

Springboro Police History

Lineage & History

1815: Jonathan Wright plots 86 lots in Springborough and builds his home.

Circa 1900s: 325 S. Main Street Springboro, Ohio 45066 was the first known location of City Hall/ Police Services. The south entrance to the building contains one room which was the Police Department and a meeting hall. The north entrance was for City Hall. The rear of the building also contained three holding cells.



1915: Springboro celebrates its centennial.

Circa 1950: Clyde "Pappy" Pickett is the first known and documented town marshal. `Pappy' was the town marshal in the early 1950s. His granddaughter, Phyllis Chenault, said he mainly handled traffic and was a school patrol crossing guard.

Dayton Daily News, OH Rosalie Yoakam, February 5, 2004

Circa mid 1950s: Walter F. Stephens, Jr. became Springboro Police Chief. He was the first to be appointed to this position. A Navy Veteran of WW II, he also owned and operated Walter F. Stephens Inc., which distributed law enforcement and jail supplies to law enforcement agencies internationally.

1957: Bob Baker appointed as Police Chief. He served from 1957 to 1960. The village had neither a dispatcher nor a radio base station. When Baker was patrolling the village streets, calls were answered at his house by his wife. A phone, an extension of the one at the police station, was installed in their house. *Dayton Daily News, Rosalie Yoakam, February 5, 2004*

1960: Carl Hirschbach was trained as a police officer and promoted to the position of Police Chief by Mayor Fred Mayne. Chief Hirschbach was hired with no police experience and assumed the role of Police Chief for the Village of Springboro with a population of roughly 900 residents. His starting wage was \$350.00 a month. He served in the capacity of Police Chief until 1991.

June 27, 1983: William L. Johnson was killed in the line of duty. Officer Johnson was struck by a drunk driver and killed while investigating two suspicious people walking along Ohio State Route 73. Officer Johnson had been with the agency for nine years and was survived by his wife, son, and three daughters. He was also a Marine Corps Veteran and served during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

July 1, 1987: Springboro becomes incorporated



December 18, 1988: Donna Campbell, was the known female appointed as a full-time Springboro Police Officer.

Officer Daily was the first female police officer, employed in the 1980s by the Village of Springboro. We don't have her first name.

September 18, 1991: Chief Hirschbach prepares to retire. He served 31 years as Police Chief. The City has 10 full-time patrol officers and 5 dispatchers. *Dayton Daily News, James Cummings, staff writer, September 18, 1991*

1991: Chief Hochstrasser replaces Chief Hirschbach. He serves as chief from 1991-1997

1992: Springboro enacts D.A.R.E program and Officer Don Wilson (#111) heads up the program.

1995: The first year for Operation Santa. Springboro Police give gifts to local residents in need.

March 17, 1997: Chief Robin McDonald assumes the role of Police Chief.

1998: Eight area communities, including Springboro, outfitted two police cars with computers so officers can run a national and statewide database checks. *Dayton Daily News, Richelle Thompson, Warren County Bureau, February 26, 1998*

August 26, 1999: Springboro outfits two patrol cruisers with defibrillators. *Dayton Daily News, Carmen M. Henderson, Warren County Bureau, July 29, 1999*

January 18, 2000: Randy Peagler was hired as a full-time Police Officer for the City of Springboro and was the first African American Police Officer to hold the position.

2004: Springboro Detective Tim Parker was assigned to a cold case unit which was established to look into the rape and murder of Vickie Barton. A year later, ex-lieutenant Thomas "Jim" Barton was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and aggravated burglary after the investigation revealed he was responsible for the 1995 death of his wife Vickie Barton.

September 14, 2008: Springboro Officers work around the clock providing assistance and responding to calls for service after a devastating wind storm struck Springboro and the Miami Valley causing residents to be without power and other basic utilities for upwards to a week. Multiple injuries and damage to property were reported as a result of the storm. The remnants of Hurricane Ike caused the costliest natural disaster in Ohio in recent years. The damages for the Miami Valley were estimated to be at \$1.255 billion. *Source: Ohio Insurance Institute*

April 28, 2012: When the Fifth-Third Bank manager went to open the bank that morning, there were two armed males who secreted themselves among the bushes around the bank. When the manager opened the door, they forced their way into the bank with him. The manager believed

at least one round was fired at him, and he escaped through the back door of the bank. Road patrol officers responded quickly to the scene and caught the robbers off-guard causing them to barricade themselves inside the bank. Both men later surrendered and were turned over to federal custody. A standoff with the men lasted nearly five-hours and 75 to 100 officers and agents responded to the scene.

2013: Sgt. Wilson is announced National D.A.R.E America Officer of the Year. Sgt. Wilson has spent 22 years as Springboro's D.A.R.E. Officer and serves as the president of the DARE Association of Ohio.

June 8, 2015: The Springboro Police Department in conjunction with the Clearcreek Twp. Division of Police and the Springboro Community School District hosted the first Safety Town.

July 25, 2015: Springboro celebrates its bicentennial. Springboro Officers are given a new style of badge to wear. The bicentennial badges were worn on the duty uniform for the calendar year 2015.

August 25, 2015: Detective Dustin Christian with the assistance of Ohio BCI and FBI began an investigation that revealed a \$70 million dollar Ponzi scheme run by William Apostelos at 35 Commercial Way in Springboro, Ohio. The FBI assumed the investigation that a federal prosecutor called "the biggest scam in local history."

2016: The *SafeWise* Report released its "50 Safest Cities in Ohio" list for 2016 and Springboro is ranked 17th and according to *WalletHub*, Springboro ranked as the 8th best city in Ohio for families. The police department is attributed to the success.

March 2019: Detectives Terry Dunkel and Dustin Christian were awarded TCSU Investigator of the Year Award by the Tactical Crime Suppression Unit and recognized by the Fraternal Order of Police for their successful investigation of John Austin Hopkins.

July 13, 2019: Officer Josh Emmel and Officer Cody Baker conducted a traffic stop in the area of the I-75. During the stop the officers recognized the front-seat passenger was experiencing a medical emergency and not responding. Officer Emmel and Baker responded quickly and appropriately providing first-aid ultimately saving the victim's life. Both officers were presented with a lifesaving award by Mayor John Agenbroad.

April 21, 2023: Chief Jeff Kruithoff retired and ended a 50-year law enforcement career. Chief Kruithoff served the City of Springboro for 21 years. Prior, Chief Kruithoff served as a police officer in Michigan for 28 years.

April 22, 2023: Dan Bentley was sworn in by Mayor Agenbroad during the April 20, 2023 City Council meeting. Chief Bentley assumed his position as Chief on April 22, 2023. Chief Bentley is credited for founding the Springboro Police Honor Guard and the Police Bike Patrol programs. Chief Bentley has completed the Police Executive Leadership College and the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He also was a participant in the 260th session of the FBI National Academy. Chief Bentley is a U.S. Army veteran and a graduate of Ohio University.

June 22, 2023: Officer William "Billy" Johnson, was sworn in as a Springboro Police Officer. Billy is the grandson of fallen Springboro Police Officer William Johnson who was fatally struck by a drunk driver on Ohio 73 on June 27, 1983.

July 23, 2023: Officer Heath Martin was recognized by Chief Bentley and the City Council for rescuing a disabled and wheelchair bound man trapped inside a house fire. The man was trapped in a bedroom. Officer Martin was the first to arrive at a house fire in the 100 block of English Oak Lane on June 23, 2023.

December 2023: Several Springboro Officers and Detectives were recognized by the Tactical Crime Suppression unit for outstanding work. Officers Kyle Treon, Carl Hoskins and Cody Baker along with Detectives Dustin Christian, Josh Emmel and Dustin Hogan for their tireless efforts to assist in callouts for major investigations to include homicides, officer involved shootings and major fatal traffic crashes. Subsequently, Detectives Emmel and Hogan were awarded the TCSU Investigator of the Year Award for their investigation into an aggravated arson, aggravated burglary and aggravated assault that resulted in 17 felony charges and a nationwide manhunt for the suspect who was later apprehended in New York City by US Marshals.
Historical timeline provided by Officer D. Christian