath samples at all



The average blood alcohol concentration of the 54 people arrested for OVI at the checkpoint locations who provided a breath sample was .137. 190 motorists were arrested at the checkpoints for driving under suspension, evidence that people drive illegally even after being caught.

62 people were cited for failure to use a safety restraint- the lack of safety belt use coupled with impaired driving contributes to the fatality rate of those crashes involving alcohol or drug use.

23 people were arrested for felonies, averaging almost one felony arrest per checkpoint. The arrest charges ranged from weapons violations to drugs, many of which were related to heroin in 2015.

The Summit County OVI Task force issued a combined total of 1152 citations during the course of checkpoint operations in 2015.

Summit County remains in the top 10 counties for impaired drivers. If we are to be successful in removing impaired drivers from our roads, it will take ongoing education efforts and involvement in conjunction with enforcement efforts.



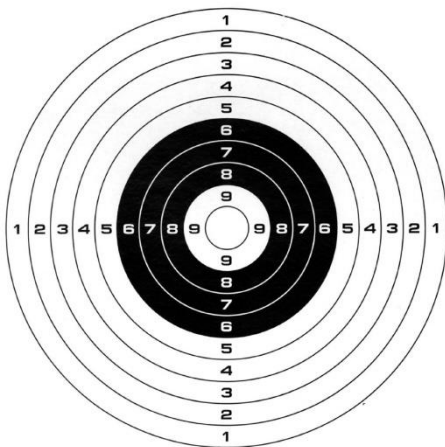
Firearms/Range

The Richfield range and firearms program consists of four firearms instructors (Lt. Davis, Ptl. Gaydosh, Ptl. Dressler, and Ptl. Padula). The firearms program is overseen by Sgt. Fyffe with Ptl. Gaydosh being the lead instructor.

Officers must qualify at least one time a year with their pistol, rifle, shotgun and secondary backup weapon. The Richfield Police Department used approximately 6,500 pistol rounds, 4,500 rifle rounds and 200 shotguns rounds during qualifications and practice throughout the year. The pistol qualifications are currently being performed at the Richfield pistol range.

The patrol cars are all equipped with a patrol rifle and shotgun giving the officers the ability to respond to any type of call. Officers are trained in active shooter response and most have been through SWAT training. Officers are prepared to respond to any type of call including school/business active shootings

In 2016 advanced combat marksmanship training will be provided to the officers who have not completed the training. This advanced training is three-day training courses which will help the officer develop better shooter accuracy. The course consists of approximately 500 rounds of ammunition per officer, and will incorporate movement drills, skill development drills, and several other “real life” training drills.



Vehicle Fleet

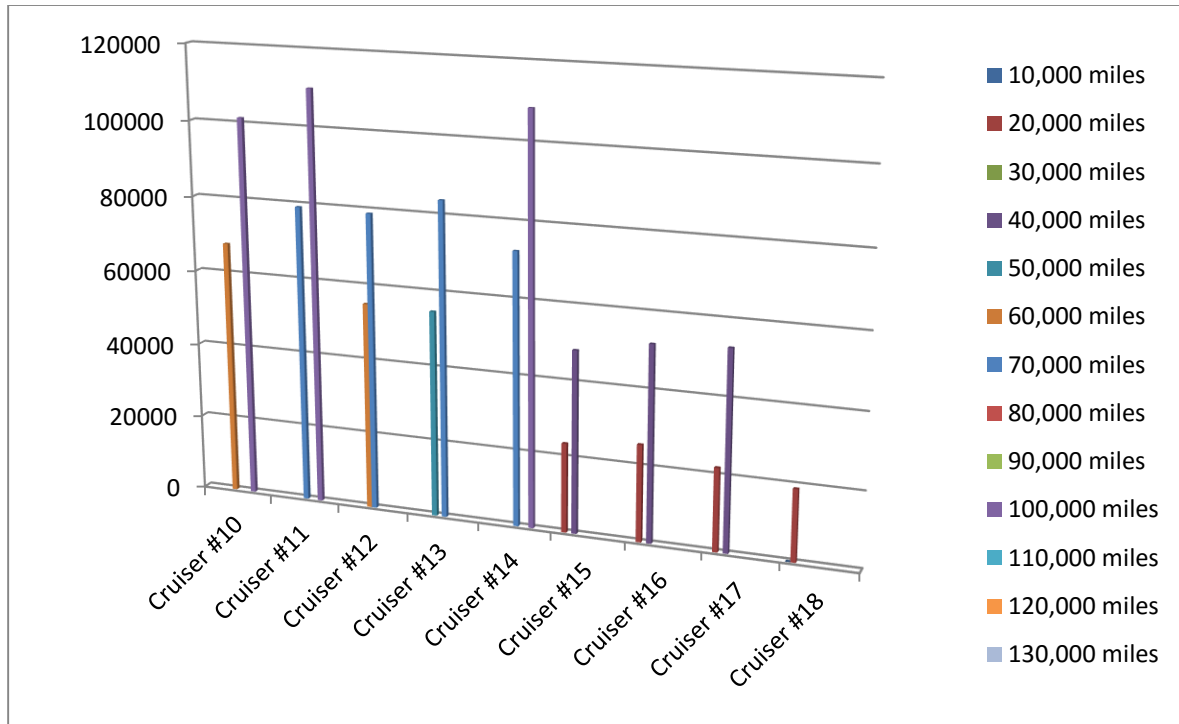
The Richfield Police Cruisers are easily identified and recognized as protectors of peace. They are Black with White Letters and Numbers on sides, roof, and front fenders, American Flag design, and a reflective strip on the back. These new cars are the latest from Ford, with the latest technology, and designed exclusively for police work. These new cruisers are also all wheel drive, to adapt better to the weather conditions in northeast Ohio.

