

Richfield Police Department 2023 Annual Report



Officer NORI



Table of Contents

Letter of Introduction	3
Mission Statement	4
Current Organizational Chart	5
Law Enforcement History	6
Chiefs of Police	7
Personnel Information	8
Detective Bureau	11
Communications	15
Information Technology	17
School Resource Officer	18
Animal Control	19
Training	23
Property Room	27
Summit Metro Crash Team	30
Range/Firearms	32
Police Vehicles	33
Safety Town	35
Metro SWAT/Drone	36
B.A.C. Datamaster	38
Richfield Jail	40
Canine Unit	43
Employee Wellness	44
Community Policing	45



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, 2023

Mayor Wheeler,

On behalf of the Richfield Police Department, attached is our 2023 annual report. In 2023, we continued to work diligently to recruit applicants by attending recruiting events, joining the National Testing Network and by utilizing social media. We continue to recruit in the police academies and from other agencies, but the problem persists here and across the country--that there are just very few police applicants. With that being said, we have been able to maintain our staffing levels in both the police and dispatch departments in 2023.

In 2023, we reinstated our K-9 program with Officer Jacob Totten and K-9 Nori. Officers Totten and Nori attended over 200 hours of training and are now certified by the State of Ohio. It has been many years since we have had a K-9 program and we are all looking forward to the addition to our staff and the increased security for the community. I am proud to report that most of the program costs were funded through grants and donations.

Also in 2023, we instituted the Flock camera program, and six (6) cameras were installed to monitor incoming traffic entering Richfield. The program has been successful and adds an increased dimension of security to the Richfield community. In 2024, we are adding one additional camera which will cover most all the entry points to Richfield.

As we move forward into 2024, the police department staff continues and remains committed to providing the Richfield Community with the best police service possible with an increased focus on training, community policing and overall enforcement. Thank you for your continued support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

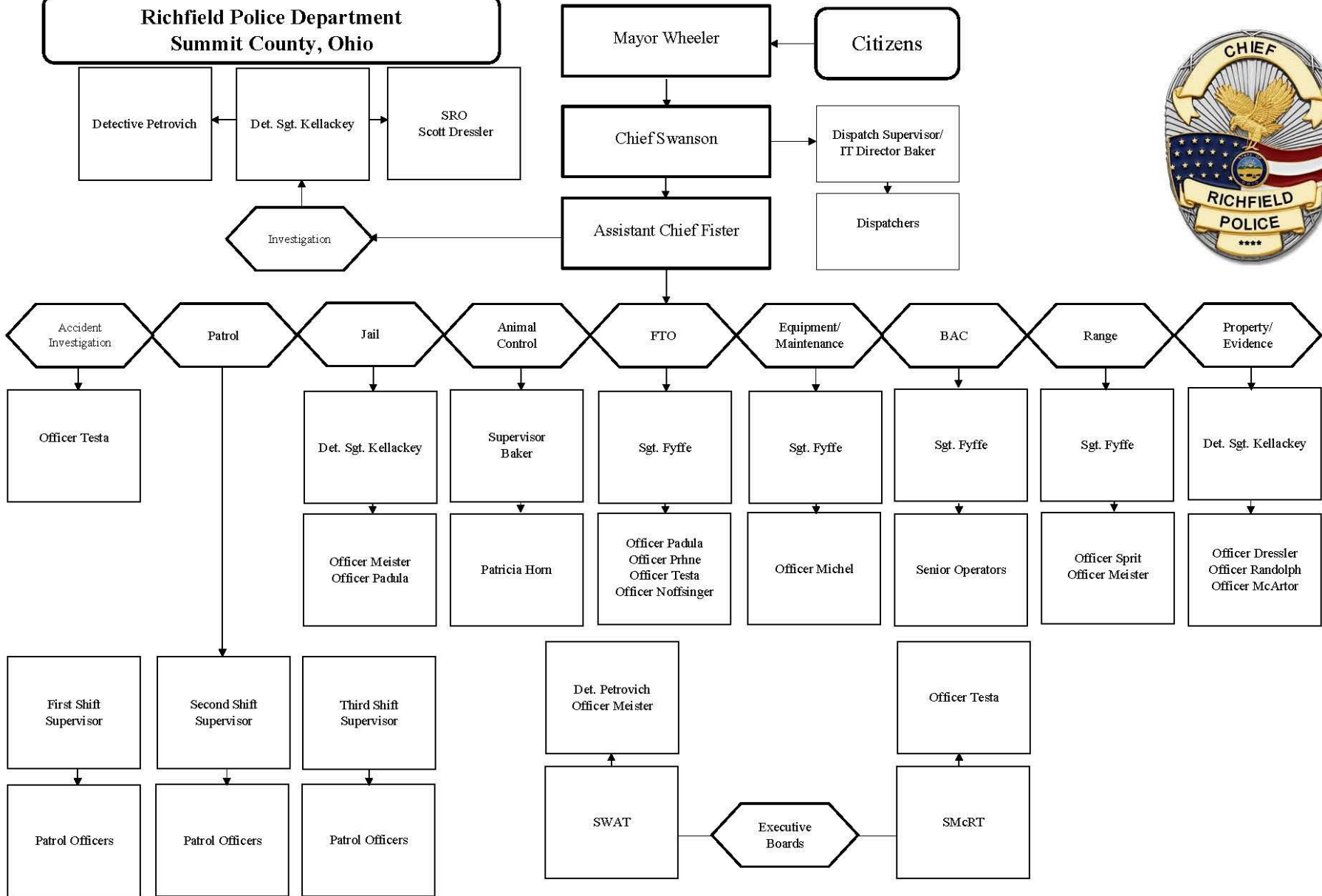
Michael Swanson,
Chief of Police

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 a 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

Personnel Information

In 2023, the Richfield Police Department was staffed with 33 employees as follows:

Chief

Assistant Chief

1-Patrol Sergeant

1-Detective Sergeant

1-Detective

1-School Resource Officer

13-Full-Time Officers

2-Part-Time Officers

1-Canine

1-Animal Control Officer

Dispatch Supervisor

7-Full-Time Dispatchers

4-Part-Time Dispatchers



To fill the ranks due to 2023 retirements/resignations, Officer Brett Lee was promoted to full-time officer, and Robert Moderwell was hired as a full-time officer. Officer Morgan Miller opted to resign her full-time officer position for a part-time officer position and Mazan Awad was hired as a part-time officer. K9 Nori entered our ranks with Officer Totten as his handler. Also, in 2023 we hired Shane Williamson as a full-time officer; however, he opted to return to the Wayne County Sheriff's Office where he transferred laterally from. Emma Noffsinger was hired as a part-time dispatcher and Liane Makrinos resigned her part-time dispatcher position.



Brett Lee was hired as a part-time officer on August 22, 2022, and was promoted to full-time on October 17, 2023. Brett attended the Kent State University Police Academy, is certified to be a police officer in the state of Ohio and graduated from Nordonia High School. Brett has a very large presence and a very calm demeanor. Brett has been a welcome addition to our department, and we look forward to him serving in a full-time capacity for the Richfield community.

Officer Robert Moderwell was sworn in on August 15, 2023, as a full-time officer after passing all departmental background requirements, as well as an in-depth assessment from an independent firm. Robert was a lateral transfer from the Lorain County Sheriff's Office where he served as a road patrol deputy. Prior to working for Lorain County Sheriff, Robert worked as a patrol officer for the Jackson Township Police Department and the Dover City Police Department, as well as a corrections deputy for the Summit County Sheriff. Robert brings a vast amount of training and experience to Richfield, and we look forward to him serving our community as a Richfield Police Officer.



Mazan Awad was sworn in on September 19, 2023, as a part-time officer after passing all departmental background requirements, as well as an in-depth assessment from an independent firm. Mazan Awad obtained his associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing. He then received a master's degree in Adult Geriatrics Acute Care/Nurse Practitioner and is currently employed with the Cleveland Clinic. Mazan previously worked as an Auxiliary Police Officer for the City of Inkster Michigan Police Department as well as several other hospitals. He recently attended Cuyahoga Community College's Police Academy and is certified to be a police officer in the state of Ohio. We are fortunate to have Mazan as a member of our department and look forward to him serving our community.

Officer Nori was sworn in on October 17, 2023. He is a Dutch Shepherd who was born in Holland on October 21st, 2021, and was shipped over to the United States in November of 2022. Nori has certifications in the fields of narcotic detection, tracking, and apprehension work. As a team Nori and Officer Totten have completed the 200 hours of mandatory dual purpose K9 training through Tri-State K9 Services and have been certified through the state of Ohio's "Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy." Nori has been certified to detect, crack and powder cocaine, heroin, MDMA/ecstasy, and methamphetamine. He has also had extensive training in the areas apprehending suspects, locating missing people, and searching areas for lost articles. We are looking forward to the addition of Officer Nori to our staff to further our commitment to protect and serve the Richfield community.



We are all excited as we move forward into 2024, with such qualified staff and the addition of K-9 Nori. We will continue to focus on hiring qualified candidates through stringent hiring protocols, with the goal being to provide the citizens of Richfield with the best possible police service we can.

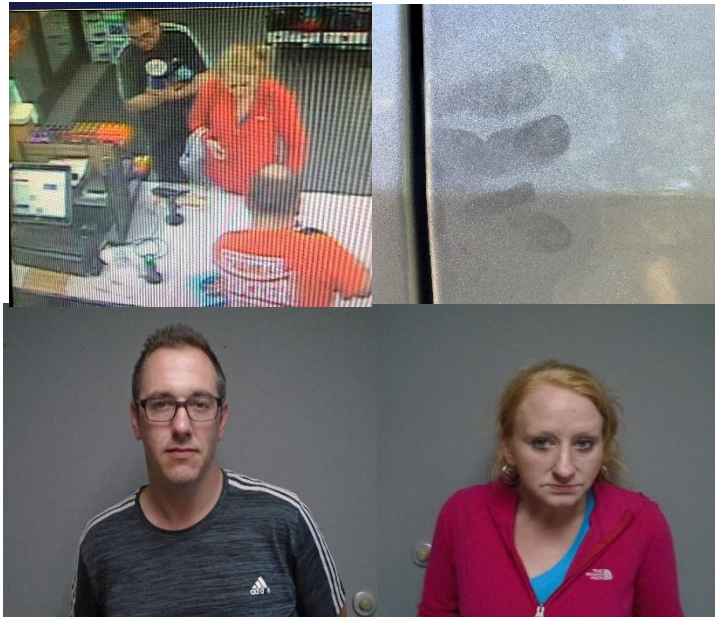
Detective Bureau

The detective bureau is currently staffed by Detective Sergeant Ryan Kellackey and Detective John Petrovich. 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 (SRO) Scott Dressler to address investigations involving juveniles.

In 2023 the detective bureau investigated 110 cases. Among the investigations were 57-thefts/fraud, 6-assaults/domestics, 7-sex crimes, 6-harassment/menacing cases, 1-missing person, 8-deaths, 4-B&E and 1-burglary.

Seven search warrants were prepared and served in 2023, along with numerous subpoenas and court orders. Additionally, 50-felony arrest warrants and 13-misdemeanor arrest warrants were issued in 2023.

Below are scene photos and booking photos from an investigation of numerous thefts, B&E's and burglaries that were committed on the same night on the same residential street this year. The investigation determined that two suspects broke into numerous vehicles, sheds and one home on the same night. Both suspects were located at an area hotel, arrested and charged with 13 crimes and are currently in the court process.



All 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

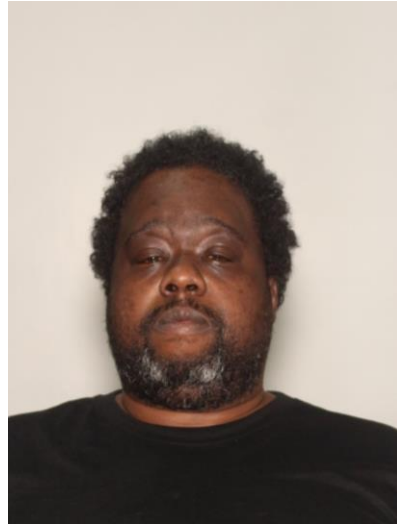
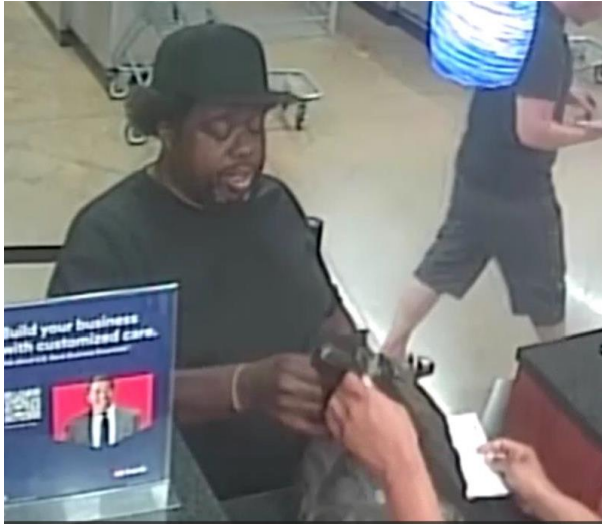
County Common Pleas Court, the Akron Municipal Court, the Summit County Juvenile Court, and their prosecutor's offices, as well as other state and federal agencies.

The detective bureau was also able to recover over \$65,500 for victims of crimes because of investigations conducted in 2023, including \$25,000 to an elderly victim of wire fraud. Detectives held numerous trainings and community speaking events at the Richfield Senior Center to educate residents about fraud and steps they can take to prevent identity theft.



These photographs are related to a theft investigation this year in which a housekeeper was charged with the theft of over \$31,00 in gold bullion and coins from a Richfield resident. During the course of the investigation a search warrant was served on the suspect's home, and detectives recovered cash and gold valued at over \$26,500, which was returned to the victim. The suspect was later attested and pled guilty to felony charges of grand theft.

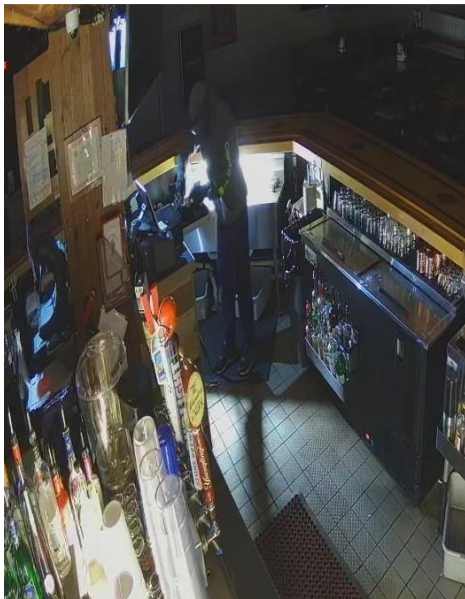
The pictures below are related to two separate identity theft investigations from 2023 in which Richfield residents had their identities stolen which suspects used to withdrawal a total of over \$21,000 from their bank accounts without their knowledge. Both cases resulted in the suspects being identified, arrested and charged with numerous felony offenses.



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 like any other investigation, which is why it's typically assigned to the detective bureau.

SRO Dressler, along with detective bureau staff and the Bath Police Department, established a juvenile diversion program last year to better serve the community by having more involvement with the disposition of juvenile misdemeanor arrests and traffic violators. The program was established to divert low-level juvenile offenders away from the court system by giving them an opportunity to participate in thoughtful programming run through both Richfield and Bath Police Departments, which results in the sealing of the arrest record after the program is successfully completed. In 2023 39 juvenile offenders successfully completed diversion.



The pictures above are related to a B&E of a local restaurant in 2023. Both suspects were identified and charged with numerous felony crimes. Of the five B&Es in 2023, four were cleared with arrests.

Communications Division



The communications division of the Richfield Police Department is supervised by Tim Baker. There are six (8) full-time and five (3) part-time dispatchers that, in 2023 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

The dispatch center fielded 17,340 calls for service in 2023. This is up from 2022.

The breakdown is as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Richfield Police - Village	12,453	13,105
- Township	2,555	2,724
- Other	685	1,511
Richfield Fire - Village	916	967
- Township	345	404
- Other	126	94

As of September 2023, we continue to train once a month as part of Public Safety Training Corp, and every dispatcher is assigned a training module each month. With Public Safety Group each dispatcher has completed 11.5 hours of training which puts us in compliance with the State of Ohio requirements.

In 2023 we also had our three-year LEADS Audit. With the help of Asst. TAC Jennifer Boedicker and all the hard work that each dispatcher puts into maintaining accuracy in all the work that goes into keeping up our good standing with the State, we were able to pass the audit with no discrepancies or any sanctions.

In 2023 we hired a part-time dispatcher Emma Noffsinger. Emma is currently studying at Akron University and would like to stay on part-time as a dispatcher. However, unfortunately we lost Liane Makrinos as a part-time dispatcher and wish her best of luck in her future endeavors.

Our records division is also overseen by Tim Baker.



In 2023 we fulfilled 513 requests for records. These requests vary from Incident reports, photos, videos, and miscellaneous requests. We continue to publish our accident reports on our website, and this has cut down on requests significantly.

Also, in 2023 we replaced our RMS (Records Management Software) from TAC Computers to Sundance Systems.

With the implementation of Sundance, we can share records with Bath Twp as well as assist with large-scale incidents that may arise between the agencies. All employees of the Police department continue to train on the new system and find ways to help make the new software work to their advantage. All records from our old system were able to be transferred over to the new Sundance program.

Information Technology



The IT (Information Technology) division is overseen by Tim Baker. While this is a new position within the Village, Tim has been doing the work for many years as IT director.

In 2023 we were able to replace our virtual servers as well as the SAN server. This project takes time as we must make sure all the programs, we utilize are compatible with the newest hardware and if it is not, we will update the software as well. While it took most of the year to complete the project, we also replaced the IT switches that send out the data to the different departments in the Village. This project should not need to be done again for another 9-10 years.

Also, in 2023 we were able to upgrade the senior center with a fiber line from the administration to the Senior Center. This allowed them to have better connectivity with phones, internet, and network functionality.

We implemented Office 365 for all users of the Village. This allows everyone to have the same Microsoft Office platform. With the implementation of Office 365, we were able to migrate our email services to the cloud. This eliminated having to have any hardware on site and is a great cost savings to the Village. The new platform is working very well.

We were able to upgrade our internet speed in the Village from 100meg to 200meg service through Windstream. There are more and more applications that are being run through the internet vs in the in-house environment, so the need was greater to have this done. This will also give us a greater chance of finding a new phone system that will benefit us in many ways to help with cost savings.

Security is a big issue among local Governments across our state and nation. Tim continues to stay up to date with the different security threats and training to avoid the potential threats.

I look forward to working with all the departments in the Village to bring all IT infrastructure up to date.

School Resource Officer

Officer Scott Dressler is the Revere School District, School Resource Officer (SRO) and started his 5th year as the school resource officer at Revere Local Schools. For 2023 he wrote, this year the Revere Local Schools made major improvements in safety and security. We were able to purchase 6 FLOCK cameras, a visitor management system, additional cameras, and extra security personnel for the schools. All these items were paid for by grants or the Revere School Foundation. In August we held a multi-jurisdictional all hazard drill. This drill was planned for the entire year and included police and fire departments from 9 local agencies. The drill was used for training with the school staff and the safety forces. We also instituted a district wide threat assessment system. This will enable the schools and safety forces to work together to identify and help students that are struggling with mental health issues and other red flag behaviors. I attended several training sessions including the annual SRO conference and the Ohio School Safety Summit. In the summer months we were able to run a food pantry that consisted of household items, food items and gift cards. We assisted over 30 families with much needed support. I was able to deliver 22 Christmas gifts to assist families during the holiday season. These gifts included gift cards that were donated. The donors that assisted us were Bethel Church, Revere Middle School, and the Richfield/Bath Diversion Program. We completed our first year of Richfield/Bath juvenile diversion. We saw 40 juveniles come through the program. These are juveniles who have been charged with a misdemeanor or traffic citation. We had 39 of the 40 successfully complete the program.



Animal Control

Dog Warden Patricia Horn

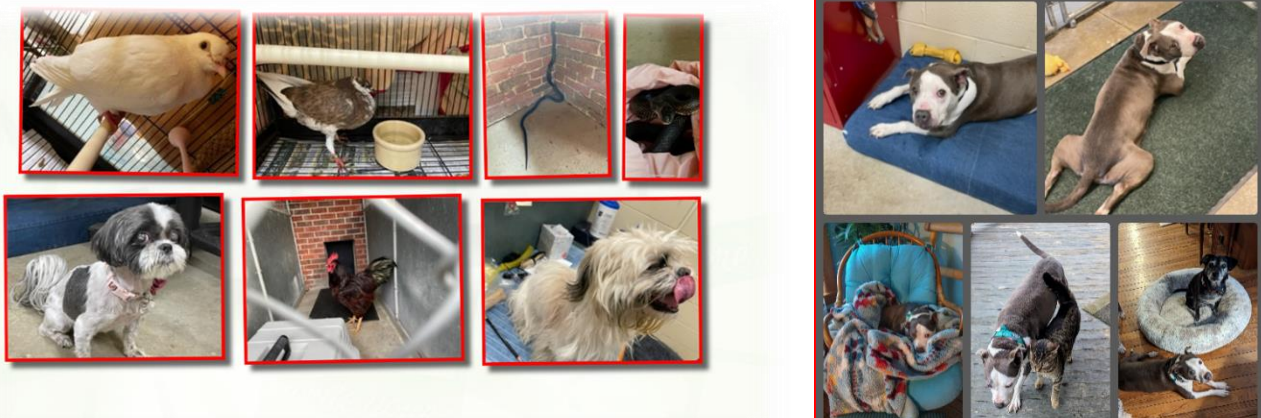


In 2023, there were 277 calls for service. 132 calls for animals at large, 129 animal misc. calls, 7 noise complaints and 9 bites. This year I had 72 animals housed in the kennel, up from 44 last year. 43 animals were reunited with their owners, 20 went to rescues and 9 had other outcomes. Out of the other category 4 were rehomed, 1 went to a permanent foster home, 1 was taken to Summit County Animal Control, 2 Pigeons turned over to the National Pigeon Racing assoc. and 1 very sick cat signed over to Richfield Animal hospital to get the extensive medical care he will need for the rest of his life.

This year I had some of the hardest animals to place, feral cats that I got into a barn cat program. To be considered these cats had to be altered and fully vetted, a rescue that I work with paid the vet fees. Dogs with aggression issues, or completely untrained unruly dogs are always an issue, with the entire field of rescue being overloaded with animals with no issues--I had to contact 50+ rescues per dog. I had the rescue agencies pay for vetting of animals I was responsible for and trying to place. I had Stacy Totten take into her boarding/training facility a labradoodle (Stella) that was untrained and aggressive, she spent many hours training and desensitizing Stella at no charge to the Village. Rescue is a large community of animal lovers, and we all help each other when we can. I have been volunteering at a pet food pantry and they donate supplies to me, whenever, whatever they have, and I pass on what I cannot use. In return the rescues help me out placing animals even when they must juggle for space.

On February 4th I received a call from a senior resident on Broadview Road, who stated she had just rescued/adopted a 3-legged puppy mill dog and the dog is terrified of people. She had let the dog out with her resident dog in a small fenced in area, the puppy mill dog was so terrified it had been out in the cold for hours running the fence and would not follow the resident dog inside. I responded and was able to catch the dog and bring it inside. The dog was matted extremely dirty covered in mud and waste. The resident wanted to take the dog to be groomed but she was

fearful the dog would escape, I volunteered and bathed and brushed and cut out the mats. Shortly after, the resident had several very serious hospitalizations, and she was no longer able to stay in her home or take care of the puppy mill dog. She contacted me about placing the dog, she was so fearful the dog would be sent back to the horrible situation she was rescued from. I was able to place the dog in a rescue where she blossomed, and she was adopted by a family that drove here from Michigan to pick her up. The little dog is now living an amazing life and is thriving.



On May 1st I was requested by Richfield Fire Chief to respond to the scene of a rollover accident on the turnpike. The driver was injured and trapped, his traveling companion, a little pit bull had wedged herself under the driver and was not allowing EMS to free the driver. Crawling on hand and knees I was able to get a slip lead on the dog and transport her back to the kennel. I am not quite sure how I didn't get bit in the first 5 days; the little pit (Neela) snapped and snarled every time I came into view. On the sixth day, she approached me and allowed me to pet her and from then on, she trusted me, and we bonded. The driver was very seriously injured and had several surgeries and spent a good amount of time in the hospital. I was in contact with the owner, so I just cared for Neela waiting for the owner to be released. The dog is the driver's safety and protection while on the road, so she was doing exactly as she was trained. While in our kennel, Neela bit a service department member when he walked into the kennel unannounced. She was not up to date on vaccines or vetting, so she was quarantined for 10 days. The owner was released and caught a ride home without contacting me or picking up his dog. Due to her breed and bite history, she was not able to be rehomed or sent to a rescue so to save her from being euthanized I drove Neela home to Hammond IN where she was reunited with her owner.

On May 13th I was contacted about a stray cat that had just shown up on E. Whitethorn Cir. The cat was limping and appeared to be in bad shape. The cat was fearful and ran so I set up a have-heart trap and captured him. He was a good-sized dilute orange tabby with injuries all over his body, including an eye swollen shut and oozing and a pretty serious injury to one front leg. Once I had the cat safely in the kennel, and he realized he was warm, dry, and safe he warmed up to me. This adult cat had an amazing personality, he was so laid back, easy going, affectionate and talkative. I did get him vet care (antibiotics) and it was discovered his eye would never heal completely due to the seriousness of the injury. He was turned over to a rescue agency that

utilizes vet colleges or vet trade schools for vetting. This amazing cat was adopted immediately upon arrival by one of the vet school staff and never had to spend time kenneled at the rescue.

On October 2nd I received a call from Mr. Powers, he is a senior gentleman who lives on Everett Rd (Bath side). Mr. Powers is a spry and savvy dog owner; on this date he was taking his 2 labradors to an outside kennel/run when one of them spooked and pulled free. She (Sammy) bolted into the woods behind the house and Mr. Powers searched for hours with no luck. Mr. Powers contacted me for any suggestions, he was just devastated. I responded to the area and searched and spoke to everyone I could. We started getting sightings the next day, Sammy chose a house on Motz drive to bed down for the night, and during the day she wandered all they down to Ira Rd. Luckily Sammy came back to Motz Dr for the 2nd night. I put Mr. Powers in touch with Tom and Tamara Slopek of K9 recovery, they are an amazing couple who track, and trap lost dogs. I have worked with them several times in the past, K9 recovery is an amazing asset, they volunteer all supplies and time and ask for no compensation in return. After six disappointing days, Sammy surrendered to a lady on Ira Rd who had seen the posters, and she was returned to her very grateful owners.

I relocated a 5ft+ black snake from the Heritage preserve, where he kept showing up uninvited at several events. I also picked up a pony that was out wandering near the Brush/Sorenson area late in the evening. With help, the pony walked to a private equine rental barn on Brush Rd close to Humphrey Road. I had helped them out once or twice during the year, and they allowed me to leave the pony there until I could find the owner, The first call I made was correct, the owner found the gate open and his pony gone, they responded early the next morning and walked the pony home on Broadview Rd. I also located and returned a prize-winning show rooster to its owner.



This year we had a signed contract with Bath Township to provide Animal Control Services to them. I had 7 calls for Bath Township. 4 dogs, 1 cat and 3 others. 5 animals were reunited with their owners and 3 went to rescue. Two interesting stories about Bath.

September 13th, I received a call from Maggie's Misson rescue, they asked if I could pick up and house a dog Bath officers dropped off at a local vet--the Gentle Vet in Bath. I received approval from Bath Police Chief Sinopoli, and I responded and picked up a senior pit mix with senior health issues. The owner had fallen on hard times, and she was living in her car with the dog "Hope." On this date she was camped out at the rest area on I-77 in Bath when she got sick, she was transported and admitted to the hospital. I was contacted by the owner 2 days later and she described her situation to me and asked if there was any way I could place the dog. I had the dog surrender to me and gained access to her past vet records. Notes in her records showed Hope had

some aggression issues with some people and other animals and required a muzzle. Her breed and the vet notes made it impossible for me to place her. I had not witnessed any aggression in the senior dog, so I placed her in a permanent foster home where she is loved, well taken care of and thriving. On December 17th Hope's owner contacted me to check on Hope and to thank me for helping her out.

On October 31st I was contacted by a Bath resident to advise their senior 15yr old Border Collie had wandered away from the residence when no one was home. The dog has senior medical issues with walking, seeing, and hearing and this was not normal for her to wander away. The residence is on Sourek Rd which is surrounded by miles of woods, electric lines, and deep ravines. Bath Police assisted with their drone, but unfortunately, we did not find or recover the dog; however, it was an amazing experience I am so grateful for.

In 2024, I am looking forward to continuing serving our communities and helping our animals.



Training

In the law enforcement profession, training and education are vital aspects for continued growth of the Richfield Police Department. It is essential for the Department's members to attend diverse 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 2023, the Richfield Police Department provided approximately 1,635 hours of training, both in-house and outside the agency. The Richfield Police Department provided an average over the past two years of over 1500 hours of training. The Richfield Police Department will again strive to go beyond the 1,635 hours of training in 2024.

