

Police Department



*Cuyahoga Heights Police Station
5480 Grant Avenue*

School Zone Patrol on East 71st Street



Outside the old Police and Fire Station

(left to right) Unknown, Buster Gallitz (future Police Chief), Fire Chief William Saunders, Harry Blue (behind Chief Saunders), Lester Davis (future Fire Chief) and Paul Koran (future Fire Chief)

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Police Department

by Police Chief Brian D. Sturgill

The Village of Cuyahoga Heights has a very colorful history. A large part of what makes this history so colorful is the numerous individuals that have worn the shield of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department over the past 100 years.

While researching the experiences, exploits, accolades, adventures and sometimes misadventures of these officers, it was found easier to document the past in “eras” or “periods” rather than by defined dates and decades. Even though eras in time overlap and span different generations, one thing has remained true throughout the history of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, these officers have served our village with a servant’s heart and have protected her with a sense of ownership that would be difficult, if not impossible to duplicate anywhere else.

This chapter is dedicated to those that have worn that shield and been a part of the **Thin Blue Line** that is the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.

The Start: 1918 to 1930

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Early Law Enforcement

The first law enforcement and protection for the village was provided by an elected marshal. This marshal was assisted by constables and was authorized to appoint deputies as needed to assist at special events, strikes, property security and traffic details. During this period, the marshal and staff also assisted with the local court system. This court system had jurisdiction over minor offenses. These cases were heard by a justice of the peace.

The justice of the peace post was held by **Joseph Hanousek Sr.** It was his responsibility to hear minor criminal cases and disputes. In addition to this, he was said to have performed hundreds of civil marriage ceremonies in his home on East 71st Street. Justice Hanousek Sr. served until these posts were abolished by the state legislature. Family members of Justice Hanousek Sr. would continue to serve the village many years later when his nephew, **John L. Hanousek** would serve on the village council and great-niece **Christine Hanousek Suhy**, would serve as one of the village’s first police dispatchers from 1984 to 2015.

Elected Marshal

The first elected Marshal was **Delbert L. Davis**. He and his wife Della moved to Newburgh Heights from Delaware County. Prior to moving into the area, Davis was a farm worker. Marshal Davis was elected soon after the village was founded in 1918. He continued his service until he left his position December 31, 1931. In addition to his time in law enforcement, Davis also served as the fire chief for a short period. After losing the village marshal election in 1931, Davis owned and operated a service station/garage at his residence at 7123 Marcelline Court. He also drove delivery trucks and the village school bus. As is common in many

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service-oriented families, both Delbert Davis' son and grandson would follow as public servants for the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. His son, **Lester G. Davis**, would serve as the fire chief for the village, while his grandson, **Mark L. Davis**, joined the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department in 1993 and is presently assigned as the Deputy Chief. Marshal Davis would leave law enforcement when the **Mayor Isaac "Ike" Kennedy** administration took office with a newly elected **Marshal William Baur Sr.**



Marshal Delbert L. Davis



Delbert and Della Davis and son Lester



Marshal Davis circa 1925



Village Public Hall and Patrol Car

When law enforcement was first established in the village, the village was considered mainly rural. A large part of the policing by Marshal Davis and the constables during this period was a "reactive" type of policing as they often had other jobs. Calls for service were mostly benign in nature. Breaking up fights at local saloons; arresting drunks; catching tomato and chicken thieves and driving off vagrants from the railroads was the norm on a shift. Officers were also assigned to local businesses and industries as guards and night watchmen to prevent theft and for fire watch. The wages for these details were paid by the village. The village was then reimbursed by the private companies for services provided. Officers patrolled the village in one of two named vehicles, 1923 Lincoln Touring sedan and a 1927 Ford Model A coupe.

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During this period there was no actual police station. Arrested subjects were held in custody in the basement of what was known as public hall. This building was located at 4579 East 71st Street and served as the village's administration center and police station. The building later became a private residence and childhood home of future police chief, **Douglas J. Pallini**, 1981 to 2014.

Policing activity quickly changed when the Eighteenth Amendment prohibiting the sale, consumption and manufacturing of alcohol first took effect in Cuyahoga County on May 27, 1919. However, it was not well-enforced. One local officer was quoted, "Hell, I'm not going to arrest nobody for doing what I like to do myself!" As the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead Act became law in January 1920, two village saloons and the drugstore felt the heat after the Prohibition Bureau sent federal agents into the county. Several village homes were said to serve as bootlegging operations. Some even having tunnels to help avoid detection. It was known that local lawmen would turn a "blind-eye" when it came to enforcing alcohol laws and would leave it to the federal agencies. Like many areas across the country, Prohibition gave rise to organized crime which would eventually bring with it new problems for local law enforcement officers.

One of the earliest records setting the composition of the police department was from 1925. Ordinance #1925-57 provided for the following positions and pay scales:

• Marshal	\$2,300.00/year	• Special Police	70¢/hour
• Deputies	\$168.00/month	• Night Watchmen	70¢/hour
• Policemen	70¢/hour	• Guards	70¢/hour

Although the position of marshal had been in place prior to the establishment of the police department, the following ordinance established a brief job description for the position:

"The marshal shall be the head of the police department and shall in addition thereto, be the custodian of the public hall. The department as now operated consists of the marshal, who alone guards the public interest and various night watchmen and guards on private property."

Officers Serving with the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department from 1918 to 1930:

Marshal | **Delbert L. Davis** and Constable/Deputy Marshal | **Bernard Kaczmarek**

Constable/Deputy Marshal | **George Hecker** | photo unavailable

Deputy Marshal/Patrolman | **Ernest Knaack**



Constable Bernard Kaczmarek



Captain Ernest Knaack

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Depression and War Era | 1930s and 1940s

In the early 1930s, the political climate of the village and the country began to change. As expected these changes influenced the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.

The New Marshal

As the old political saying goes, “a new broom sweeps clean,” and this was true as it ever was in 1932 when Mayor Ike Kennedy’s administration came into office. On January 1, 1932, **Marshal Delbert L. Davis** was replaced by the voters with **William “Bill” Baur Sr.** as the new Marshal. Baur was the son of the then Street Commissioner Edward Baur. Prior to his election, he was a machinist for the Cleveland Disposal Plant. He was said to have run for the marshal’s position “on a dare.”

Also added to the ranks of the police department as a deputy marshal was the future Mayor, **William “Bill” Gerdon**. During this period, deputy marshals were used on an as-needed basis and rarely were on a dedicated patrol or beat. Only Patrolman **Ernest Knaack** would retain his position from the previous administration.



Chief William Baur crossing a student on East 71st Street and in his patrol car.

The Depression Years

Just prior to this change, the stock market crashed in 1929 starting what would become known as the Great Depression. In 1932, the Ohio General Assembly passed legislation that allowed the taxes collected from any gas and motor vehicle taxes to be spent by the municipalities for poor relief. By early 1933, over 200,000 people in Cuyahoga County were out of work; approximately 30,000 of whom were receiving direct or work relief benefits. Property owners could not pay their taxes in most suburban communities, which in turn affected the budgets of many communities. The Village of Cuyahoga Heights luckily fared better than most communities due to the large manufacturing base. However, belts still needed tightening and the total police department budget including wages was reduced by approximately 25%. Through research, records also revealed that several officers experienced intermittent lay-offs between 1936 to 1938.

Police work largely consisted of preventing thefts, including food and crowd control at strikes and protests. Due to the extreme economic depression, many middle-class citizens experienced poverty for the

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first time in their lives. To the workers and needy, the early years of the Depression brought desperation and conflict. Crowd violence in the form of food riots and unemployment protests during the early years of the Depression gave way to labor strikes and violent clashes with law enforcement in the late 1930s. Marshal Baur colorfully described these encounters later in an interview, “Traffic was our big problem then, but once in a while we’d have a strike at one of the plants. One time, I even saw strikers using meat hammers, bricks, clubs and fists on each other. We broke it up though—with four or five policemen. A good bat on the snoot quieted them down. In those days, they chose policemen not for what he could do, but for their size.”

In 1935, the new and what is now the current village hall was constructed and the previous public hall on the northern end of East 71st Street was closed and became a private residence. A portion of the basement in the new village hall served as the new police station and jail.

An interesting side note is that during this period police officers did not carry portable radios. Patrolmen were summoned to calls by designated lights or lamps that were mounted on the outside of the village hall. If a police officer was needed, this light would be turned on by village hall personnel who received said call. The officer would then stop at the nearest phone, possibly a business, residence or call box and phone the hall to receive the information. It is assumed that the custodian, residing in the village hall apartment, took the calls for service after business hours. This was early dispatching at its finest!

Even more interesting was the way in which officers communicated between one another while on patrol. The following was taken from an actual procedure found in the *1937 Rules and Regulations Manual of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department*.

Rule 22

“Three loud and distinct calls will be sounded on police whistles when help is required. Three calls must be answered immediately by all officers and patrolmen hearing the same. They shall use all possible haste in reaching the sound of the trouble, in the meantime giving response to the call by one blast of their whistle. One call will be given when a patrolman is wanted on other business.”

In the early 1930s, the police ranks consisted mainly of only **Marshal Baur**, **Patrolman Ernest Knaack** and one or two additional marshals or constables assisting, as needed. Available backup was often limited to the guards and night watchmen employed at the businesses. It was not uncommon for Marshal Baur and Patrolman Knaack to work a schedule of 12 hours a day/7days a week.



Ptl. Frank Bartczak circa 1937

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In 1933, the village and the country started to recover from the Great Depression. The department eventually started to grow as the tax base for the village became stronger, but it would take until 1939 for the village to fully recover. By the end of the 1930s, more officers were added to the rank and file to assist Marshal Baur and Patrolman Knaack. These added officers would raise the roster to six officers. Among those were **Joseph Wallace**, 1936; **Frank Bartczak**, 1937; and **Franklin Hess Sr.**, 1938.

The War, Progress and the Willow Freeway

On December 7, 1941 the Japanese would bomb Pearl Harbor and on December 8, 1941 the United States would formally enter World War II. Many of our young men answered the call. Police officers were deferred or exempted from the draft, to allow for protection of the families and homes that the soldiers left behind. Even though the country was at war, the village and police department did not stop progressing.

In 1943, a new safety center was built on Grant Avenue. After construction was completed, this building, now the Cuyahoga Heights Fire Department, housed all three of the village's departments: police, fire and service. The police department had a small wing on the southeast side in what is now the fire department's television room and kitchen. This wing would later consist of two holding cells and eventually an emergency radio dispatch station.

In 1944, the state legislature eliminated the marshal position as an elective office. **Mayor Isaac "Ike" Kennedy** and the village council then appointed Marshal Baur to what would formally be the first chief of police position. Chief Baur's popularity as head of the police force was reflected in the fact that he was re-elected five times prior to his appointment as chief. Each time he was the top vote getter.

One of the biggest changes that would affect the police department's role and responsibilities would be the construction of the Willow Freeway, State Route 21. The Willow Freeway was first proposed as part of a T-shaped freeway system for the city, with a horizontal freeway running east and west along the city's lakefront, the future Memorial Freeway, and the vertical Willow Freeway, running from downtown south to the old Willow Station of the B&O Railroad in Independence. The construction started and the first cloverleaf interchange in the state was completed on October 21, 1940. This allowed the new highway to travel over Brookpark, Schaaf and Granger roads, State Route 17, and provided an easy access to all directions. However, two factors slowed progress of the highway's construction.

First, there was a dispute over its exact route, and Cleveland hesitated to secure the land needed until the route was finalized. Secondly, World War II intervened and halted work from December 1941 to November 1946. When construction resumed, the freeway as planned was supposed to end where it would exit traffic onto East 49th Street. In 1948, it was decided to extend construction north to end at Broadway Avenue instead. The freeway would eventually be extended to inner city Cleveland all the way to Ontario Street.

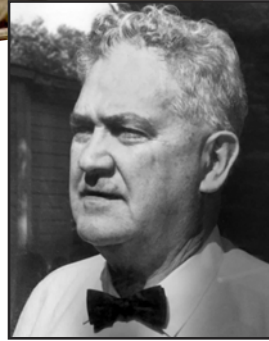
Prior to this construction of the Willow Freeway, almost all the traffic traveling into Cleveland from the south funneled through Cuyahoga Heights via East 71st Street. Chief Baur described traffic as, "king-sized traffic jams at Schaaf and old Brecksville Road." He went on to explain the conditions on East 71st Street when he stated, "It used to be that traffic was so thick on this street, it took 20 minutes to get out of the driveway."

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By the end of 1945, World War II had ended and two veterans returning from the war were added to the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department roster: **George “Buster” Gallitz** and **Reno A. Santini**. Prosperity was returning to Cuyahoga Heights and in 1948 the Cleveland Indians won the World Series beating the Boston Braves four games over two. **The future was looking bright!**



August Crombine



Joseph Wallace



Frank Bartczak



Franklin Hess Sr.

Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired during the 1930s and 1940s:

1932 to 1960 | **Marshal/Chief William Baur Sr.**
1932 to 1944 | **Deputy Marshal William Gerdon**
1936 to 1954 | **Ptl. August Crombine**
1936 to 1963 | **Ptl. Joseph Wallace**

1937 to 1967 | **Ptl. Frank Bartczak**
1938 to 1965 | **Ptl. Franklin Hess Sr.**
1946 to 1981 | **Ptl. George “Buster” Gallitz**
1946 to 1984 | **Ptl. Reno A. Santini**

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Better Days and Then Some | 1950s, 1960s and 1970s

1950s

During the 1950s and throughout the 1970s, the Cuyahoga Heights Police department experienced a great deal of change and growth. This era was largely considered by most to be the best of times in the village. The new mayor, Bill Gerdon, was just completing his first term as mayor and would remain so for much of this era.

Since the department's early years, the village grew from a truck farm community into a developed industrial center that employed some 20,000 workers from the greater Cleveland area. To answer the new law enforcement and safety needs created by this growth, the 1950 to 1954 police department saw its largest increase in manpower. During these years, Mayor Gerdon would appoint five officers to the ranks: **Frank "Bronco" Byrne, Joseph Crooks, Robert Chase, Edward Stawicki, