

# Richfield Police Department 2024 Annual Report



**Officer Jeffrey Michel**

**1963-2024**



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## *RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT*

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RICHFIELD, OHIO 44286  
(330) 659-9500  
(330) 659-0677 FAX



Michael Swanson  
Chief of Police

Michael Wheeler  
Mayor

Honorable Michael Wheeler  
Mayor, Village of Richfield  
RE: Annual Report, 2024

Mayor Wheeler,

On behalf of the Richfield Police Department, attached is our 2024 annual report. In 2024, Assistant Chief Fister was accepted into and graduated from the 291<sup>st</sup> session of the prestigious FBI National Academy (FBINA). We also promoted two additional sergeants after an intensive testing criterion that (3) officers participated in. Officer Michael Testa and Officer Thomas Randolph were both promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. This now provides us with (3) patrol sergeants and (1) detective sergeant. As you well know, mid-level and upper-level management is essential for an operation and the assistant chief's FBINA training and the promotion of the two new patrol sergeants have certainly accomplished that.

We also added (1) additional full-time officer, which takes us to (20) full-time sworn officers and (1) part-time officer. This offsets the lack of part-time officers which are simply not available to fill open shifts. This additional staffing and leadership ultimately provides our community with an added level of safety and security. We have also been able to maintain our staffing levels in our dispatch division.

Also in 2024, we implemented the 12-hour shifts for our patrol division. This has been working out very well for our 24/7/365 operation. We also implemented our new records management system through Sundance Systems Inc. this year.

As we move forward into 2025, the police department staff continue and remain committed to providing the Richfield Community with the best police service possible with an increased focus on traffic enforcement, while maintaining stringent training protocols and community-oriented policing. Thank you again for your continued support and leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

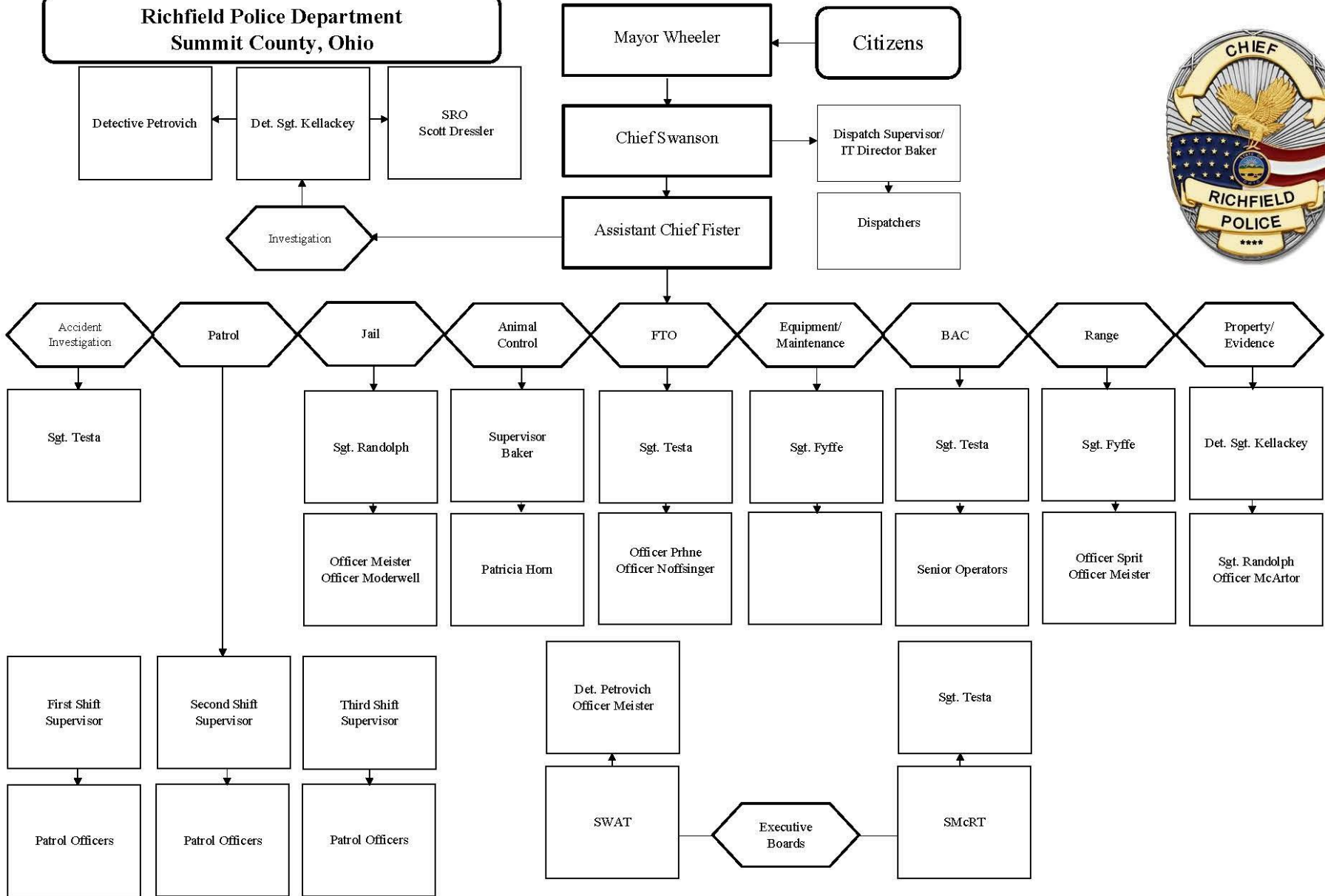
*Michael Swanson,*  
Chief of Police

## 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

Jeffrey Michel  
1963 - 2024  
Officer  
Richfield Township & Village 1991 - 2024



Officer Jeffrey Michel passed away this year on March 11, 2024, at the age of 60 after suffering from a prolonged illness.

Officer Michel started working in our community as a Security Officer at the Richfield Coliseum in 1986. His employment as a full-time police officer with the Richfield Township Police Department began on 01-15-1991. We merged our police departments on 09-10-2001, and Jeffrey was sworn in as a full-time Richfield Village Police Officer on 09-24-2001. Officer Michel retired on 02-29-2024, with over 33 years of service to the Richfield community and passed away on 03-11-2024. Officer Michel was a very kind and compassionate officer who is and always will be truly missed.

# Personnel Information

In 2024, the Richfield Police Department was staffed with 34 employees as follows:

*Chief*

*Assistant Chief*

*3-Patrol Sergeant*

*1-Detective Sergeant*

*1-Detective*

*1-School Resource Officer*

*12-Full-Time Officers*

*1-Part-Time Officer*

*1-Canine*

*1-Animal Control Officer*

*Dispatch Supervisor*

*7-Full-Time Dispatchers*

*3-Part-Time Dispatchers*



In 2024, Assistant Chief Fister attended the 291<sup>st</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy and Officer Michael Testa and Officer Thomas Randolph were promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. Officer Jeffrey Michel retired after 33 years of service and Officer Anthony Padula retired after 34 years of service. To fill the ranks due to these retirements, Cynthia Kilgore and Jacob Komar were hired as full-time officers and Viktoria Bodnar was hired as our 20<sup>th</sup> full-time officer. In our dispatch center, Dispatcher Nick Sanders resigned his full-time position and was hired as a police officer in another jurisdiction. Jacqueline Racut also resigned from her full-time position but stayed on as a part-time dispatcher. Kim Cirolini and Mary Jess Daugherty were hired as full-time dispatchers to fill the open positions.