The Richfield Police Department will be adding three new vehicles; retiring three Police Interceptor Cruisers and replacing it with a SUV Police Rated Explorers.

The marked Road Patrol cruisers are equipped with, communication equipment, emergency lighting, crash equipment, weapon retention equipment, Mobile Data Terminals, and Mobile Video Cameras. The marked Road units also are equipped with Ready Bags located in the front compartment of each cruiser, which contain extra ammunition, and First Aid supplies for an officer to take with them to high risk incidents. Located in the trunk of each cruiser contains flak jackets, helmets, low profile police uniforms, and chemical suits which include gas masks for first responders.

- Cruiser #10 2012 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #11 2012 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #12 2013 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #13 2013 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #14 2013 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #15 2014 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #16 2014 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #17 2014 Ford Police Interceptor
- Cruiser #18 2015 Ford Police Interceptor





Legend

- First Column is the year beginning mileage, Second Column is mileage at the end of 2015
- Cruiser #10, #11, and #14 will be replaced by Cruiser #19, #20, and #21 in 2016

In addition to the Richfield Police Motor pool are two vehicles assigned to the Detective Bureau, one vehicle assigned to Chief of Police, and one vehicle assigned to Animal Warden. These vehicles are not marked, but they are equipped with police radios, and weapon retention equipment. These vehicles carry all necessary equipment for detectives' assist them at crime scenes, and to transport all evidence back to police department. The vehicle assigned to Animal Warden is used and equipped to aid her in her duties and is marked similar to our Road Patrol

The entire fleet is on a weekly maintenance program set up through our department with Sgt. Fister and Ptl. Petrovich, and the Village's mechanics Chuck Soulek and Ken Horn. This is an effort to maintain efficient service at a minimal cost and to make every effort to provide a safe and properly working vehicle for a Richfield Police officer.





D.A.R.E.

Officer Michael Simmons continues to operate the DARE Program in the Revere School system. The Richfield Police teamed up with the Bath Police Department to educate the students about the effects of drugs and alcohol. DARE strives in making a positive difference in the lives of children. The D.A.R.E. program teaches students good decision-making skills to help them lead safe and responsible lives. We make roughly 5000 decisions a day. From what to eat, to what to wear, to who to talk to. It is our goal to educate the children to learn how to make those decisions through role play, discussions and real life scenarios.

In 2015, Officer Simmons taught the core DARE Curriculum. The program has changed over the years, to keep up with modern issues dealing with more stress and the social media world we live in today.

Officer Simmons also is a member of the Ohio DARE Association. This gives DARE Officers all over Ohio an opportunity to discuss ideas and talk about how to face challenges in front of them. With the DARE Association there are several awards given out each year. There are longevity awards, DARE Officer of the year and DARE Educator of the year.

The Core Elementary DARE program was taught to 5th graders at Bath Elementary School and began in March. The program culminated in May with a well-attended graduation.





The 38th Annual Richfield Safety Town Program was held at Hillcrest Elementary School. This year 50 pre-kindergarten children were assisted by 40 volunteers.

Rachel Alaimo serves as the Safety Town Coordinator for the Richfield Police Department. Officer Scott Dressler is the department liaison and instructs many of the safety town modules including self-defense.



Richfield Safety Town includes instruction by guest instructors, including: Cindy Clark and Gretchen Gilbert with Animal Safety, and Lydia Wochna with the Bath/Copley-Fairlawn/Richfield Fire Departments.

Some external organizations included the American Red Cross, Dr. Lehky Orthodontics, the Revere Local School District, the Akron Pilot Club and Akron Children's Hospital. The Revere Local School District provided us with our space for our program at Hillcrest Elementary School, but also a bus and bus driver to introduce students to Bus Safety and Behavior. The American Red Cross introduced students to the importance of always swimming with a buddy in their Water Safety class and how to wash your hands properly with their Scrubby Bear program.

A pizza party was held for the volunteers the last day to thank them for their service. A graduation ceremony was held for parents and students in the Richfield Council Chambers where many community members came to speak, children sang the songs they learned and they received their diplomas.

