

Richfield Police Department 2021 Annual Report



Lieutenant Joseph Davis

1959-2021



Table of Contents

Letter of Introduction	3
Mission Statement	4
Current Organizational Chart	5
Law Enforcement History	6
Chiefs of Police	7
Lieutenant Davis Memorial	8
Personnel Information	9
Detective Bureau	13
Communications	16
School Resource Officer	18
Animal Control	19
Training	22
Property Room	27
Summit Metro Crash Team	28
Range/Firearms	30
Police Vehicles	32
Safety Town	35
Metro SWAT	36
B.A.C. Datamaster	38
Richfield Jail	40
Blood Drives	44



RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael Swanson
Chief of Police

Michael Wheeler
Mayor

Honorable Michael Wheeler
Mayor, Village of Richfield
RE: Annual Report, 2021

Mayor Wheeler,

On behalf of the Richfield Police Department, attached is our 2021 annual report. As you are well aware, in 2021 there were significant personnel changes within the police department. This was marked with the retirements of Sgt. Nick Kostandaras, Officer Rick Lorek, Officer Robert Gilbert and Officer Tony Riviotta.

To recap, the retired officer's positions were replaced by Officer Shelby Noffsinger, Officer Douglas McArtor and Officer Morgan Miller. We also hired Officer Travis Hoffman as a part-time officer. It has been many years since we had this much change in one year within the police department. And over the past several years, we have had quite a few additional personnel changes. This brought a lot few new faces to the Richfield Police Department and some overall change.

One of our main goals in 2021, was to increase training in order to provide all our officers with the latest in best practices available. With your assistance, we continue to accomplished this goal along with updating the equipment our officers depend on daily. This is now more important ever, as we transition into the next generation of the Richfield Police Department.

As we move forward into 2022, all the police department staff remains committed to providing the Richfield Community with the best overall police service possible with a continued increased focus on training, community policing and overall enforcement. Thank you for another year of your unwavering support.

Respectfully submitted,

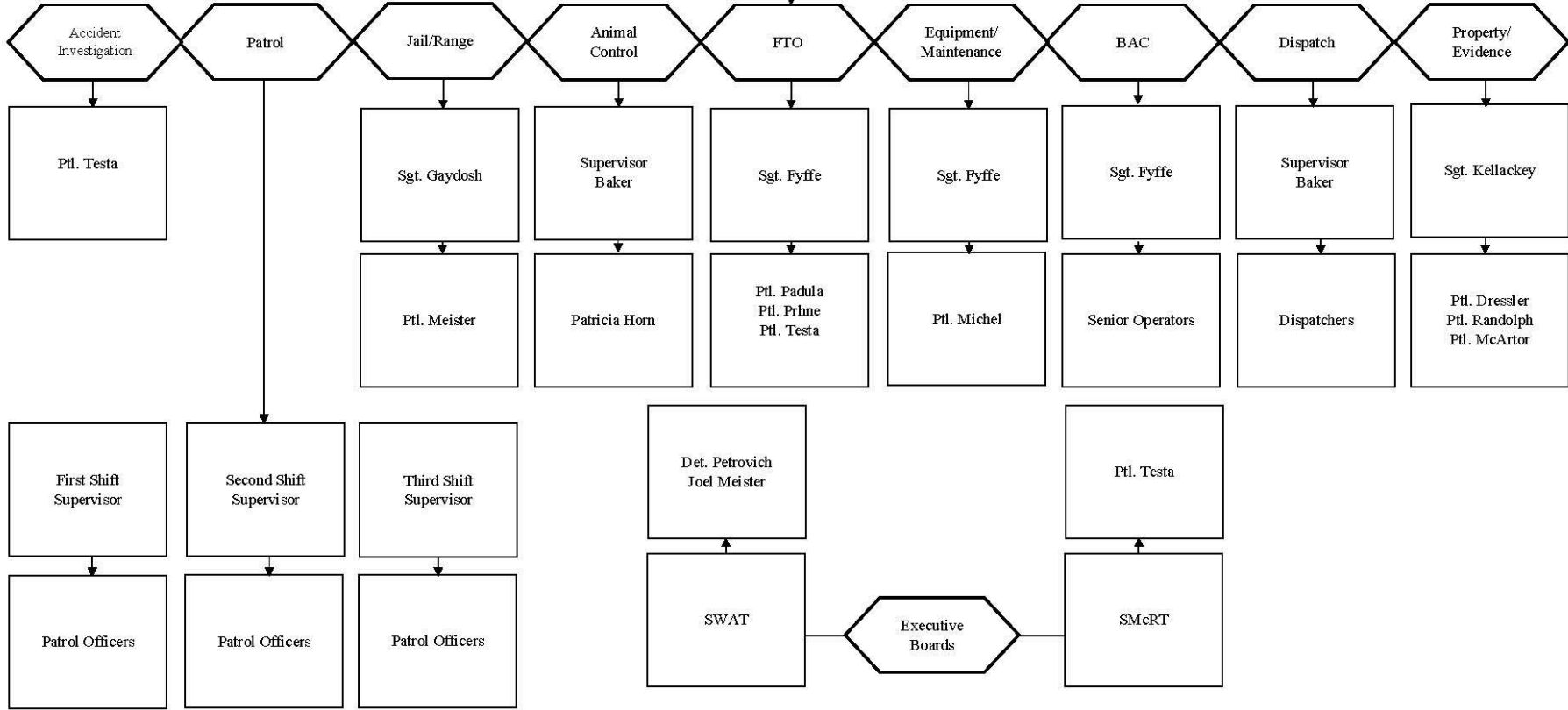
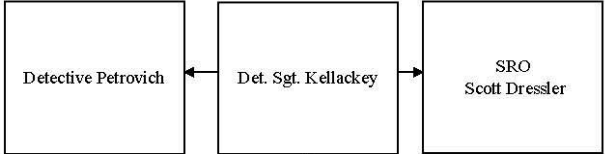
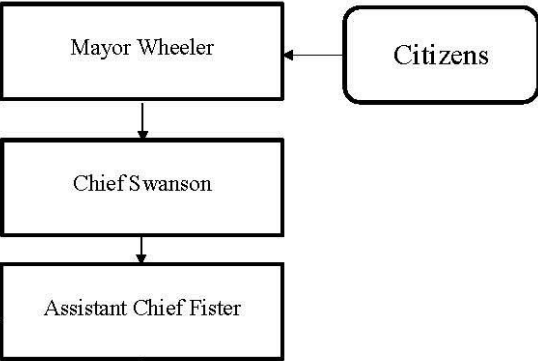
Michael Swanson,
Chief of Police

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Richfield Police Department to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the community to improve their quality of life.

Our mandate is to do so with honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

**Richfield Police Department
Summit County, Ohio**



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. In 2001, the Richfield Township Police Department was dissolved. Richfield Township contracted with the Richfield Village Police Department for police services and has since that time. In 2002 the Richfield Village Police Department moved into a new facility.

John Walsh was appointed as Tom Fisher's replacement in 1988. Chief Walsh served in the capacity until 2001. Chief Merlin Canter was the third police chief for the Richfield Police Department with his appointment in 2001. Chief Canter served in the capacity until 2012. Chief Keith Morgan was the fourth police chief with his appointment in 2012. Chief Morgan served in the capacity until 2019. Chief Michael Swanson was the fifth and current police chief with his appointment in 2019.

There have been many changes since John Bigelow and Isaac Hopkins took their oaths of office in the early 1800's. However, 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



Mike Swanson
2019-Present



Keith Morgan
2012-2019

Joseph Davis
1959 - 2021
Lieutenant
Richfield Village Police 1985 - 2018



Lieutenant Joseph Davis passed away suddenly this year on December 17, 2021 at the age of 62.

Lieutenant Davis graduated from Medina Counties Law Enforcement Academy in 1983. He began his law enforcement career with the Village of Richfield as a part-time police officer in 1985. He was promoted to a full-time police officer in 1986, Sergeant in 2001 and Lieutenant in 2002. Lieutenant Davis attended the Police Executive and Administrative Leadership program in 2002 and the 224th Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in 2006. Lieutenant Davis had countless law enforcement accreditations and certifications and had the distinction of preparing two Presidential visits to Richfield, President Bush in 2003 and President Trump in 2018. Lieutenant Davis was a consummate professional, a dedicated law enforcement officer with 33 years of service and a true friend. He will not only be missed by Richfield, but by the entire law enforcement community.

Personnel Information

The Richfield Police Department is currently staffed with 33 employees as follows:

Chief

Assistant Chief

2-Patrol Sergeants

1-Detective Sergeant

1-Detective

1-School Resource Officer

12-Full-Time Officers

1-Part-Time Officer

1-Animal Control Officer

1-Dispatch Supervisor

7-Full-Time Dispatchers

5-Part-Time Dispatchers



In 2021, there were significant personnel changes primarily due to retirements.

Sergeant Nick Kostandaras retired after serving the Richfield Community for 34 years. Sergeant Kostandaras graduated from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Academy in 1984. He was hired as a part-time officer in 1987 and was promoted to full-time in 1988. During his tenure, Sergeant. Kostandaras was a Level I and a

Level II Traffic Crash Investigator. He ran our first K9 program and had 2 canine partners, K9 Officer Alex and K9 Officer Franz. Sgt. Kostandaras was promoted to Sergeant in 2002 and graduated from the Police Executive Leadership College in 2004. Sergeant Kostandaras brought a straight forward style of leadership to the department and we wish him well in his retirement.

Officer Rick Lorek retired in 2021 after serving the Richfield Community for 34 years. Officer Lorek graduated from the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Academy in 1982 and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Kent State University. He was hired as a part-time officer in 1987 and was promoted to full-time in 1988. Officer Lorek attended the Police Executive Leadership College in 2004 and maintained our jail operations for many years. We thank Officer Rick Lorek for all his years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.



Officer Robert Gilbert retired in 2021 after serving 30 years to the Richfield Community. Officer Gilbert graduated from the Case Western Reserve University Police Academy in 1988 and was hired as a Richfield Township Officer in 1991 and was hired as a Richfield Village Officer in 2001. Officer Gilbert obtained his EMS Certification and maintained it throughout his career. Officer Gilbert became a Certified Crisis Intervention Officer in 2000 and was accepted into the National Association of Traffic Accident Reconstructionist and Investigators in 2007. We want to thank Officer Robert Gilbert for all his years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Officer Anthony Riviotta retired in 2021 after serving the Richfield Community for 20 years. Officer Riviotta attended and graduated from the Cleveland Police Departments Academy in 1978. He also attended and graduated from the University of Akron's Police Academy in 2000 and ranked 3rd overall in his class. Officer Riviotta was hired as a part-time officer in 2001 and served the community well. We want to thank Officer Anthony "Riv" Riviotta for all his years of service and wish him all the best in his retirement.

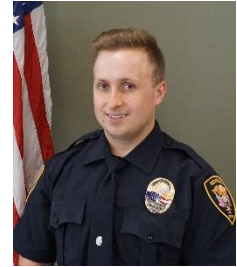


To fill the ranks due to 2021 retirements, Officer Shelby Noffsinger, Officer Doug McArtor and Officer Morgan Miller were promoted to full-time officers. Officer Travis Hoffman was also hired as a part-time officer.



Shelby Noffsinger was hired as a part-time officer on 5-21-2020 and was promoted to full-time on 9-6-2021. Officer Noffsinger is a graduate of Akron Early College High School where she averaged a 3.6 GPA. Shelby also attended the University of Akron where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Pre-Law. Shelby also completed the University of Akron's Police Academy, is certified as a peace officer in the State of Ohio and she is a very welcome addition to our staff.

Douglas McArtor was hired as a part-time officer on 5-21-2020 and was promoted to full-time on 11-22-21. Officer McArtor is a graduate of Brecksville Broadview Heights High School and his father was also a career police officer. He attended Kent State University, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice studies. Douglas also completed the Kent State Universities Police Academy, is certified as a peace officer in the State of Ohio and he is a very welcome addition to our department.



Officer Morgan Miller has been employed as a part-time officer since September 7, 2021 and was promoted to full-time on 11-22-21. Officer Miller attended the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy and is certified to be police officer in the state of Ohio. Officer Miller served as an Ohio State Trooper for 4 years where she received extensive training in patrol tactics, criminal interdiction and mobile field force training. Morgan graduated from Riverdale High School in Mt. Blanchard Ohio and also earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Findlay where she studied Forensic Toxicology, White Collar Crime and Fraud Prevention. Officer Miller is a very welcome addition our department.

Officer Travis Hoffman is an Ellet High School graduate and attended the University of Akron's Police Academy and is certified to be a police officer in the state of Ohio. Officer Hoffman served as dispatcher, then a Deputy for the Summit County Sheriff's Office for the past 4 years where he received extensive training in police communications, patrol tactics as well as inmate and jail training. Officer Hoffman is a very welcome addition to our department.





Jacqueline Racut was hired as a part-time dispatcher in 2021. Dispatcher Racut is an Independence, Ohio resident and a graduate from Berea Mid Park High School. Jacqueline came highly recommended from another one of our dispatchers; she has passed a department background investigation, as well as, in-depth testing and assessment conducted by an independent firm. Dispatcher Racut is highly motivated, was eager to begin her employment with the village and is a very good addition to our dispatch staff.



Officer Joel Meister passed all the necessary requirements and became an official member of the Metro SWAT Team as a Tactical Operator. This is a very demanding assignment and it was a long and tedious process to become a member of the SWAT Team. Officer Meister was awarded Metro SWAT Fitness Award in 2021, which is a very significant accomplishment. He also applied for a position on the team as a sniper and was accepted. These



are very demanding assignments that require a lot of self discipline and personnel dedication. Joel Meister is 2017 graduate of the Polaris Career Center police academy and has been a Richfield Police Officer since January 2018. Joel served in the United States Navy from 2008-2016 and was stationed in Mississippi, Washington D.C. and India. He was also deployed to the Philippines, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Yemen and Guam. Officer Meister will be a great addition to the team where he will obtain invaluable training and experience that he will bring back to Richfield.

We are all excited as we move forward into 2022, with such an overall qualified staff. We will continue to focus on hiring highly qualified candidates through stringent protocols, with the ultimate goal being to provide the citizens of Richfield with the best possible police service we can.

Detective Bureau

In 2021, the detective bureau was staffed by Detective John Petrovich and Detective Ryan Kellackey. Detective Petrovich also serves on the Metro SWAT Team as the Command Staff Administrator. The detective bureau still maintains a close working relationship with School Resource Officer Scott Dressler to address investigations involving juveniles.

In 2021 the detective bureau investigated 156 cases. Among the investigations were 84-thefts/fraud/receiving stolen property, 3-assaults/domestics, 14-sex crimes, 6-harassment/menacing cases, 1-missing person, 7-deaths, 3-B&Es and 1-burglary.

Seven search warrants were prepared and served in 2021, along with numerous subpoenas and court orders. Additionally, 24-felony arrest warrants and 10-misdemeanor arrest warrants were obtained in 2021.

Below are photos taken by a Richfield resident who returned home to find two suspects breaking into her garage. Investigation linked the suspect to a sperate burglary investigation that occurred in Richfield. The suspect was identified as Dwight Armor, and warrants for his arrest were issued.

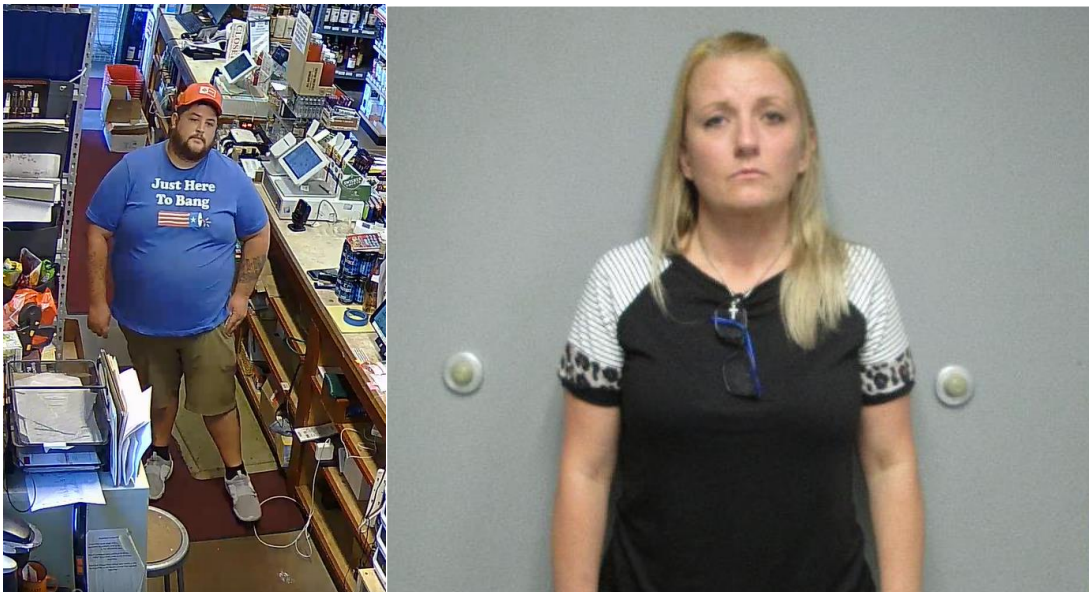


All of the case work involves countless hours of investigation which includes, but is not limited to, crime scene processing, victim-witness and suspect interviews, surveillance, report writing and warrant preparation. Additionally, many hours are spent coordinating efforts with the Summit County Common 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 after a pursuit ended with the suspect crashing his vehicle into the front yard of a residence in Bath Township. After crashing the suspect fled on foot and was located hiding in a nearby wooded area. Toxicology analysis conducted on the suspect's blood determined that he had overdose levels of amphetamine present in his system at the time of the pursuit. He was charged with felony fleeing and OVI.

The pictures below are related to several embezzlement cases the detective bureau investigated in 2021. The total suspected losses to the four victim businesses totaled over \$54,000. All four cases were cleared with charges of grand theft filed against the employees.



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 and references. The background investigation process is similar to any other investigation, which is why it's typically assigned to the detective bureau.

Communications Division

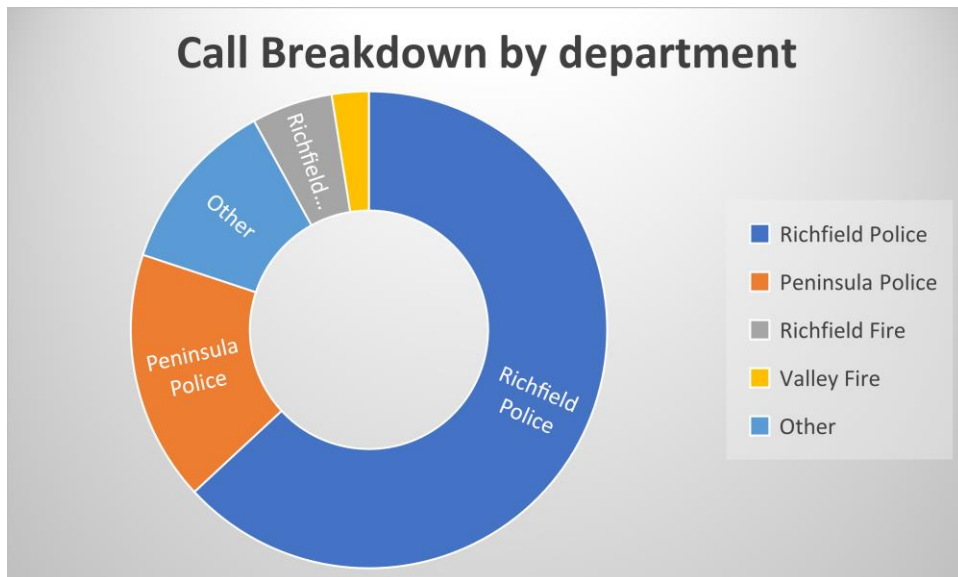
The communications division of the Richfield Police Department is supervised by Tim Baker. There are seven (7) full-time and five (5) part-time dispatcher that, in 2021 were responsible for all communications incoming and outgoing for the following communities;

Richfield Village	Police, Fire, EMS and Service Departments
Richfield Township	Police, Fire, EMS and Service Departments
Village of Peninsula	Police and Service Departments
Valley Fire (Peninsula, Boston Twp. and Boston Hts.)	Fire and EMS Services

At the end of 2021, Peninsula Police and Valley Fire have changed dispatching services to the City of Hudson. This will not change our operations here for our Richfield residence.

The dispatch center fielded 25,226 calls for service in 2021.

Richfield Police	15,916
Peninsula Police	4,287
Richfield Fire	1,388
Valley Fire	635



With the continuing battle of Covid-19, our dispatchers continue their questioning on calls for both Police and Fire this is for the safety of all responding units. This will give responding officers and fire personnel safety measures when responding to calls.

In an effort to keep our dispatchers safe, we have closed our center to no visitors or any other employees of the Village. Our center is a vital operation and cannot afford to have employees off sick for a period of time.

We continued to train our dispatchers in various trainings. Between all of our dispatchers, we spent over 200 hours in training the dispatchers. A few of the topics include:

- Domestic Violence
- Active Shooter Training
- Suicide Intervention
- 911 Liability
- Protecting Emergency Responders
- Stress Identification Management
- Non-Emergency Call Handling

We hope to increase our trainings in 2022.



School Resource Officer

Officer Scott Dressler is the Revere School District, School Resource Officer (SRO) and started his 4th year as the school resource officer at Revere Local Schools. For 2021 he wrote, we were able to do many security upgrades during the year with the help of safety grants. We implemented School Guard. This security feature allows the school to receive real time information during a threat or crisis. It also allows staff to communicate with each other and directly to 911 operators. I was able to speak at the Ohio Collaborative meeting about dealing with juveniles. The collaborative group is looking to set standards in the state of Ohio for dealing with juveniles. We continued the food pantry over the summer. We changed it this year to offer two gift cards weekly to families. We helped 20 families a week. We completed our 3-year compliance with Ohio Department of Education for doing safety drills. We dealt with several threats during the year. These threats were investigated by law enforcement and myself and were found out to be false. We supplied 23 families with gift cards and cookies for the holidays. We worked on and adopted an all-hazard plan for the district. This plan will serve as an emergency plan for any major type of event in the district. The safety forces from Bath and Richfield worked diligently on this with the school administration. We purchased a gun safe for my office with security grant money. This safe will be used for holding evidence or confiscated items. It also has emergency plans and building access cards. All local departments have had a tour of the buildings and are aware of the contents of the safe. In the spring we had a senior parade and mock crash/prom promise event. We used grant money to put new numbers on the exterior of the high school. These numbers are used for the safety forces to clearly define where they need to go. Throughout the year we have had many instances where police and fire were needed at the schools. The safety forces of both communities have worked great together to make sure all the staff, students and visitors are safe on a daily basis. The professionalism and presence by the safety forces are making a huge difference in these students' lives.



Animal Control

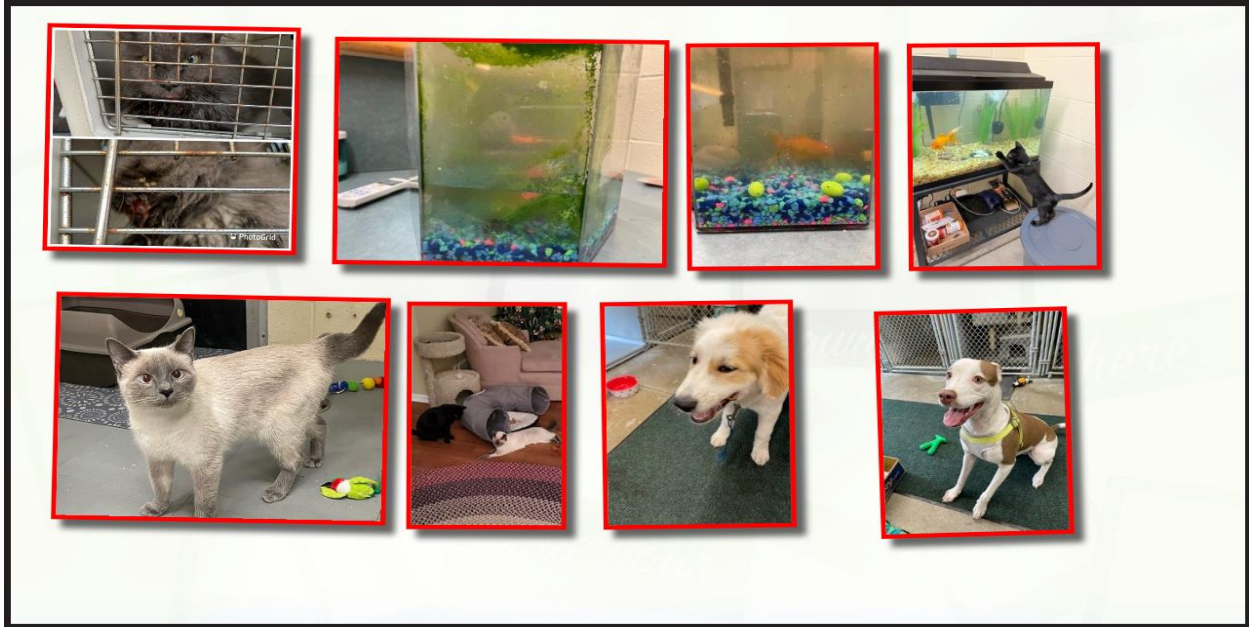
Dog Warden Patricia Horn

Wow, my first year as Animal Control flew by. I've met a lot of great people and pets, went out on some interesting calls and had my heart broken, by a dog named Peanut.

In 2021, there were 365 calls for service: 132 for animals at large/lost (14 of those were in Peninsula), 19 noise complaints (3 Peninsula), 134 misc. calls which ranged from Bees, Bobcat to Bears (14 Peninsula). Between June 8th and August 25th, I assisted a blind/sick/elderly resident and her senior dog with any task that was needed a total of 28 times before the resident was admitted into the hospital and her dog surrendered to the kennel by the family. During this time, I grew quite fond of them. I was unable to find a suitable rescue for 14/16-year-old Dachshund Peanut with his arthritis and a heart condition. In the six weeks I had peanut's company, I bathed, brushed and got his nails to a comfortable length, we went on 2-4 short walks daily and he truly enjoyed the attention and getting outside. The resident/owner passed away September 26th in hospital and her companion Peanut had to be humanly euthanized just a week later on October 4th, due to his existing heart issue.



We had a total of 75 animals in kennel this year: 34 dogs, 37 cats and 4 others. 29 went home/claimed by owner, 21 went to a rescue to be put up for adoption and 24 had other out-comes for example 15 cats were transferred to the humane society because they had an open neglect/abandoned case on them, 2 cats were feral and 2 dogs were transferred to Summit County animal control because they were too dangerous & aggressive to safely adopt into homes and 3 animals were taken to Metro animal hospital due to illness or injury. The goldfish abandoned in a rental property has a home in the kennel with me.



I maintain a binder with pictures and all information related to all animals housed in the kennel.

I have a few dogs and their owners I got to know quite well this year due to the dog's desire to run, 2 yellow labs Finnegan & Jake, a black and white border collie named Rowdy and a black standard poodle, Taylor. Jake and Taylor did not wear any ID, I gave them both tags with contact information and "knock-on wood", I have not gotten more complaints on either. I can't stress enough the importance of tags or better yet a micro-chip for your pets, it is a wonderful feeling for me to find an owner of a lost cat or dog within minutes of taking custody of them. There was a dog found in Peninsula by Horse Shoe Pond, I found she had a micro-chip and contacted the owner, who responded immediately to pick up Harley, she had been lost for 2 days in the park. During an April 1st snow storm there was a multi vehicle pileup on 77, one of the people transported to hospital had a dog in the car with her. I responded and brought the dog named "Taurus" back to the kennel for the day, and Taurus was released to her owner when she was released from the hospital.

My main responsibility is domestic animals, however; I will go out on almost any call and do whatever I can. For example, the deer on Oviatt who tried to squeeze between a fence post and gate, she got stuck at her hips and could not get out. I simply pulled her backwards thru the posts, she stood up and trotted away. A young buck who got his antlers hopelessly tangled in someone's clothes line, as I stood there, dumbfounded, I was mentally going over all the tools I had in my bag and nail clippers were the only thing I had. So, with the help of Sgt. Fyffe and the turnpike maintenance crew we were able to cut the clothes line and free the buck. I transported an injured turkey vulture with a badly broken wing, a water duck with injuries to his beak and neck and a cat with a severely infected and broken jaw to Metro Vet hospital where they assess the injuries and help when they can or humanly euthanize if needed. I assisted a terrified township resident who thought she had a bat hanging in her grill cover. I thought, what is the worst that can happen. I untied the grill cover and removed it to find a wind-spinner decoration, the resident was embarrassed and very thankful.

Another of my many calls for service, I received a call about a snake in a residence on Revere Road. Thinking it was probably a female, afraid of the snake, I responded only to find a husband and wife guarding themselves against the small milk snake with oven mitts and 2 brooms duct taped together. I removed the snake and let it go in.



In closing, it has been a joy and pleasure to help the animals and people I've come in contact with in 2021 and I look forward to serving the community in 2022.

Training

In the law enforcement profession, training and education are a vital aspect for continued growth of the Richfield Police Department. It is essential for the Department's members to attend various types of training to maintain proficiency and further develop their skills and abilities. Some of the training is mandatory for the members, both sworn and nonsworn, to maintain certain certifications, as well as keeping current with changes in laws and current trends of the law enforcement profession.

The Richfield Police Department seeks to provide ongoing training and encourages all personnel to participate in advanced training and formal education on a continual basis. Training is provided within the confines of funding, requirements of a given assignment, staffing levels and legal mandates. The objectives of the training program are to:

- a. Enhance the level of law enforcement service to the public.
- b. Increase the technical expertise and overall effectiveness of Department personnel.
- c. Provide for continued professional development of Department personnel.
- d. Assist in compliance with statutory requirements.

In 2020, the Richfield Police Department provided approximately 1,080 hours of training, both in-house and outside the agency. In 2021 the Richfield Police Department provided approximately 1,297 hours of training which exceeded our goal from 2020. The Richfield Police Department will again strive to go above and beyond the 1,297 hours of training in 2022.

The Richfield Police Department is to administer a training program that will meet Department or nationally recognized standards and provide for the professional growth and continued development of its personnel. By doing so, the Department seeks to ensure its personnel possess the knowledge and skills necessary to provide a professional level of service that meets the needs of the public. The Richfield Police Department policy contains content that pertains to Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification (OCLEAC) Standards

Returning in the year of 2022 is the Continuing Professional Training (CPT) mandate, in which will require every peace officer in Ohio to complete 24 hours of state mandated training this calendar year. This mandate was not in effect for a couple of years and reinstated this year. The Richfield Police Department will soon be receiving a payment from the state that can be used to cover some of the costs associated with providing Continuing Professional Training. The Richfield Police Department will then in turn have to send a report to the state of Ohio on how its officers received this training. To assist the Richfield Police Department in completing this mandate the Richfield Police entered into an agreement with Police One Academy a division of Lexipol.

This training can be completed in-house, with series of training videos and once completed sent to the state of Ohio to complete its Continuing Professional Training Mandate.

Sixteen hours of CPT must come from the following list (the first category plus three of the others):

- Diversity, Inclusion, Equity: 4 hours (mandatory)
- Responding to Mental Health: 4 hours
- Use of Force: 4 hours
- Legal Updates: 4 hours
- Officer Personal Wellness: 4 hours
- Responding to Sexual Assaults: 4 hours
- Domestic Violence: 4 hours
- For the final eight hours of training:

Categories may come from two of the remaining three categories that are listed above. Categories may come from the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board standards (categories already named in the top list are not repeated here):

- Law Enforcement Response to Mass Protests/Demonstrations
- Standards for Law Enforcement Vehicular Pursuit
- Investigation of Employee Misconduct
- Bias Free Policing
- Law Enforcement Telecommunicator Training
- Body Worn Cameras
- Use of Deadly Force
- Employee Recruitment and Hiring
- Community Engagement
- Agency Wellness

The Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins (DTBs) are a web-accessed system that provides training on the Richfield Police Department Policy Manual and other important topics. Generally, one training bulletin is available for each day of the month.

The Daily Training Bulletins uses the IRAC method which is a framework for logical method of applying rule of law to facts. The basic structure is: Issue, Rule, Analysis, and Conclusion. This method is taught in our nation's law schools. The first set of Daily Training Bulletins are related to the Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification Standards. Each training bulletin will have a question related to the policy. These training bulletins are to keep Richfield Officers current on policies, directly linked to Richfield policies, and to be a positive experience.



This past year, every sworn officer attended a number of Use of Force Trainings which included de-escalation techniques. Richfield Officers who are authorized to carry the Electronic Control Weapon, shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the annual department-approved training by Officer Prhne. This past year Officer Randolph completed his training in Subject Control and Impact Weapons and in turn conducted a series of department-approved trainings at Revere Middle School. Officer Randolph is also organizing with the Bath Police Department a joint Subject Control Training Session



All officers continued to attend annual training in force options scenario training where decision making and stress response are tested. Richfield Officers attended Engage Virtual Range to routinely utilize de-escalation techniques in their job in law enforcement. If they aren't regularly practiced in an educational environment, these skills may not be deployed in a way that always produces a positive outcome. The Engage Range and our Range Officers created a simulated training environment for Richfield Officers to practice essential and potentially life-saving drills.

Benefits of the Engage Virtual Range simulator training: judgmental and circumstantial training, lifelike and realistic settings, shoot / don't shoot situations, less-than-lethal scenarios, controlled stress and active response scenarios, and authentic sim guns with realistic recoil.



Richfield Officers are continuing to receive training on driving skills through a Cuyahoga Falls Company “DriveTeam.” Drive Team has trained police officers and sheriff’s deputies from 120 law enforcement agencies across the State of Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and other States across the U.S. with training in Emergency Response. Richfield Officers learned Evasive Maneuvering, Braking Techniques, ABS, Threshold Braking, Driver/Vehicle Limits, Advanced Vehicle Dynamics, Safe and Effective Emergency Response Driving.



The Richfield Police Department was approached by surrounding agencies in 2020 in response to today’s times of Civil Disorder. A Mutual Aid Agreement was made with surrounding agencies including: Bath, Copley, Tallmadge, Fairlawn, University of Akron, Hudson, Stow, and the Summit County Sherriff. Eleven Richfield Officers were trained in planning police actions to effectively manage civil disorder incidents. The trainings occur within the above jurisdictions in a quarterly manner. Tactics for effectivity dealing with civil disorder, violent protests, officer rescue, and looters. Tactics also trained were for arrests and removing violent persons, rapid mobilizations, and deployment of police resources.

The Richfield Police Department also sent a portion of its officers to a Two-Day class in Advanced Patrol Tactics hosted by the Metro SWAT team Members. The goal of this course is to provide the patrol officer with a set of principles to help them safely and effectively deal with combative subjects in a wide array of situations and arenas. The officers will be able to apply the principles to building searches, vehicle stops and high-risk vehicle stops. The class focused on manipulation of the Richfield Departments side arm and rifle in a safe and efficient manner. In turn the Richfield officers will be able to employ these tactics in a solo or group environment.



In addition to the approximate 1,297 hours of training attended, several Richfield Officers received certification some of the highlighted courses are: Advanced Search and Seizure classes, Advanced Traffic Stops, Vehicle Pursuit Supervision Training Crisis Intervention Training, Mobile Field Force FEMA Training, Technology/Social Media Training, and De-escalation, Intervention & Force Mitigation Training. Officers received advanced training in these areas which allows them to quickly and efficiently pass along the knowledge and certification to the rest of the Department without adding additional cost. We look forward to more of our officers becoming certified instructors in other areas in 2022.

Property Room



The proficiency of the property room often makes the difference in a successful outcome of a criminal case. 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.

Many pieces of evidence are submitted to the crime lab each year for analysis and this process is managed through 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.

The day-to-day operations of the property room are managed among two officers on their respective shifts while also performing their other assigned duties. SRO Scott Dressler and Officer Bart Randolph ensure that these duties are performed.

Examples of evidence/property that was collected this year.



Large amounts of marijuana, money (including counterfeit money), and felony drugs are just a few items that were taken from the streets and logged into our property room here at the Richfield Police Department. This year alone, 337 items were entered into our property room.



Summit Metro Crash Response Team



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, Boston Heights, Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Hudson, Norton, Macedonia, Peninsula, Richfield, Summit County Metro Parks, Silver Lake, Stow, Twinsburg, Streetsboro, and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. SMcRT also works closely with the Summit County Engineer's Office, the Summit County Medical Examiner, and our municipal and county prosecutor's offices.

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 Reconstructionist 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 Reconstructionist in data collection and evidence preservation.

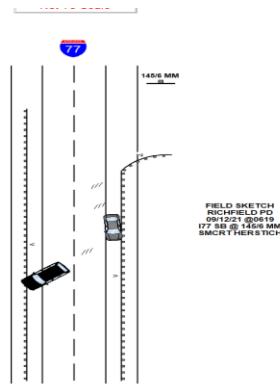
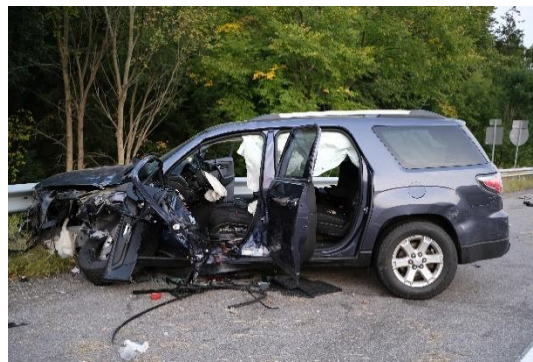
The Unit is investigative only and does not initiate any enforcement action. Investigators support and advise the requesting agency as to the causes and factors involved in the crash and can provide an agency with a professional and scientific analysis and reconstruction of a serious crash. Participation 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.

Patrolman Michael Testa is an active member of the SMcRT and has been a team member since 2021. Patrolman Testa is a Level 1 Traffic Crash Investigator.

The Summit Metro Crash Response team holds training once per month with the exceptions of June, July and August. Officer Testa responded to multiple serious injury/fatal crashes in 2021.

During 2021, Richfield did not have any fatal accidents. There were a few accidents with reported injuries on scene. Richfield Police Officers have made traffic enforcement a high priority. Due to the increase in traffic enforcement, we believe that this could contribute to the less serious traffic accidents and fatal traffic accidents. Also, the speed signs located around town is believed to give us an accurate representation of problem areas within Richfield that could use more traffic control. Richfield Officers are working hard to ensure the safety of all citizens who live or commute in our area.

The SMCRT responded to one crash in Richfield that resulted in serious injury. The driver of a vehicle was standing outside of their vehicle after being in a single car accident. The driver was subsequently hit while they were outside of their vehicle and had to be Life Flighted from the scene. The driver ultimately had both of their legs amputated.



Richfield Crash Statistics

Interstate 77	Interstate 271	Village/Township Roads	Total
83	26	79	188

Fatal	Serious Injury	Minor Injury	Injury Possible	Property Damage
0	5	14	25	144

Firearms/Range



The Richfield Range and Firearms training program consists of (3) range instructors. Ptl. Padula and Ptl. Sprit mainly concentrate on the pistol and shotgun qualifications. Sgt. Gaydosh focusses on the rifle program and oversees the total program's structure.

Officers were issued a new M&P pistol this year after the approval by Mayor Wheeler. Officers are required to qualify with their duty, off duty, and back up pistols every year. Shotgun and rifle qualifications are also maintained on a yearly basis. Along with qualifications, Officers are challenged and skills tested in various tactical applications and use of firearms. This involves decision making, transition to less than lethal options and accuracy. The new equipment had a positive impact on the training.

Our current pistol range was upgraded this year with the repair and addition of new steel backer plates. This will add to the safety and function of the range for years to come.

The department used approximately 7,000 pistol rounds, 5,000 rifle rounds, 250 shotgun rounds and 25 less than lethal rounds in the various trainings. The rifle program was also updated this year after the approval by Mayor Wheeler to implement new M&P 15 patrol rifles. All the rifles are equipped with a light system and a fast acquisition sight for improved accuracy. The cruisers now are outfitted with like equipment, which is important when officers respond to critical calls requiring specialized applications.

The department utilized the Engage Virtual range located in Medina for situational training. We were able to incorporate shoot/don't shoot training, de-escalation and transitional weapons concepts. This gave officers a broader training base and practice with different scenarios and likely outcomes. Several officers were also able to attend specialized training put on by Metro SWAT. Covid 19 was still a factor in our training this year, safety precautions were implemented so training could continue.



Police Vehicles

The Richfield Police Vehicle Annual Report 2021



The Richfield Police Cruisers are easily identified and recognized as protectors of peace. They are Black with White Letters and Numbers on the license plate, American Flag design, and a reflective strip on the back. In 2020 Chief Swanson allowed Officers to design new graphics for the new Patrol Cars which will be replacing the old graphics as we replace the fleet.

New Patrol Car Graphics



The Richfield Police Department added two new Police Rated Ford Explorer Hybrid SUV'S to marked patrol division. The new Ford Explorer Hybrid vehicles were put to the test of the rigorous use as a Police vehicle throughout the year. The vehicles were found to be substandard compared to the Eco Boost Explorer's purchased the year before. The Police Department will purchase two new Police Rated Ford Explore Eco Boost patrol cars for 2022. Cars 03 and 07 will be taken out of service in 2022. Michigan State Police has done a study on all patrol vehicles you can go to this link for further information:

[MY2022PoliceVehicleEvaluationTestBook_742651_7.pdf \(michigan.gov\)](#)

The Cruiser Inventory of vehicles presently consists of 13 vehicles. Within the Cruiser Inventory are Ten Marked Road Patrol Units, and Three Unmarked Units. The 10 marked patrol cars all have also been outfitted with all new patrol rifles with lighting systems.

The marked road patrol cruisers are equipped including: communication equipment, emergency lighting, crash equipment, weapon retention equipment, mobile data terminals, automated external defibrillator (AED) which also contain two doses of Narcan, and in-car video cameras. The in-car video system is now paired with body-worn cameras that officers wear throughout their shift. The marked road patrol cruisers 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. Lastly, located in the trunk of each marked patrol cruiser are: Ballistic shields, flak jackets, helmets, low profile police uniforms, and chemical suits in addition are gas masks for our first responder police officers.



Police Interceptor, Police Rated Explorer and Chevrolet Police Tahoe

Car #01	2016 Ford Police Explorer (SRO)	101278 Miles
Car #02	2019 Ford Police Explorer	47329 Miles
Car #03	2018 Ford Police Explorer	87560 Miles
Car #04	2019 Ford Police Explorer	29968 Miles
Car #05	2019 Ford Police Explorer	29058 Miles
Car #06	2020 Ford Police Hybrid	21658 Miles
Car #07	2018 Ford Police Interceptor	90486 Miles
Car #08	2020 Ford Police Hybrid	27689 Miles
Car #09	2019 Chevrolet Police Tahoe	81139 Miles
Car #10	2019 Chevrolet Police Tahoe	61134 Miles

Total miles driven on patrol in 2021 is approximately 225,558 miles which is up 2,000 miles from 2020. This is almost 618 miles of patrol per day in a 24-hour time period.

In addition to the Richfield Police Cruiser Inventory are two vehicles assigned to the Detective Bureau, and one vehicle assigned to Chief of Police. 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. Fyffe, Ptl. Michel, and the Village's mechanics Chuck Soulek, Ken Horn, and John Luther. 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.



SAFETY TOWN

This year for Safety Town was a new beginning. We combined Richfield and Bath's Safety Town and made it the Revere Safety Town. The program was also privately funded by Revere Schools Foundation, WAGS Wealth Advisory, Mellion Orthodontics and Fairlawn Rotary Club. We also accepted children who did not get to go last year due to the COVID cancellation. We had a representative from all the safety forces help create, teach and lead Safety Town. The representatives were, Geoff Kuzas from Bath Fire Department, Stacie Houser from Bath Police department, Kevin Urban from Richfield Fire department and Scott Dressler from Richfield Police department. This year with the number of students we had, we ran two weeks and each week had two sessions. We had a 126 Revere student volunteers and over 250 students attend Safety Town. The students learned about, fire safety, stranger danger, good touch, bad touch, self-defense, 911 and dispatchers, water safety, animal safety, first aid and many other topics. This year each student received a draw string book bag and a shirt. We look forward to improving Safety Town and making it a lasting memory for all of those involved. We would also like to thank Bath and Richfield safety forces, Bath Township, Richfield Village and the Revere Schools for all of the support this year and moving forward.



Metro SWAT

Police Officers from Summit and Portage Counties make up the Critical Response Rescue Team known as Metro SWAT. The team has 20 member jurisdictions with officers assigned to the team. Richfield Police department is an active member of Metro SWAT and currently has two members assigned to the team.

Officer Joel Meister is a tactical officer and sniper with the team.



The Metro SWAT team is activated when a crisis situation develops. The team is trained to handle problems that a regular police unit is neither equipped nor trained to handle such as active shooters, snipers, hostage incidents, barricaded suspects, violent felons, large scale search areas and VIP dignitary protection.

Detective John Petrovich serves on the command staff of Metro SWAT as the Administrator.



In 2021, Metro SWAT responded to 11 calls for service, ranging from high-risk arrest warrants, high risk search warrants and barricaded subjects. The Metro SWAT Team currently has 47 members including command staff, doctors, medics and negotiators. These members are on call 24/7 365 days of the year. Current member jurisdictions are: Aurora, Boston Hts, Brimfield Twp, Copley Twp, Fairlawn, Hudson, Kent, Kent State, Macedonia, Munroe Falls, Northfield Village, Peninsula/Boston Twp, Ravenna, Richfield Village/Twp, Sagamore Hills, Silver Lake, Springfield Twp, Stow, Streetsboro and Twinsburg.

The Metro SWAT team stands ready to protect and serve the citizens of Richfield Village and Township whenever their services are needed. Stop and see our SWAT members and some of their equipment during Community Days this summer.

B.A.C. Datamaster

(Blood Alcohol Content)

Sergeant Chris Fyffe is responsible for the Breathalyzer Equipment; Patrolman Michael Testa 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 consumption. 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. Fyffe with Ptl. Testa assisting. The instrument checks are done to ensure 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 five Senior Operators and two 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. Five officers are slated to receive Senior Operator training in 2022.

The B.A.C Datamaster was used 43 times by four different Law Enforcement Agencies, from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 for OVI’s and alcohol related calls for service.

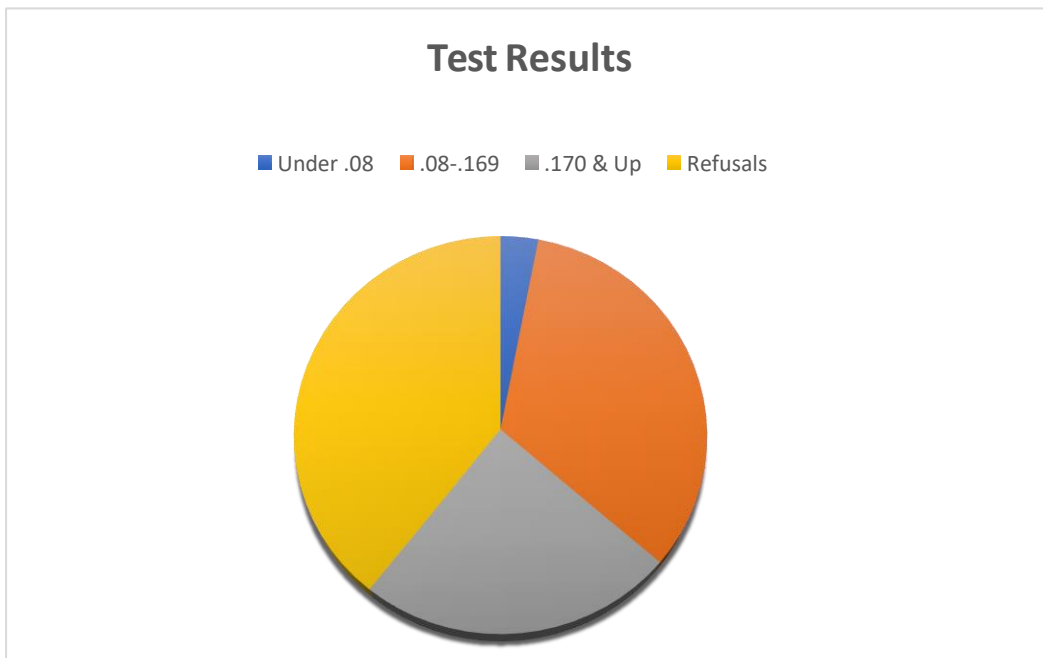
<u>Agencies</u>	<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Richfield Police	34	27	7
Peninsula Police	5	4	1
Ohio Highway Patrol	3	2	1
National Park Service	1	0	1
Totals	43	33	10

<u>Break Down by Test Results</u>	
Under .08	3
.08-.169	4
.170 and up	13
Refusals	23
Faulty Machine	0
Highest Test Given	0.325

The Following is a breakdown of the B.A.C Datamaster for 2021.

<u>Breakdown by Shift</u>	
Day Shift	2
Afternoon Shift	14
Midnight Shift	27
Total	43

<u>Breakdown by Month</u>			
January	5	July	3
February	5	August	4
March	2	September	4
April	3	October	4
May	4	November	3
June	2	December	4



The B.A.C Datamaster was also used by several Police agencies from surrounding Counties for proficiency testing of officers. Statistics nationwide reveal that impaired drivers cause a fatal accident once every fifteen minutes. The number listed in this report do not tell how many lives may have been saved by removing 43 OVI suspects from the roads. Fortunately, we will never know because they were taken off our roads before a fatality occurred.

Richfield Jail



The Richfield Jail Staff are expected to follow and maintain the standards set forth by the state of Ohio. The Richfield jail is located within the police department; the facility consists of three 12-day jail cells a holding cell, and a detox cell. 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 Road Patrol officers. The detainee is evaluated by a Booking Officer (Road Patrol) to determine what classification the arrestee is to held under.

The Richfield Jail staff along with Richfield Road Patrol sustain their duties in a manner that will preserve the high standards of professionalism expected by the community of Richfield. The Richfield Jail has policies and procedures to direct staff members in the performance of their job, tasks, and duties while inmates reside in the jail. These policies and procedures along with an onsite inspection are reviewed annually by the State of Ohio. The inspection consists of assessing compliance of the Richfield Jail with a group of standards, selected from the Standards for Jails in Ohio formulated by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The Richfield Jail is in compliance with 100% of the Essential Standards and at least 90% of the Important Standards meeting the requirements of a "Compliant Jail", for 2021.



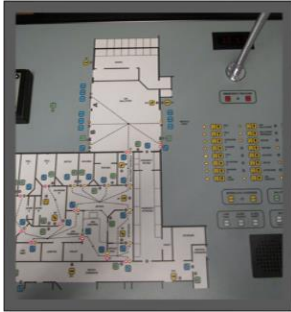
View Looking into Dayroom A and Cell #1

View looking out from Cell #2 into Dayroom A

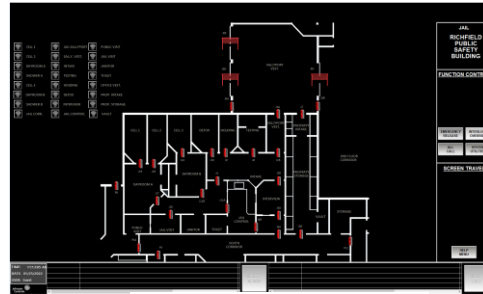


The Richfield Jail is staffed by all members of the Patrol Division. In 2021, the Jail Staff consisted of Jail Assistant Administrator Officer Tony Padula, and Jail Assistant Officer Joel Meister who are responsible for the day-to-day activities. The Richfield Jail Staff are responsible for weekly jail checks, and maintaining standards set forth by the state of Ohio to continue the title of a “Compliant Jail”. In the upcoming year Sgt. Robert Gaydosh will be responsible for the day-to-day activities along with Officer Joel Meister.

The Richfield Jail Staff belongs to the North Coast Correction Manager's Association (NCCMA). The association is comprised of Jail Administrators, Corrections Officers from County Agencies, Local Municipalities, and State Correctional Facilities throughout the region. Meeting several times, a year fosters a collaboration and sharing of information between State, County, and Local agencies to improve processes and provide continuing education for Administrators and Corrections Officers.



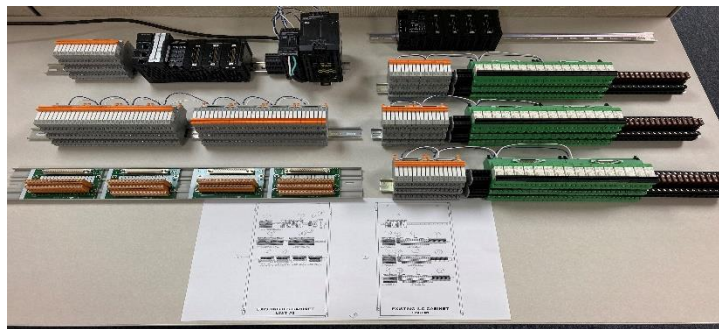
Old Control Panel



New Jail Control Panel

The Richfield Police Department is replacing the 20-year-old jail control panels. The new jail control panels are being built by Integrated Security Safety Systems. The Integrated Security Safety System will be installed by Johnson Controls. The system to be installed is non-proprietary Head-End equipment and utilize the existing peripherals and field wiring that is located throughout the facility. The Head-End Equipment will control door locks within the Richfield Jail, Sallyport doors, as well as exterior and interior doors within the police department.

Touch screen works station are to replace the current graphic panels. One panel is located in our Jail Control Room, and the other panel is located in our Dispatch Center. The current panels will be replaced by a new Desk Top Type Operator Touch Monitor. Each new center will have the capability to control/monitor the entire facility through on-screen capabilities. Digital Intercommunication Systems to replace the current intercom and page analogue system. Uninterruptible power supplies will also be provided with this equipment.



The Richfield Police Department will temporarily shut down all jail operations for one week during the installation. The project estimated time to complete is seven days. The exact week of installation is to be determined; once panels are fabricated, the panels will be installed. An agreement for the boarding of prisoners with the City of Macedonia Jail is our alternate housing of inmates during the renovations.

In 2021 the Richfield Jail continued its partnership with University Hospitals Ahuja Medical Center, as our Medical Control under the direction of Dr. Anthony Daher. Dr. Daher and the staff are available on a 24-hour basis to handle medical situations that occur within the jail. Ahuja Medical Center continues to provide meals for inmates under the direction of Steve Savanick, General Manager of Nutritional Services. Dr. Daher is also responsible in training the Richfield Police Department Officers on such issues as: Medical Intake of Inmates, Suicide Prevention, and lastly educate the officers of the Opioid Epidemic and how it relates to the Richfield Jail.

In 2021, the Richfield Jail had a total of 86 prisoners, the offenses ranged from: Warrants, Alcohol Involved Arrests, Violent Crimes, Theft and Fraud, Drug Involved Crimes, Fleeing, Domestic Violence, Stolen Vehicle, Felony Warrants. Felony Warrants are initially processed through Richfield Jail and then transferred to Summit County Jail to await trial. The Richfield Jail held prisoners for an approximate total of 297 hours for the following offenses.

The Richfield Police Department continues to follow the direction of the State of Ohio recommendations. Akron Municipal Court had strict policies put in place of seeing offenders in person and closed down for a short period of time for COVID-19. Summit County Jail also had strict policies put in place of who could be housed within their jail. Offenders, both with misdemeanor charges and certain felony charges, were given a summons with a court date. Upon entrance into the Richfield Jail, a COVID-19 screening form was completed. If the offender had any symptoms, they were asked if they needed medical attention and were immediately released from custody with a summons. The jail would then be thoroughly decontaminated upon release of the prisoner.

Remote court appearances were used whenever possible and inmate face-to-face contact was limited. The Richfield Jail took a similar approach and limited contact with inmates as much as possible. PPE was always used and inmates were often placed in masks as well. We were able to use ZOOM for both officers and offenders who had court dates.

Blood Drive



Thank you!!!

Thank you to many of you who continue to donate to such a great cause, if it wasn't for you, we would not have had the successful collections in 2021.

The Police Department continues to host blood drives every three months to help support a great cause. In 2021 we were able to collect 137 pints of blood.

Many employees throughout the Village continue to contribute as well.

With the demand for blood and with the continued COVID 19 restrictions, we plan to keep drives scheduled and moving forward for the future.

Thank you to Mayor Wheeler for allowing us to continue this wonderful and rewarding venture.