Assistant Chief Fister was accepted to attend the 291<sup>st</sup> Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia. He was nominated to attend, and he was selected based on his outstanding dedication to serving our community. The intensive 10-week program—provided coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science— and served to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies in the United States and abroad to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide. There is also an intensive physical fitness program, which is capped with a final fitness challenge of a 6.2 mile run through a hilly wooded obstacle course built by the U.S. Marines. Congratulations to Assistant Chief Fister for this significant accomplishment!

Officer Michael Testa was promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. Michael graduated from Walsh Jesuit High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati--where he made the Dean's list. Michael attended the police academy at the University of Akron in 2017 and was previously employed as a police officer with the Village of Peninsula Police Department. He was hired as a part-time officer with us on 9-17-2018 and was promoted to full-time on 10-15-2019. During that time, Michael has helped manage our BAC machine program as a senior operator and is an active member of the Summit Metro Crash Response Team and is an excellent addition to our supervisory staff. Congratulations Sergeant Testa!



Officer Thomas Randolph was also promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. Thomas (Bart) Randolph is a graduate from Wadsworth High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from Walsh University and was an active member of the Walsh University football team. Bart attended the police academy at the University of Akron in 2015 and was previously employed by the Summit County Metro Parks as a park ranger. Bart was hired as a part-time officer with us on 4-17-2018 and was promoted to full-time on 1-7-2019. During that time, Bart has helped manage our involvement in the Christmas with a Cop program, our car seat program, other community service projects and is a property room officer and is an excellent addition to our supervisory staff. Congratulations Sergeant Randolph!

Officer Jeffrey Michel started working in our community as a Security Officer at the Richfield Coliseum in 1986. His employment as a full-time police officer with the Richfield Township Police Department began on 01-15-1991. We merged our police departments on 09-10-2001, and Jeffrey was sworn in as a full-time Richfield Village Police Officer on 09-24-2001. Officer Michel retired on 02-29-2024, with over 33 years of service to the Richfield community. Officer Michel was a very kind and compassionate officer who is and always will be truly missed.



Officer Anthony Padula retired in 2024.

Tony was certified to be a police officer on February 12, 1990. He started his law enforcement career in 1991 with the Richfield Township Police Department. In 1999 he joined the Summit County Sheriff's Office where he worked as a Deputy Sheriff in their Corrections Divisions supervising 30-58 inmates on a regular basis. Officer Padula left the Sheriff's Office and was sworn in as a Richfield Village Police Officer on January 02, 2001. Officer Paula's quick wit and stable presence will certainly be missed here in Richfield; however, he has served Richfield and Summit County for over 34 years and has certainly earned his retirement. We wish Tony all the best.



Cynthia Kilgore was hired in 2024 as a full-time officer. Cynthia attended High School in Zapata Texas and obtained a diploma and speaks fluent Spanish. She attended Lakeland Community College and obtained an associate's degree in criminal justice. She attended the Tri-C Police Academy and is certified to be a police officer in Ohio. While at Tri-C's Police Academy, she received recognition for outstanding performance and dedication regarding her participation in volunteer events. She was also named the class sergeant of her academy. She passed all departmental background checks as well as a full overall assessment from an outside firm and she is an outstanding police officer.



Jacob Komar was also hired in 2024 as a full-time officer. Jacob graduated from Brunswick High School and attended 3 years of college medical studies at the University of Toledo. He attended the Tri-C Police Academy and is certified to be a police officer in Ohio. While at Tri-C's Police Academy, Jacob earned the rank of captain for his academy class and scored an impressive 98.5% on the state exam. Jacob passed all departmental background checks, as well as an overall assessment from an outside firm and is also another outstanding police officer ready to serve our community.

Victoria Bodnar was also hired in 2024 as a full-time officer. Victoria is a 2009 Revere High School graduate and served in the United States Marine Corp from 2009-2014, as an Arabic Translator. She then earned her bachelor's degree in biology and pre-Med from the University of Akron and worked as a sub-contractor for the Drug Enforcement Agency. Victoria is a lateral transfer from the South Euclid Police Department, where she served as a patrol officer for the past 4 years. Victoria brings a vast amount of training and experience to Richfield, and we look forward to her serving our community as a Richfield Police Officer.



Kimberly Cirola was hired in 2024 as a full-time dispatcher. Kimberly graduated from Columbia High School in Columbia Station Ohio. She obtained a bachelor's degrees in Speech Therapy, with minors in Spanish and Sign Language. Kimberly previously worked as a pre-school teacher as well as an Assistant Director at the Goddard School of Strongsville. She is an outstanding dispatcher and is an excellent addition to our full-time dispatch staff.

Mary Jess Daugherty (MJ) was also hired in 2024 as a full-time dispatcher. MJ graduated from Alexander High School in Albany Ohio and went on to attend 5 years of college studies at Ohio University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science. She passed all departmental background checks, as well as a full overall assessment from an outside firm and is another excellent addition to our full-time dispatch staff.



As we enter 2025, we are very fortunate to have such well-qualified staff, supervisors, officers and dispatchers. 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 police service possible.

# 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 Scott Dressler to address investigations involving juveniles.

In 2024 the detective bureau investigated 106 cases. Among the investigations were 33-thefts/fraud, 3-assaults/domestics, 13-sex crimes, 5-harassment/menacing cases, 5-deaths, 1-B&E and 1-burglary.

Eighteen search warrants were prepared and served in 2024, along with numerous subpoenas and court orders. Additionally, 85-felony charges and 6-misdemeanor charges were issued in 2024.

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*Below are booking photos related to a rape investigation that was brought to trial during 2024. The prosecution spent several days getting testimony from Richfield Officers and Detectives while presenting the results of the investigation. Both suspects were found guilty by a jury of numerous charges including rape, assault, obstruction of justice and theft and each received prison sentences of 10-15 years.*

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Detectives continued to conduct training and community speaking events at the Richfield Senior Center to educate residents about fraud and steps they can take to prevent identity theft. We are proud to say that these speaking events have encouraged several residents to call police after being contacted by scammers and likely saved them thousands of dollars.

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*Below is a photo of a large group that gathered at the Richfield Senior Center to hear a fraud presentation conducted by the detective bureau along with retired Special Agent Arvin Clar of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation.*

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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 three (3) part-time dispatchers that, in 2024, 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 14,769 calls for service in 2024. The breakdown is as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Richfield Police - Village	13,107	10,645
- Township	2,724	3,736
- Other	1,511	388
Richfield Fire - Village	967	1,027
- Township	404	402
Total		1,429

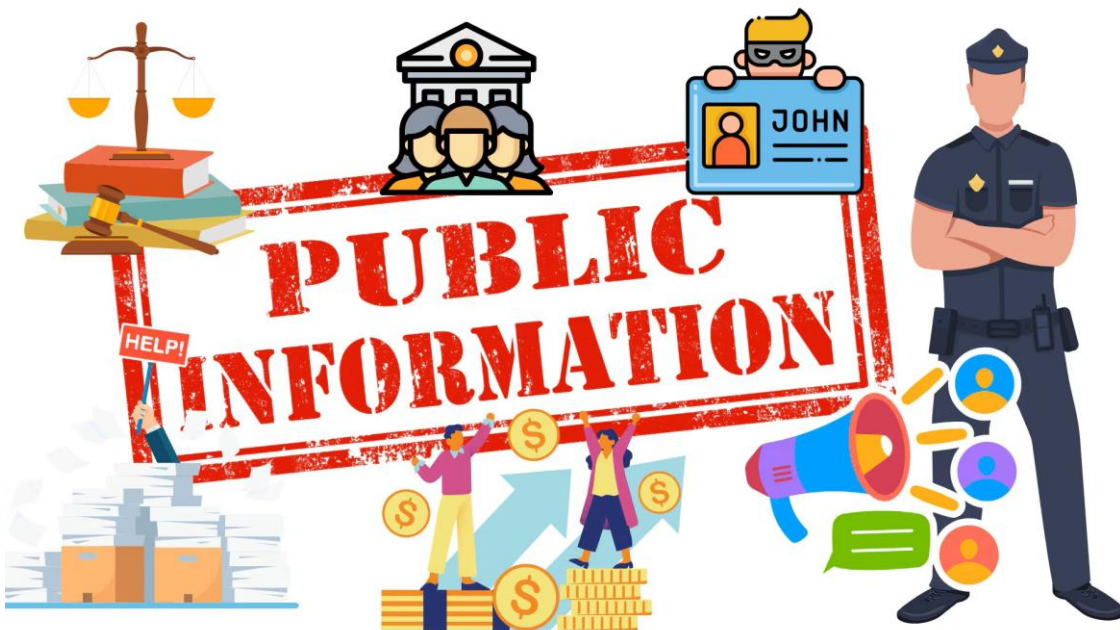
In 2024 we hired Kim Ciroli as a part time dispatcher in March and she became full time in April. Kim was born in Richfield and later moved to Columbia to complete her studies. Also, we hired Mary Daugherty as a full-time dispatcher in November. Mary is from the Cleveland area and has a bachelor's degree in exercise science. We welcome both ladies to our ranks.

Our records division is also overseen by Tim Baker.

In 2024 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.

We completed our first full year with our new Records Management Software, and it has been a great transition for all. All our old records were ported over into the new system and that was an easy and seamless process.

With the implementation of Sundance, we are able to share records with Bath Twp as well as assist with large, scaled 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.





# School Resource Officer

Officer Scott Dressler is the Revere School District, School Resource Officer (SRO) and started his 5<sup>th</sup> year as the school resource officer at Revere Local Schools. For 2024 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. These are just a few things that the SRO accomplished in 2024 to improve the safety and security of our students and school system.



# **Animal Control**

## **Dog Warden Patricia Horn**

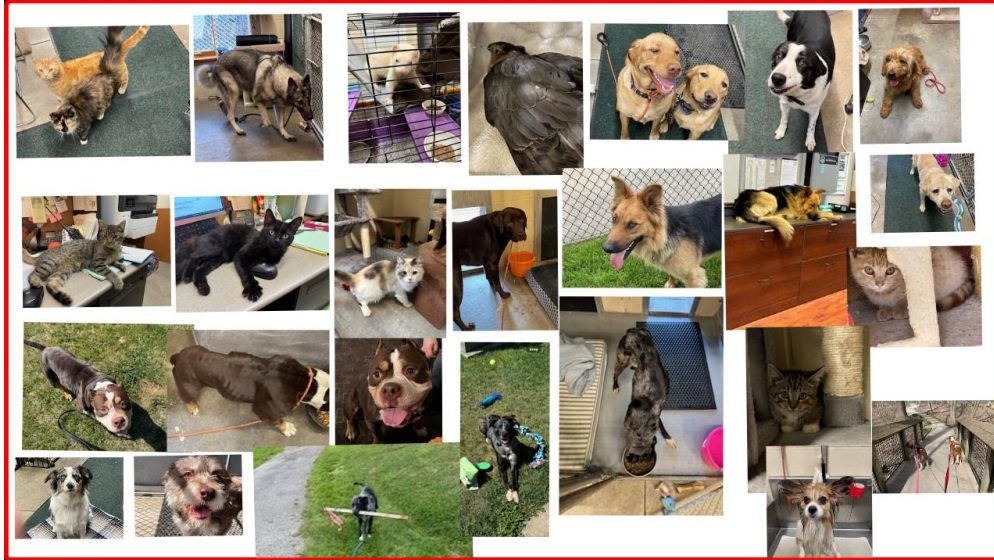
This year there were some improvements to the kennel. This included a new HVAC system, and 2 weather/wind flaps installed on the guillotine doors to the outside, which have helped tremendously in controlling the temperature inside for the animals. I hope to get 2 more weather/wind flaps installed next year. We also signed a contract for services with Summit County Animal Control, we now have a set contracted price in case we need to surrender any animals to them for aggression or illness issues.

In 2024, we had a total of 204 animal calls, 13 of which were calls for Bath Township. 16 calls alone were for the goats on the monastery property on Broadview Rd and the dog by the same owner. 85 were miscellaneous calls, including barking dog complaints and 90 were for animals of all kinds running at large.

There were 76 animals housed in the kennel this year. 50 dogs, 15 cats and 11 others, the other category included 6 chickens, 2 x-large sulcata tortoises, 1 ferret, and 2 injured hawks. Out of the total, 43 animals went home, 22 were turned over to rescues and 11 had other outcomes. This year, same as last, the rescue world is overwhelmed with unwanted animals. This year I kept animals longer than before because there was no place to house the animals, even after they had been accepted into or by a rescue. In that case, the rescue would schedule vet appointments and adoption events, they covered all costs, while I just housed and cared for the animals. This year (1) dog with the help of Fido's companion and Friendship APL was accepted into the GCI (Grafton Correctional Institute) prison dog training program, this greatly increases the dogs' chances of getting adopted and staying in their forever home.

There were two occasions where I took in several animals from families overwhelmed when the owner passed away or had serious health conditions. On September 17<sup>th</sup> a resident passed away and I rehomed (6) chickens, placed (2) x-large sulcata tortoises with Jungle Terry, and placed (2) pugs with Ohio Pug rescue. One of the pug puppies was adopted by a family and one by a Richfield fire department member.

I was contacted by a resident on 11/08/24 who had a serious health condition, and his wife did as well. The owner was no longer able to take care of (4) Mountain cur (hunting breed) puppies and (1) female Jack Russell. One of the pups was adopted by a Richfield service department employee who was a family friend of the owner. Two pups, male and female were turned over to Rescue Village in Novelty Ohio. The Jack Russell was taken by Multiple Breed Rescue in Grafton and the remaining pup was taken to Bellevue Ohio to Fido's Companion Rescue.



### 2024 kennel guests

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, K9 recovery contacted me about a dog they trapped on Scotswood Circle. The dog was a very young, un-neutered Catahoula dog named Colby who was microchipped. I contacted the owner who stated they gave him away and refused to give me the new owner's information. Colby was very skittish and not leash trained. I managed to have him accepted by a rescue if I continued to house him until he could be adopted. I accepted, and the rescue service covered all the vet and food bills. I cared for Colby until he was adopted on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Colby was spotlighted on Leon Bibb's Channel 3 news program "We the people" where Colby's adopters met him and fell in love with him. It was a match made in heaven.

In July there were reports of an all-white ferret running around Logwood/Rusticwood areas. The ferret was finally caught and turned over to me, and I was able to find a ferret rescue to take it in.

On September 5<sup>th</sup> Bath dispatch contacted me to assist officers with a dog sitting against the main entrance to a business on Cleveland Massillon Rd. The dog appeared to be aggressive, the Bath officers got a catch pole on the dog, but they were unsure how to proceed from there. I responded and assessed the situation. A beautiful (very skinny) Pit bull female, apparently used for breeding was just sitting on the doorstep. I was able to get a slip lead on the dog and she willingly came to the car and hopped in. I posted her on the Richfield Village Facebook Page and Next-Door apps. I was getting information that the dog had been spotted for several weeks in Medina and Hinckley where she was run off people's property. I'm sure it was due to her breed and look. My thoughts were that the Bath Police Chief would want her turned over to Summit County Animal Control to be euthanized because of her behavior when the officers approached her. The founder of Kane's Rescue organization stopped in the kennel to pick up a dog and she took one look at the Pitt and asked if she could take her into their care. With approval from the Bath Police Chief "Sumo" was turned over to Kane's Rescue, vetted and put up for adoption.

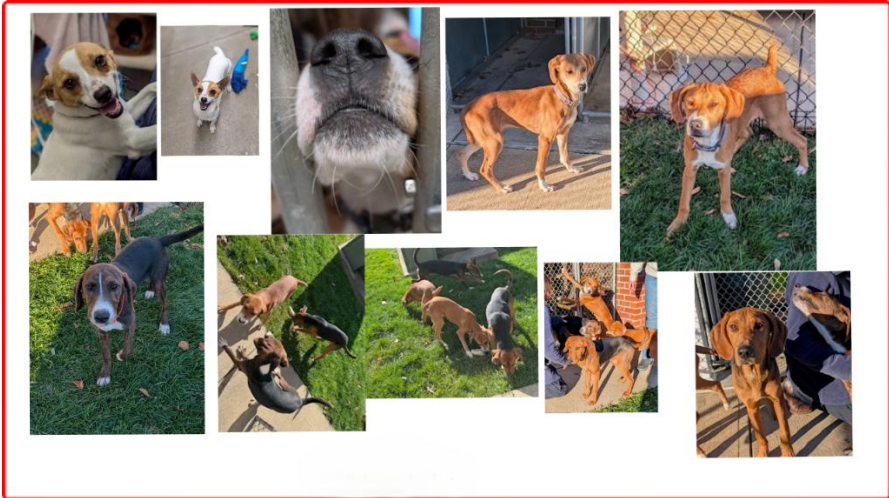


### More 2024 kennel guests

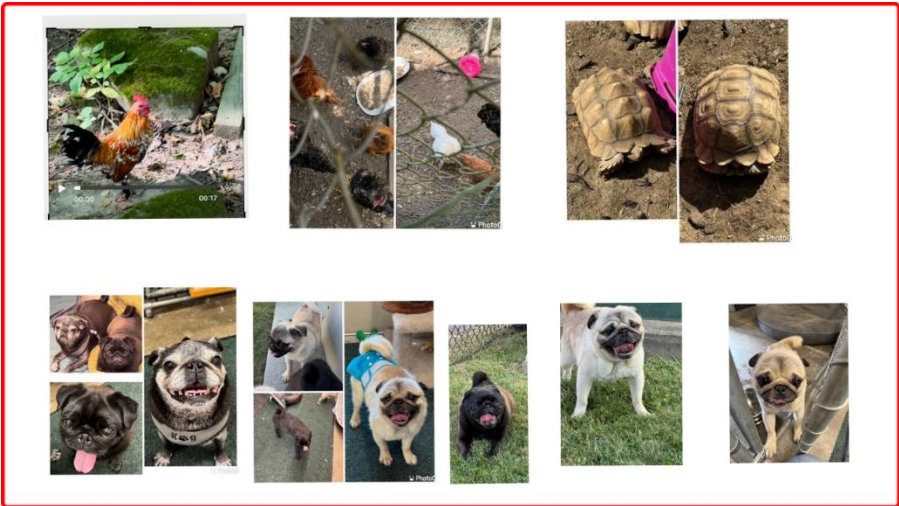
On December 2<sup>nd</sup> I received a call from Richfield Animal Medical Center, Dr. Fogel's office. They advised a truck driver that was passing through on Thanksgiving lost an 8yr old short hair Border collie while letting the dog out in the Quality Inn parking lot. The man had to continue his route, so he left the area and heading towards his home in Colorado after contacting Richfield Animal Medical Center. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, I received a call from Dr. Fogel's office that the dog "Kate" had been found. She made it to Ridge Rd. in Hinckley where an amazing young girl took her in. Kate was taken to Dr. Fogel's office where I picked her up and brought her back to the kennel. I contacted the owner, and the dog was later reunited with the owner. A very happy ending to a very long 6 days for the owner.

Some of the last dogs taken into the kennel this year were abandoned on I-271 at the rest area on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Two young, un-altered male pit bulls, that were beautiful, friendly and well cared for animals. They had no collars, ID tags or microchips and not a single lead as to who the owners were. I contacted 105 rescue groups, and none were able to take them in. Unfortunately, when I took in a 3<sup>rd</sup> dog, the pit bulls became very aggressive, trying to attack the new dog. Due to their behavior, they were turned over to Summit County Animal Control. They will be assessed, vetted and if possible, placed for adoption with restrictions.

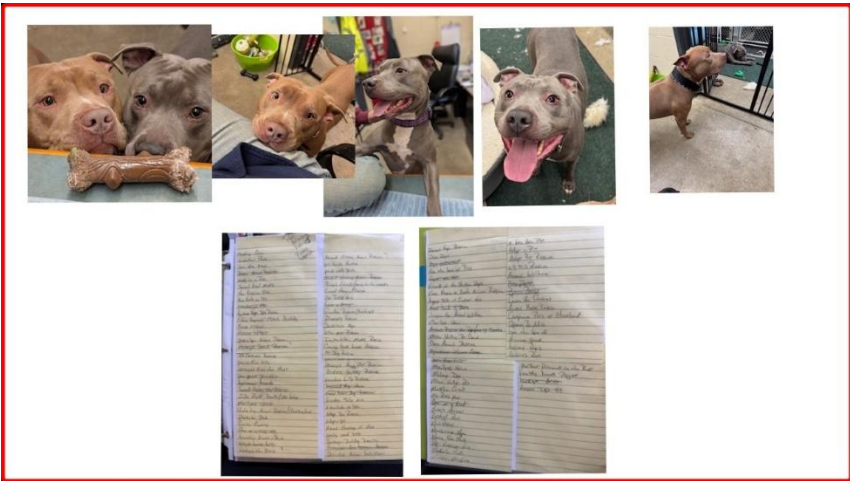
Please contact me if I can assist with any of your animal needs in the communities we serve.