The Richfield Police Department has been administering 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 manual contains content that pertains to Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification (OCLEAC) Standards.

In 2023 The Richfield Police Department again complied with the Continuing Professional Training (CPT) mandate, which required every peace officer in Ohio to complete 24 hours of state mandated training. This mandate was not in effect for a couple of years and was reinstated in 2022. The Richfield Police Department received a reimbursement payment from the state that can be used towards the costs associated with providing Continuing Professional Training. The Richfield Police Department then in turn sent a report to the State of Ohio on how its officers

received this training.

To assist the Richfield Police Department in completing this mandate Richfield Police continued its agreement with Police One Academy, a division of Lexipol, our policy provider.

Most of this training was completed in-house, with a series of training videos and once completed proof was sent to the State of Ohio to complete our Continuing Professional Training Mandate. Police One Academy was used for our 2023 Continuing Professional Training as well as training sessions with Chief Prosecutor of Akron Craig Morgan. The police department divided the training into three sections: First being the Recommended six CPT hours through Police One Academy including 3 hours of School Threat Training, Arrest, Search, & Seizure. Second Section being legal update presented by Craig Morgan Akron Chief Prosecutor. Third section coming from Police One Academy 18 hours of training include assorted topics categorized below:

Training categories:

Topics as set by the Commission:



Section 1

2 hours Arrest Search and Seizure

Arrest, Search, & Seizure (Fourth Amendment) (2 hours)

Investigating Impaired Driving (1 hour)

3 hours School Safety

Active Shooter Preparation and Response for Schools (1 hour)

Active Shooter: Recognition and Basic Response (1 hour)

Mass Casualty, Natural Disaster Standards (1 hour)

Section 2

September Two 3-hour classes were held in Fairlawn with presenter Craig Morgan in and Richfield Officers along with Bath and Fairlawn officers.

Section 3

Topics as set by the Agency Administrator

First Responder Traffic Incident Management (2 hours)

Human Trafficking, I (2 hours)

Public Recording of Police Activities (1 hour)

De-Escalation and Minimizing Use of Force (2 hours)

Ambush Awareness and Preparation (1 hour)

Rape Crisis: Crime Scene & Evidence Handling (1 hour)

Introduction to Rape Crisis (1 hour)

Conflict at the Fence: Tools to Turn Critics into Advocates (1 hour)

Managing Hypervigilance (1 hour)

Law Enforcement Encounters with Canines (2 hours)

Presenting Effective Testimony in a Courtroom (1 hour)

Subject Precipitated Homicide (1 hour)

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. Each training bulletin will have a question related to the policy. These training bulletins are to keep Richfield Officers current on policies, linked to Richfield policies, and to be a positive experience.

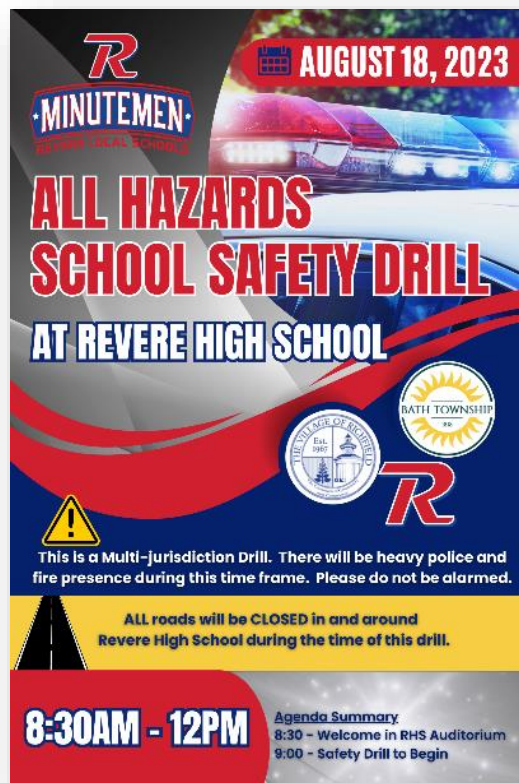
The Richfield Police Department held a two-day class in Conflict Resolution for Law Enforcement. Insight Policing: Conflict Resolution for Law Enforcement strengthened our officers' ability to communicate through conflict, building on our commitment to have positive interactions with the public, even when things get tense. Insight Policing's science-backed approach to conflict resolution uniquely positions officers to manage high stress interactions effectively, increase voluntary compliance and strengthen community trust. Insight Policing frames these behaviors not merely as defiance or in violation of the law, but as conflict behaviors. In this way, officers can leverage the science of conflict decision-making in their communication tactics to de-escalate tension, get to the root of the citizen's problem quickly, and gain the information they need to make targeted law enforcement decisions that people find fair. By engaging conflict effectively, officers can break down barriers with the community in the moments that count most moments of enforcement.



Included in the 1635 hours of in-person training attended, several Richfield Officers received certification in some of the following courses: Advance 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, Rescue Task Force Training, CIT Training, Less Lethal Training, Roadway Safety Training, and Drone Training. Our department in a partnership with our Fire Department had one of our officers complete a drone training program to become a FAA certified Drone operator. Detective Petrovich and Officer. Hoffman along with a couple of Richfield Fire Fighters became FAA Certified Drone operators.

Officers receive advanced training in these areas which allows them to pass on the knowledge and certification quickly and efficiently 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 the coming year.

Finally, in 2023 the Richfield Police Department participated in a full-scale training in August for an active Shooter exercise at Revere High School. This drill was designed to evaluate Richfield and Bath's Police and Fire Departments. The drill's intention for both departments was to assess the incident commands, communications, and officers in a drill for an active shooter. The planning was extensive under the leadership of Bath and Richfield along with SRO Dressler. The drill utilized incident command in an event involving multiple agencies including Fire and Police. Utilized Revere High School staff on evacuation protocols. This drill was to evaluate Richfield and Bath communication capabilities with neighboring law enforcement agencies and our overall response dealing with a threat inside the school.

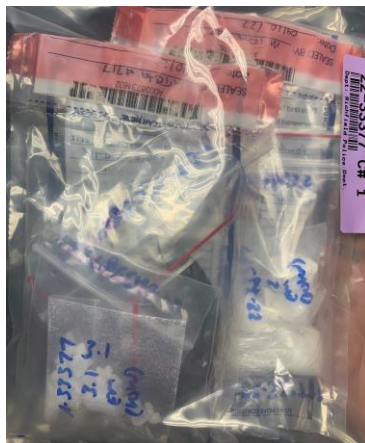
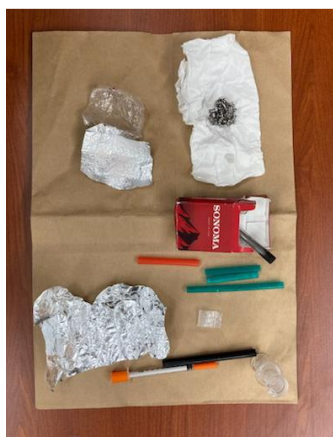


Property Room

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 forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

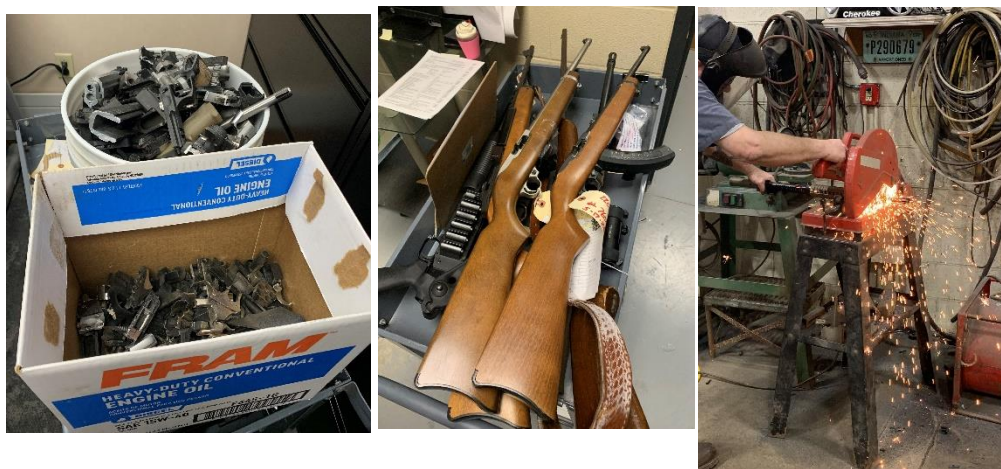
In 2023, the day-to-day operations of the property room are managed by Det. Sgt. Ryan Kellackey, Officer Bart Randolph, Officer Doug McArtor and SRO Scott Dressler on their respective shifts while also performing their other assigned duties.



During 2023 property room staff reorganized evidence for long term storage and labeled evidence that is required to permanently retained. Staff also designated certain storage bins for items that are

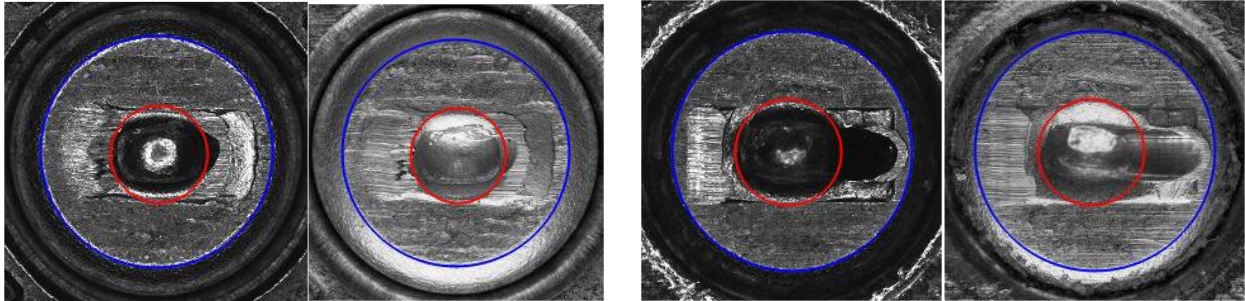
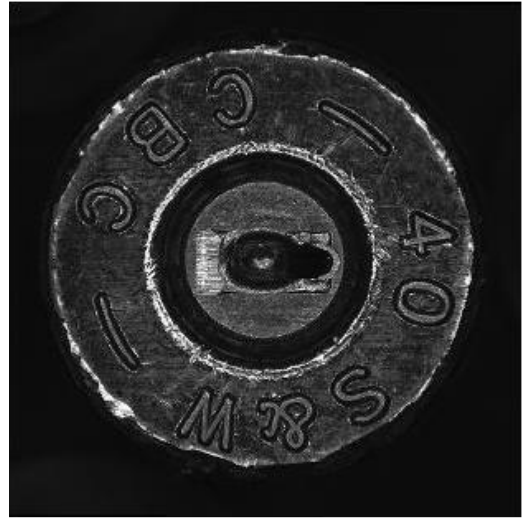
not needed as evidence, and other short-term evidence that is set for destruction to streamline the destruction process and ensure that no errors are made. Guidelines were also established that require the property room supervisor to conduct monthly audits to ensure items are accounted for, and properly labeled for storage.

During 2023 the property room booked in 296 pieces of evidence, including 32 firearms. The photographs above are some of the items that were collected by RPD this year.



Property room staff oversaw the destruction of 33 firearms in 2023. The photographs above show the destruction process for some of those firearms.

Property room staff also continued to test fire all eligible firearms that were obtained for submission to NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) in order to combat violent crime in the area. NIBIN is a program established by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms to share ballistics intelligence across the United States. The program links crimes by matching recovered casings from separate crime scenes and determines if they were fired from the same weapons. Studies have shown that the vast majority of violent gun crimes are committed by a very small fraction of the population, typically repeat offenders. The investigative leads generated from NIBIN assist law enforcement in catching these violent offenders.



The photographs above show markings from two bullet casings that were submitted to NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network) in 2023 that were linked to area shootings. After submission the markings on the casing are compared to other millions of casings collected at crime scenes across the country to generate investigative leads.

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 19 police agencies throughout Summit and Portage County. The team includes 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. The Cities of Kent, Tallmadge, Auroa, and Copley Township joined the Team in 2023. SMcRT also works closely with the Summit County Engineers Office, the Summit County Medical Examiner, and our municipal and county prosecutor's offices.

The team is divided into three response teams that rotate on-call each week. One or more members of each team are Level IV Crash Reconstructionist or Level III and II Technical Crash investigators. These investigators 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. SMcRT holds training once per month with the exceptions of June, July, and August.

The team 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 professional and scientific analysis and reconstruction of a serious crash. Participation in the team 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 expert investigation.

Officer Michael Testa is an active member of the SMcRT and has been a team member since 2021. Officer Testa is a Level III traffic crash investigator. Officer Testa responded to multiple serious injury and fatal crashes in 2023.

During 2023 there were no fatal crashes in Richfield. There were 38 crashes with reported injuries on scene. Most of the crashes that occurred in Richfield resulted in property damage only. Richfield Police Officers have made traffic enforcement a high priority. Due to the increase in traffic enforcement, we believe that this contributes to less serious injury and fatal traffic crashes. The speed signs located throughout town are believed to give us an accurate representation of problem areas in Richfield that could benefit from increased traffic enforcement. Richfield Officers are working hard to ensure the safety of all citizens who live and commute in Richfield.



Richfield Crash Statistics

Interstate 77	Interstate 271	Village/Township Roads	Total
79	21	77	177

Fatal	Serious Injury	Minor Injury	Possible Injury	Property Damage
0	5	13	20	139

Firearms/Range

40 MM 4-Shot Launcher



The Richfield range and firearms program currently consists of four firearms instructors (Ofc. Dressler, Ofc. Padula, Ofc. Sprit, and Ofc. Meister). The program and range are overseen by Sgt. Fyffe.

Officers must qualify at least once a year with their pistol, rifle, shotgun and with any secondary backup weapons. The Richfield Police Department used approximately 7,800 pistol rounds, 5,600 rifle rounds and 250 shotgun rounds during qualifications and practice throughout the year. The pistol qualifications are currently being completed at the Richfield pistol range while all other qualifications are performed off site.

The patrol cars are equipped with a patrol rifle and a shotgun which gives officers the ability to respond to any type of call. Officers are trained in combat marksmanship which is a multiday training which consists of approximately 500 rounds of ammunition each. The course incorporates movement drills, skill development drills and several other “real life” training drills. The Police Department currently uses the Smith & Wesson M&P pistol in 45 ACP or 9mm.

The Police Department has received the new Defense Technology 40 mm tactical launcher which will allow Officers to deploy less lethal ammunitions when needed. The Police Department has sent Ofc. Meister to become an instructor on the 40 mm launcher and will train all our officers with the 40 mm launcher.

Ofc. Sprit will be attending rifle instructor class in 2024 to add to our rifle training program.

Police Vehicles

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. The entire fleet has been updated as of 2023 with the new graphics.



The Cruiser inventory of vehicles presently consists of 14 vehicles. Within the cruiser inventory are eleven marked road patrol units, and three unmarked units. The 11 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.

Current Fleet

SRO Car	2019 Chevrolet Police Tahoe (SRO)	103134 Miles
Car #02	2023 Ford Police Explorer (New 2024)	500 Miles
Car #03	2021 Ford Police Explorer	55528 Miles
Car #04	2019 Ford Police Explorer	75834 Miles
Car #05	2019 Ford Police Explorer	74348 Miles
Car #06	2020 Ford Police Hybrid (Wrecked)	Replaced 2024
Car #07	2021 Ford Police Interceptor	68682 Miles
Car #08	2020 Ford Police Hybrid	88519 Miles
Car #09	2019 Chevrolet Police Tahoe	105171 Miles
Car #10	2023 Ford Expedition	5638 Miles
K9 Car	2023 Ford Expedition	9605 Miles

Total miles driven on patrol in 2023 was not possible to determine with loss of car 06 when it was struck by a semi-truck during a pursuit. The Police Department normally drives well over 235,000 miles per year. We did add a vehicle to our fleet this year which was the K9 car.

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 like our Road Patrol.

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

Safety Town

We had an exciting safety town this year. We had a local company, GMS, donate a fire safety house that will be used to teach children fire safety for many years to come. We had a morning and an afternoon session with a graduation at the end of the week.

We had 130 student volunteers from the middle and high school. We had 140 4- and 5-year-olds attend safety town. The safety town committee consists of Bath and Richfield safety forces. They are Geoff Kuzas, Danny, Stacy Campbell, Rochelle Bolton, and Scott Dressler. We are privately funded through generous community members and businesses. Our sponsors include The Revere School Foundation, Greg Zolton (State Farm), Mellion Orthodontics, DiLauro Wracher & Thomas, Pie and Pint, GMS, Revere Schools, Bath and Richfield Safety Forces and the Fairlawn Rotary Club. The Revere Safety Town would not be possible without the support and dedication of Chief Swanson, Chief Seifert, Chief Campbell, Chief Sinopoli and the Revere Local Schools. The impact this program has made for many students will never be known.



Metro SWAT

In 2023 Metro SWAT responded to 33 calls for service. Activations included Armed Barricaded Subjects, High Risk Search Warrants, Drone team requests for searching for suspects and lost/injured persons and evidence, VIP Executive Protection, along with manpower requests, etc...



Metro SWAT is currently providing special weapons and tactical response to 24 police agencies inside Summit and Portage counties.

The Team will be adding an additional Lenco Bear Cat Rescue vehicle to its fleet in 2024 along with four new drones with advanced technology to assist in life saving missions and the deterrence of criminal activities in our jurisdiction.



Metro SWAT looks forward to assisting the Richfield Police Department whenever the need arises. Any questions or comments can be forwarded to Det. John Petrovich (jpetrovich@richfieldpd.us) or Officer Joel Meister at (jmeister@richfieldpd.us)

Det. Petrovich is the Administrator and a Drone Pilot on the team and Officer Meister is a Tactical Operator.

Drone Response Team

The Richfield Safety Forces has formed a joint Drone response team between our Police and Fire Departments. The team members are on call 24/7 to respond to Richfield Village and Township calls for service. The team members are FAA Certified Drone Pilots and uphold a high standard of safe, responsible flights.

The team members will be responding to any lost children, elderly persons that may have walked away from a residence, any criminal activity where a subject may need to be located or tracked, active shooter incidents and severe accident scene where aerial recording might assist police officers with documentation/reconstruction.



The certified pilots for the Richfield Police Department are Det. John Petrovich and Officer Travis Hoffman. The Richfield Safety Forces Drone Team has the most advanced equipment currently offered. The thermal capabilities will no doubt assist Police and EMS in life saving operations. The team has also been requested by outside agencies to assist in operations.

Any questions or comment can be forwarded to Richfield Police and Fire Departments (330) 659-9500.

B.A.C Datamaster (Blood Alcohol Content)

In 2023, Sergeant Fyffe was responsible for the Breathalyzer Equipment; Officer 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 alcohol 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 requires an instrument check every seven days, not to exceed 192 hours. The operation and instrument checks are overseen by Sgt. Fyffe and Ofc. 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 11 Senior Operators and 1 Standard Operator. The Standard Operator may only administer a test to a subject and are not authorized to conduct an instrument check. The Standard Operator has also been certified by the Ohio Department of Health.

The B.A.C. Datamaster was used 39 times by 5 different Law Enforcement Agencies, from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for alcohol-related calls for service.

The Following is a breakdown of the B.A.C. Datamaster for 2023.

Agency	Arrests	Male	Female
Richfield Police	35	24	11
Ohio Highway Patrol	1	1	0
National Park Service	1	1	0
Peninsula Police	1	1	0
Hinckley Police	1	1	0

Break Down by Test Results	
Under .08	6
.08-.169	9
.170 and up	7
Refusals	17
Highest Test Given	.293
Faulty Machine	0

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 numbers listed in this report do not tell how many lives may have been saved by removing 39 OVI suspects from the roads. Fortunately, we will never know because they were taken off our roads before a fatality occurred.

The B.A.C. Datamaster will be phased out at the end of 2024. The Ohio Department of Health has a list of approved machines. The Richfield Police Department has a new machine on order, and it will be put in service in the year 2024.

The B.A.C. Datamaster can only be used in measuring the level of alcohol in a person’s breath. There are numerous accidents and calls for service that deal with a person impaired by drugs. The way officers obtain those samples is through a urine or blood test. Those samples are submitted to the Ohio Highway Patrol Forensics Lab for further testing to assist in prosecution for OVI’s and other crimes. The following is a break down for blood and urine results for 2023.

Urine Samples	Blood samples
3 Refusals	2 Refusals
3 Positive for Alcohol	1 Positive for Alcohol
1 Positive for Alcohol and THC	
1 Negative Results	

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 to determine what classification the arrestee is to be 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 2023.