The Broadview Rd. Mountain Cur puppies & Jack Russell



The Oviatt Rd. chickens, tortoises and 5 pugs.



The 2 Pitt bulls abandoned on I-271

# Training

The Richfield Police Department, led by Chief Swanson's belief that training is an integral part of establishing high professional standards within its department. The Richfield Police Department knows that Richfield residents expect its Police Department to provide quality training in carrying out its service. The Richfield Police Department strives to provide quality training within financial constraints for all its officers be it in-service training, in person training, outside of the organization, along with eLearning.

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 them 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.



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 policies contain content that pertains to Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification (OCLEAC) Standards which encompasses numerous mandates.

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 Daily Training Bulletins also count towards the completion of an officer Continuing Professional Training mandated by the State.

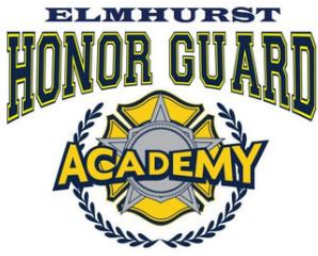


In 2024, the Richfield Police Department held a three-day training session for our DMT Intoximeter. The DMT Intoximeter is a new device used by Richfield Officers to estimate suspected intoxicated drivers' blood alcohol level by evaluating your breath. The new DMT Intoximeter is an advanced evidential desktop breath testing instrument, which was the first to integrate a breath alcohol testing instrument with a powerful embedded computer with graphics touchscreen. The unit combines a judicially accepted analytical system with a

customizable user interface, and has the fastest signal processing in the industry, allowing test results to be displayed in real time, without any delay. This new machine replaced our old BAC DataMaster which was over 20 years old.

Also in 2024, the Richfield Police sent four officers including Sgt. Testa, Ofc. McArtor, Ofc. Lee, and Ofc. Awad to Calibre Press's Street Survival® Seminar which addresses law enforcement as the multi-faceted profession it has become. Rather than limiting our focus to just surviving deadly threats, we also discuss the need to prepare officers for making sound, legal and reasonable decisions under stress to preserve the lives of citizens as well as their own. The foundation of this program is understanding and training realistically for stress events. From driving too fast and using unwarranted amounts of force to ineffective communication and the inability to decompress off-duty, the seminar emphasizes the need to understand and manage stress as the key to professional and personal success.





The Richfield Police Department along with the Richfield Fire Department is starting the next chapter in our Honor Guard. Along with the Richfield Fire, a total of (5) officers and fire medics attended an Honor Guard Basics class in Wickliff Ohio that was an intense 3-days of training that provided our staff with the fundamentals of honor guard maneuvers. From precession movements to marching, to flag etiquette to funeral protocols, this training offers everything a polished honor guard unit needs to know. Among other basics our staff learned the following: Static Facing Maneuvers, Marching, Flag Posting & Folding, Manual of Arms.



The Richfield Police Department sent Ofc. Noffsinger to Human Trafficking Training for two days at Cleveland State University. The Police Department sent Ofc. Noffsinger to this training due in part to the Richfield Police Department participation in the Summit County Human Trafficking Task Force. Skills and training learned prevents missed opportunities during routine calls and encounters with potential youth and adult victims. Additional victim-centered skills training is still needed throughout Ohio. This training provides law enforcement, detectives, patrol, parole and probation, dispatch, analysts, other first responders, the medical community, prosecutors, and advocates with the ability to identify human trafficking victims (and suspects) wherever they may encounter them: on traffic stops, on 911 calls, during home visits, etc.

FREE TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS, ANALYSTS, ADVOCATES, PROBATION AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS!

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING

RESULTS-BASED training to interdict human trafficking suspects and victims. If you have any interest in this field, this is the program to attend.

**JULY 17-18, 2024: 0800-1700**  
 CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
 CSU LAW MOOT COURT ROOM  
 1801 EUCLID AVE LB 101  
 CLEVELAND, OHIO

<p><b>DAY 1: INTERDICTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition from routine call to trafficking incident</li> <li>Properly obtain evidence including from cell phones.</li> <li>Interview victim and suspect for results.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DAY 2: OPERATIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to conduct proactive operations at hotels, casinos, buses, trains, truck stops, sex offenders, predators and more along with contacting victims</li> </ul>
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Your Instructor: **DAN NASH**, Founder **HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING CENTER**, Missouri State Trooper (Retired), Human Trafficking Unit

HOSTED BY:  
 CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY  
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In 2024, The Richfield Police Department again complied with the Continuing Professional Training (CPT) mandate, which requires every peace officer in Ohio to complete 24 hours of state mandated training in the calendar year of 2024. The Richfield Police Department received grant funding 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. This training can be completed in-house, with a series of training videos or completed when officers are sent out for training and the training is approved by the State of Ohio for CPT hours. A Description of what is included in the 24 hours of Professional Training is below:

**8 hours:** Five topics, totaling 8 hours, set by the Commission that all peace officers and troopers must take in 2024 are: 2 hours Legal Updates, 2 hours Responding to Mental Health Issues, 2 hours De-Escalation, 1-hour Marsy's Law / Victim Rights, 1 hour NIBIN.

**16 hours:** Training topics at the direction of the Agency Administrator. For the remaining 16 required hours, Agency Administrators can use any pre-approved training that meets the requirements. A list of pre-approved courses can be found on the Attorney General's CPT website. A majority of OPOTA in-person classes provided in London, at a Close-To-Home regional provider or other authorized OPOTA training locations can be CPT approved. Additionally, eLearning provided through OPOTA Online can fulfill these 16 hours of CPT training.

In summary, the Richfield Police Department sent officers to other training courses throughout the year in which they received certification. Some of the highlighted courses are: Advance Search and Seizure classes, Advanced Traffic Stops, Active Shooter Training, Vehicle Pursuit Supervision Training Crisis Intervention Training, Mobile Field Force, FEMA Training, Rescue Task Force Training, CIT Training, Less Lethal Training, Auto Theft Training, Death Notification Training.



Outside training and in-person classes are met by sending personnel to specialized training classes through many different training providers, be it Blue to Gold, Calibre Press, OPOTA, and other evolving avenues. Training needs are reviewed and determined for all its officers' skills and tactics that in turn make the department better able to respond to the needs of the Richfield Residents. As technology, law enforcement best practices, tactics and case law continually evolve, providing current training to the officers is critical. The Richfield Police Department sends officers across the state of Ohio to receive training. Officers receive this 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 more advanced in their road patrol skills to better themselves as Richfield Officers.

# Property Room

The proficiency of the property room often makes the difference in the 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.

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.



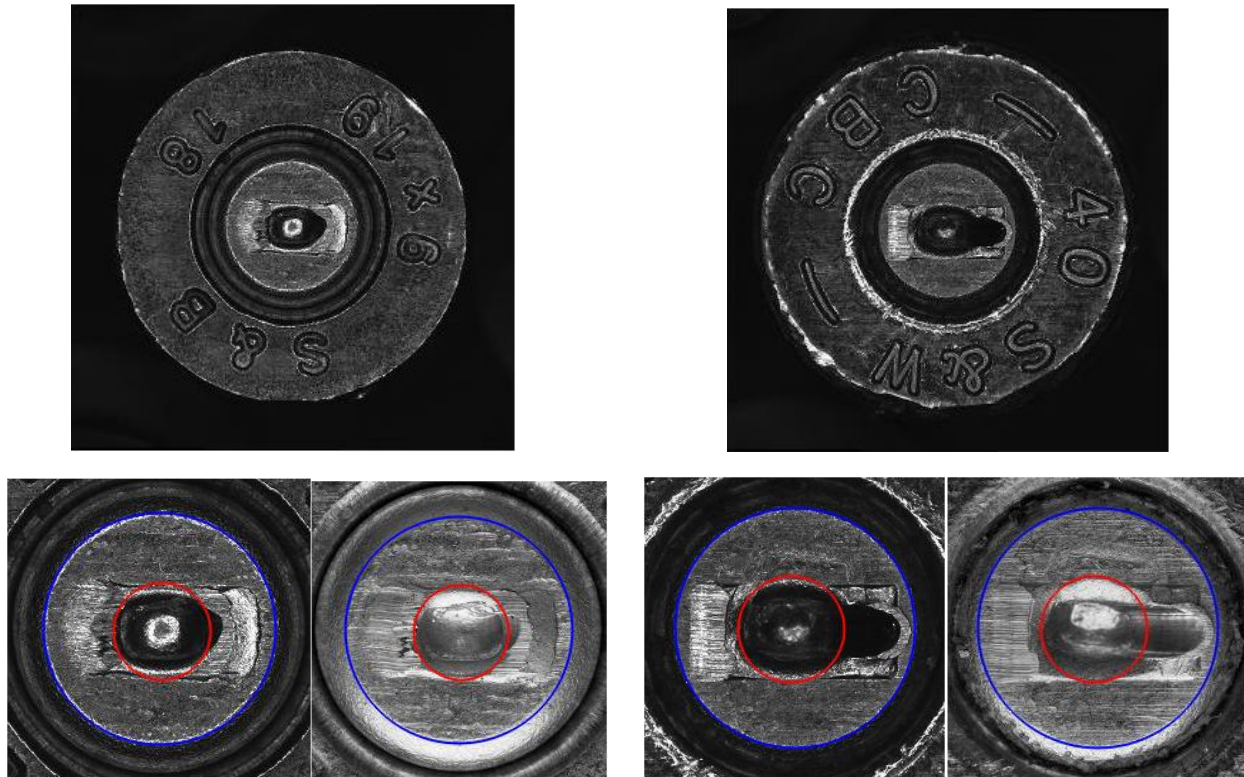
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*During 2024 the property room booked in 238 pieces of evidence, including 9 firearms. The photographs above are some of the items that were collected by RPD this year.*

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During 2024 property room staff complied with a new state law requiring state agencies to inventory all sexual assault evidence collection kits in their possession and report those statistics to the State of Ohio. Property room staff also oversaw the transition from using TAC as our evidence management program to Sundance. This transition entailed a painstaking process of going through hundreds of items currently being stored in the property room, re-tagging those items and ensuring that all evidence was properly cataloged in the new program.

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.



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*The photographs above show examples of the markings from two bullet casings that NIBIN compares to other millions of casings collected at crime scenes across the country to generate investigative leads.*

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# 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 Auroa, Boston Heights, Barberton, Copley, Cuyahoga Falls, Fairlawn, Hudson, Kent, Norton, Macedonia, Peninsula, Richfield, Summit County Metro Parks, Silver Lake, Stow, Tallmadge, Twinsburg, Streetsboro, and the Summit County Sheriff's Office. 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 four 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 ensures a quick and professional response in an emergency as well as expert investigation.

Sergeant Michael Testa is an active member of the SMcRT and has been a team member since 2021. Sgt. Testa is a Level III traffic crash investigator. Sergeant Testa responded to multiple serious injury and fatal crashes in 2024.

During 2024 there was one fatal crash in Richfield. There were 51 crashes with reported injuries on scene. The vast majority 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.

The Ohio Department of Transportation along with the Kenmore Construction Company started a major lane widening project on Interstate 77 in 2024 which is scheduled to be completed in 2026. During the first year of construction, Richfield Police responded to 144 traffic crashes in 2024 compared to 79 in 2023, an 82% increase. Efforts are being made to reduce that number during the ongoing construction.



## Richfield Crash Statistics

Interstate 77	Interstate 271	Village/Township Roads	Total
144	25	71	240

Fatal	Serious Injury	Minor Injury	Possible Injury	Property Damage
1	5	28	17	189

# Firearms/Range



The Richfield range and firearms program currently consists of two firearms instructors (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 10,000 pistol rounds, 9,000 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 giving officers the ability to respond to any type of call. In 2024 the department purchased a new sighting system for the rifles. The sighting systems will be mounted in 2025, and all officers will be trained in the use of them. Officers are also 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.

Officer Sprit has been trained as a rifle instructor and was utilized in 2024 on the range with the rifle. The department is going to try to do quarterly firearms training in 2025 along with less lethal training. All Officers have been trained in the use of the 40MM launcher which we purchased last year.

# 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 2024, the Police Department seized a trailer which has been converted to Police use. The trailer will be used for crash response and will contain all the necessary equipment such as closed road signs and traffic cones to close roads and lanes of travel.



The cruiser inventory of vehicles presently consists of (14) vehicles. Within the cruiser inventory are (11) marked road patrol units, and (3) unmarked units. The (11) marked patrol cars have also been outfitted with all new patrol rifles with lighting systems. In 2025, the rifles will be equipped with new sighting systems as well.

The marked road patrol cruisers are equipped with 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 and body cameras will be updated in 2025 to the new state-of-the-art systems. 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)	104134 Miles
Car #02	2023 Ford Police Explorer	30,961 Miles
Car #03	2022 Ford Police Explorer	82,652 Miles
Car #04	2020 Ford Police Explorer	97,235 Miles
Car #05	2020 Ford Police Explorer	102,540 Miles
Car #06	2023 Ford Police Explorer	16,623 Miles
Car #07	2022 Ford Police Interceptor	110,736 Miles
Car #08	2020 Ford Police Hybrid	98,470 Miles
Car #09	2023 Ford Police Explorer	11,108 Miles
Car #10	2023 Ford Expedition	25,259 Miles
K9 Car	2023 Ford Expedition	28,891 Miles

The Police Department normally drives well over 235,000 miles per year. We have added some new employees so the milage driven each year will go up.

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 Cars.

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 amazing safety town this year with record numbers of students and volunteers. This year we were at Richfield Elementary School. It was beneficial for the students to be in the building where they will spend their first three years of school. We had a morning and afternoon session with an open house on Friday. We had 225 student volunteers from the middle school and high school. This year we let the student volunteers run the program. They did an amazing job, and we are blessed to have so many talented young people in our community. We had 150 4- and 5-year old's attend safety town. Revere Safety Town is run by a committee and is funded primarily through donations. The safety committee consists of Geoff Kuzas, Danny Pierce, Stacie Campbell and Scott Dressler. This year we had a new sponsor, Matt Dalla Riva from Redline Shipping and Warehousing. Our other partners are The Revere Schools Foundation, Greg Zolton (State Farm), Mellion Orthodontics, DiLauro Wracher & Thomas, Pint and Pie, GMS, Revere Schools, Richfield and Bath 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 Revere Local Schools. The impact this program has had on students and volunteers will never be known. We have already started to plan for Safety Town 2025 and expect just as many students next year.



# Metro SWAT

In 2024, Metro SWAT responded to 24 calls for service. Activations included Armed Barricaded Subjects, High Risk Search Warrants, Land Navigation, requests for searching for suspects and lost/injured persons and evidence, along with manpower requests, etc...

Metro SWAT is currently providing special weapons and tactical responses to 25 police agencies inside Summit and Portage counties.

The Team added a new Lenco Bear Cat Rescue vehicle to its fleet in 2024. The new Rescue vehicle will be at Richfield's Community Days in August of 2025, stop by and see the vehicle.



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](mailto:jpetrovich@richfieldpd.us)) or Officer Joel Meister at ([jmeister@richfieldpd.us](mailto: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

In 2024, the Richfield Police Drone Unit along with Richfield Fire/EMS has continued to use our Drone Technology to assist our citizens. The team assists with search and rescue, law enforcement activities such as crime scenes and accident mapping and observing traffic incidents such as accidents or construction to give our citizens updated information of closers of our local roads and highways.



The department will be adding three more police officers to the team in 2025. Richfield Police will continue to update our drone program as the technologies advance in the future. Due to current events we request the public contact us if you observe drones that are operating in an unsafe or suspicious manner, Detective John Petrovich can be reached by phone at 330-659-2851 or email [jpetrovich@richfieldpd.us](mailto:jpetrovich@richfieldpd.us) if a drone is being flown irresponsibly that would put life or property at risk call 911.

# B.A.C Datamaster (Blood Alcohol Content)

Sergeant Testa is responsible for the Breathalyzer Equipment; Officer McArtor 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 every seven days, not to exceed 192 hours. The operation and instrument checks are overseen by Sgt. Testa and Ofc. McArtor 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 are permitted to conduct an instrument check. The Richfield Police department has 10 Senior Operators and 0 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 42 times by 4 different Law Enforcement Agencies, from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, for alcohol-related calls for service.

The Following is a breakdown of the B.A.C. DataMaster for 2024.

Agency	Arrests	Male	Female
<b>Richfield Police</b>	33	17	16
<b>Ohio Highway Patrol</b>	7	2	5
<b>National Park Service</b>	1	1	0
<b>Brecksville Police</b>	1	1	0

Break Down by Test Results	
<b>Under .08</b>	2
<b>.08-.169</b>	10
<b>.170 and up</b>	9
<b>Refusals</b>	21
<b>Highest Test Given</b>	.270
<b>Faulty Machine</b>	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 42 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 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 breakdown for blood and urine results for 2024.

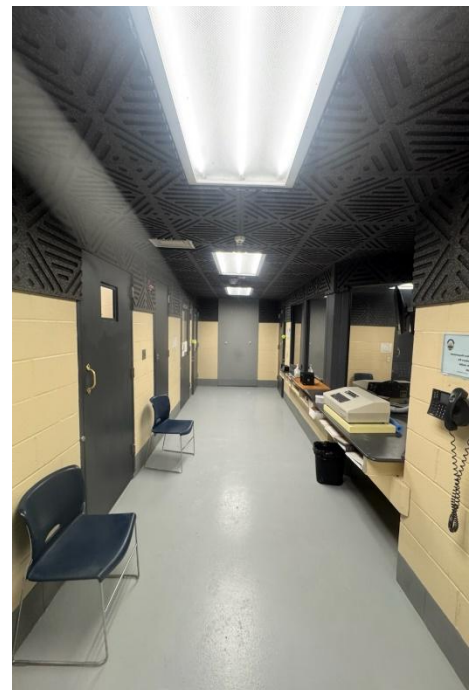
<b>Urine Samples</b>	<b>Blood samples</b>
<b>2 Refusals</b>	<b>1 Refusal</b>
<b>1 Positive for Alcohol and Fentanyl</b>	<b>1 Positive for Cocaine, Meth, THC</b>
<b>1 Pending Results</b>	<b>1 Positive for Alcohol and THC</b>

The B.A.C. DataMaster will be phased out in January of 2025. The Ohio Department of Health has a list of approved machines. The Richfield Police Department has purchased an Intoximeter DMT breath testing machine, it will be put in service in the year 2025. (12) Officers are currently trained on the new machine.

# 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 2024.



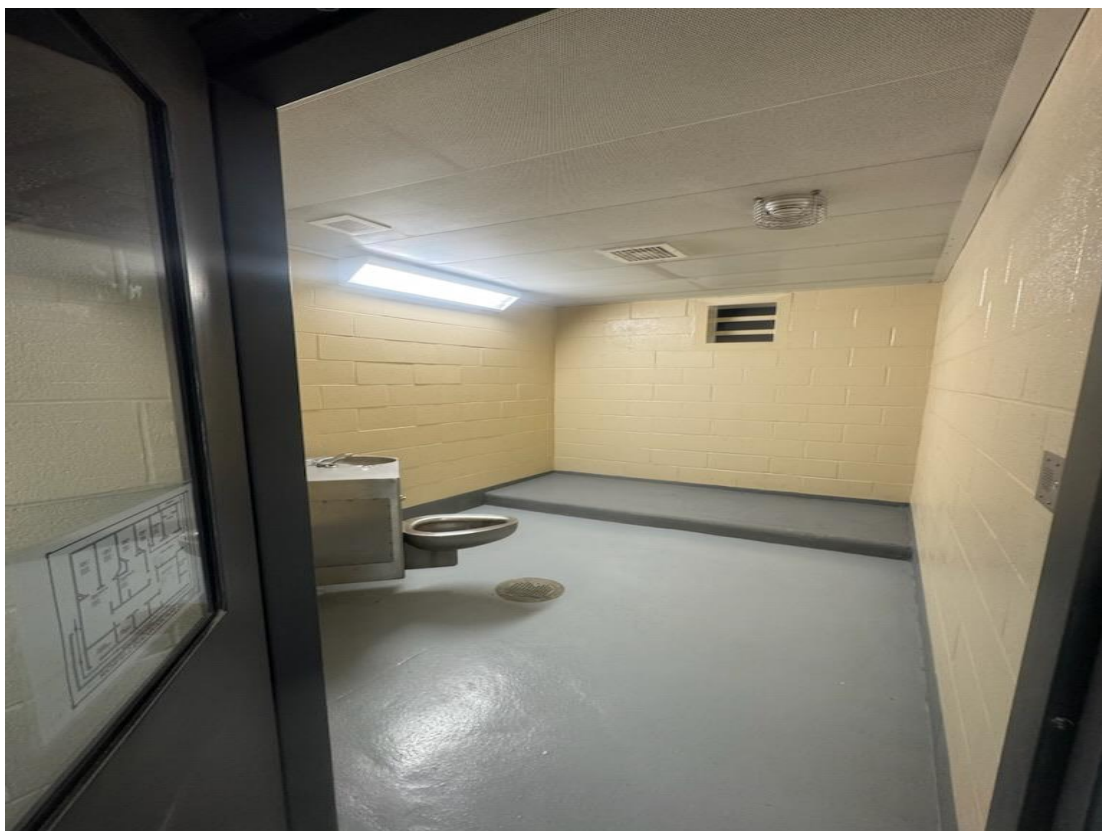
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*The photos above show the jail intake area.*

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The Richfield Jail Staff belong 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 collaboration and sharing of information between state, county, and local agencies to improve processes and provides required continuing education for administrators and corrections officers.

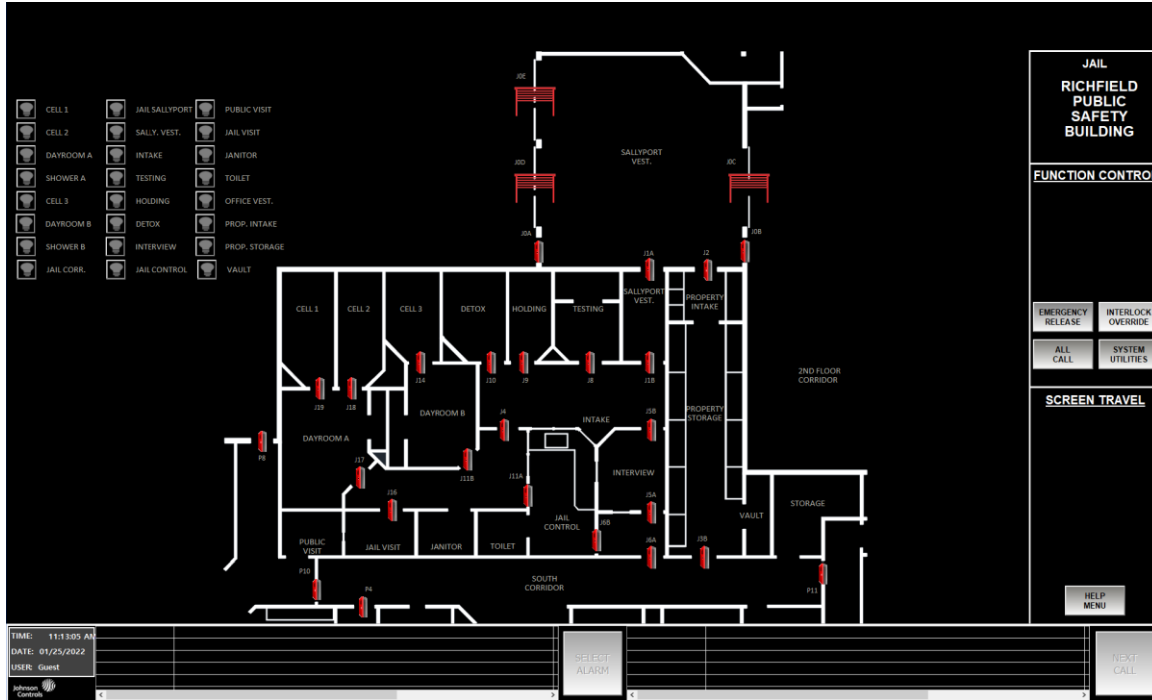
All Richfield Police Officers receive training related to the Jail and are responsible for booking in arrestees and ensuring safety and security while inmates are being held. The Jail is accessed and controlled using an updated digital control panel, that was installed in 2021 and has been performing without fault since installation.



*Jail "Detox Cell"*

In 2024, 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 also continues to provide meals for inmates. Dr. Daher is responsible for training our RPD Officers on issues such 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 2024, the Richfield Jail had a total of 63 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.



*Jail “Control Panel”*

# Canine Unit

The Richfield Canine Unit has been reinstated as of October 2023. The unit consists of supervisor Sgt. Chris Fyffe and handler Jacob Totten with his canine partner, Nori. Nori is a three-year old Dutch Shepherd who was imported from Holland and trained by Tri-State K9 (Warren, Ohio.) Their original training consisted of 200 hours of hands-on training covering Narcotics, Tracking, Article Searches, and Bite Apprehension. The two were certified by the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy as a dual-purpose team. They 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 can also search for missing persons and apprehend fleeing suspects by tracking their scent. They will be able to locate 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 with the Police Canine Association (PK9A) out of Canton, Ohio 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 more effectively enforce the laws of the community and the State of Ohio. This unit can be not only a psychological deterrent to a criminal, but its presence on a scene as either as a primary or back up unit may also deter or even prevent a violent confrontation with a criminal. The main function of this unit is to combat the growth in the use and transportation of illegal drugs within the community and those that surround it. The Caine Unit has several ways to combat this ever-growing problem. It has the ability to 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 which a human alone could not. The unit will also respond to traffic stops to assist with locating the presence of narcotics inside a motor vehicle. The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that a search 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 a vehicle, it gives officers probable cause to search it.

Since the reinstatement of the Canine Unit in October of 2023, Officer Totten and K9 Nori have been deployed (27) times. Eighteen of these deployments were routine traffic stops where K9 Nori alerted to the presence of narcotic odor. The other (9) times the team was deployed was to assist agencies such as Bath Police Department, Akron Police Department, and Fairlawn Police Department with tracking or assisting in the apprehension of individuals. Out of the (27) deployment K9 Nori assisted with (12) arrests. Two notable deployments of 2024 occurred in Bath's jurisdiction. The first one involved an individual who fled from an automobile accident on Ira Road near Revere Road into the woods. K9 Nori was deployed. He was then able to locate

the suspect after approximately a 1-mile track through a wooded area. The suspect was apprehended without incident and taken into custody for operating a vehicle while impaired.

The other deployment involved the Summit County Drug Taskforce on a motor vehicle stop, again in Bath's jurisdiction, on Route 18 near Interstate 77. K9 Nori was asked to perform a narcotic sniff around a motor vehicle. Following a positive alert from K9 Nori the vehicle was then searched based upon probable cause. Upon conclusion of the search, multiple needles, a crack pipe, scale, and crack cocaine were recovered from the vehicle. One individual was taken into custody as well.



# Employee Wellness

In 2022 the Richfield Police Department established an Employee Wellness Program to support officers mental and physical health and wellness. The program is managed by Det. Sgt. Ryan Kellackey and Sgt. Bart Randolph. We continued our efforts in 2024 by establishing an officer peer support program. Assistant Chief Fister spearheaded the program, which will be a partnership with the Summit County Safety Forces Support Center, who conducts free training to certify officers to provide peer support. Det. Kellackey, Dispatcher Kim Cirola, Officer Doug McArtor and Officer Hoffman have volunteered to go through the training and provide peer support by conducting one-on-one support as needed, or group debriefings after critical incidents. We are also able to reach out to the Summit County Safety Forces Support Center for additional resources if necessary. This structure conforms to the current industry's best practices standard of having front line supervision and staff involved in recognizing red flags associated with mental health issues and having the tools to take steps to help or reach out for assistance if needed. We have also continued to support officer's mental health by continuing to offer sessions with a mental health professional free of charge at a local practice.

Exercise is also crucial for maintaining physical health and mental wellness. With that in mind we have also continued to encourage employees to maintain healthy habits by providing access to the employee gym and allowing for on-duty use during approved circumstances.

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



# 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 patrol, 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 once again. Our officers chaperoned 5 kids 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 5 kids 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, Sgt. 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.