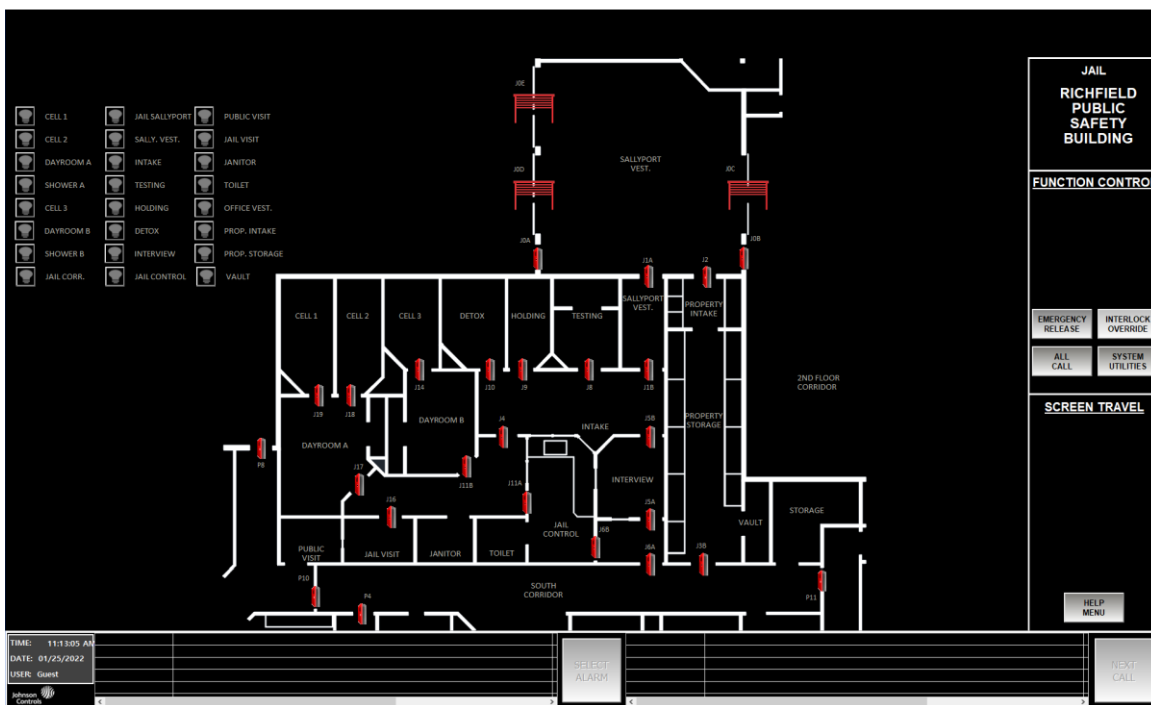


The photos above show the jail control room and booking area

The Richfield Jail is staffed by Det. Sgt. Ryan Kellackey, Ofc. Tony Padula and Ofc. 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.”

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 provides required continuing education for administrators and corrections officers.

All Richfield Police Officers receive training related to the Jail and are responsible for booking in arrestees, and ensuring safety and security while inmates are being held. This year several new officers received eight hours of basic jail training. The Jail is accessed and controlled using an updated control panel pictured below, that was upgraded in 2021.



Jail Control Panel

In 2023 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. Dr. Daher is also responsible for training

the Richfield Police Department Officers on such issues as: medical intake of inmates, suicide prevention, and lastly educating the officers about the opioid epidemic and how it relates to the Richfield Jail.

In 2023, the Richfield Jail had a total of 82 prisoners. Some of the offenses include alcohol involved arrests, domestic violence, obstruction of official business, disorderly conduct, theft and fraud, drug involved crimes, fleeing, identity theft, insurance fraud, breaking and entering, burglary, rape, and weapons offenses. Felony warrants are initially processed through Richfield Jail and then transferred to Summit County Jail to await trial.

Canine Unit

The Richfield Canine Unit has newly been reinstated as of October 2023. The unit consists of supervisor Sgt. Chris Fyffe and handler Officer Jacob Totten with his canine partner K9 Nori. Nori is a two-year old Dutch Sheperd who has been imported from Holland and trained by Tri-State K9 located in Warren, Ohio. The original training consisted of 200 hours of hands-on training in the areas of Narcotics, Tracking, Article Searches, and Bite Apprehension. The two were certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy as a dual-purpose team. They will have to recertify with OPOTA on a yearly basis. Nori is certified to locate Crack/Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Heroin, MDMA, and all their derivatives. The Canine Unit also can search for missing persons and apprehend fleeing suspects by tracking their human scent. The Canine Unit will also search for articles left behind by missing persons or suspects such as clothing, weapons, or anything that has been recently handled by a person. The Canine Unit trains on a biweekly basis to ensure that it stays proficient in the areas of tracking, narcotics, article searches, and apprehension work.

The purpose of the Canine Unit is to assist the members of the Richfield Police Department and other agencies to better enforce the laws of the community and the State of Ohio. This new unit is not only a psychological deterrent to the criminal but also plays a vital tool to the Richfield Police Department. The Canine Units presence on scene either as back up unit or primary unit may deter or even prevent a violent confrontation with a criminal. The Canine Units main function is to combat the ever-growing use of illegal drugs within our community and other surrounding communities. The Caine Unit has several ways to combat this ever-growing problem. They can search vehicles, schools, hotel rooms, and other areas for the presence of narcotic odor. A canine's smell is hundreds of times greater than that of a human. This allows a properly trained and certified team to locate hidden or otherwise nonvisible illegal narcotics basically anywhere. The Canine Unit also responds to traffic stops to assist with locating the presence of narcotics inside a motor vehicle. The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that the sniff of the air around a vehicle is not a search. The air around a vehicle is free and therefore is not a Fourth Amendment violation. Once the canine has "Alerted" on that vehicle it gives officers probable cause to search the vehicle.

Since the reinstatement of the Canine Unit in October of 2023 K9 Nori and Officer Totten have been deployed nine times. Eight of the times were at traffic stops where K9 Nori alerted to the presence of narcotic odor. Out of those eight times either drug paraphernalia or trace amounts of narcotics were recovered. The other time the team had been deployed was to assist Bath Police Department with tracking three individuals who had fled from them at a traffic stop in a vehicle. The vehicle ultimately ended up crashing in Richfield near Glen Carin Neighborhood. One of the individuals was found but the other two were able to flee the area.



Employee Wellness

Beginning in 2022 the Richfield Police Department established an Employee Wellness Program to support officers mental and physical health and wellness. A broad consensus of scientific peer reviewed research has concluded that police officers suffer from depression, substance abuse problems and elevated suicide rates at significantly higher rates than other segments of the population. The Employee Wellness Program was established to support officers and provide them with the tools to stay physically and mentally healthy. The program is managed by Det. Sgt. Ryan Kellackey and Officer Bart Randolph. The program currently consists of efforts to provide our employees with access to qualified mental health professionals following their involvement in a critical incident, including access to follow-up support, if necessary, as well as an on-duty exercise program that encourages officers to maintain a fit and healthy lifestyle, which has been shown to have significant cognitive and mental health benefits.

Below are photos of the employee gym located in the Richfield Fire Department



This year the Village received a wellness grant for first responders. All employees of the police department were given the opportunity to participate in a full physical which consisted of numerous blood test panels and preventative ultrasounds, as well as a stress test, hearing and vision tests and physical exam. The grant also provided funds to support employee mental health by paying for each employee to have six sessions with a mental health professional free of charge.

Community Policing

Our department prides itself on promoting positive relations with the community by participating in opportunities where we show our strong sense of respect for all. Interacting with the community throughout our patrols, familiarizing ourselves with the local businesses and schools, and working jointly with the community to develop these connections are just a few ways we maintain these relationships.

This year our department was lucky enough to participate in the ‘Christmas with a Cop’ event, where our officers chaperoned 6 children from our local community. Each child was given a police escort to Fairlawn, with other participating police departments in the area. The morning started with having breakfast, meeting Santa, receiving gifts, and even witnessing a surprise appearance from the Grinch – who of course ended up getting arrested. The children were then driven to the local Walmart where each child got to shop for gifts alongside the officers. All 6 children walked away with a smile on their face and some nice gifts for their family members and themselves.



Our department promotes positive relations in other ways throughout the community by sitting down with residents at the Senior Center and having ‘Coffee with a Cop’ style interactions, visiting our local school(s) to talk with kids/parents, making appearances at our local park events, participating in community days, and even providing a car seat inspection program.

This year alone, our department installed several car seats for community members. Our department has two certified car seat technicians, Ofc. Randolph, and K9 Officer Totten, who provide this service. They can be reached for an inspection or installation by utilizing the sign-up form located on the Village’s webpage or by contacting our dispatch and leaving a message for either officer.

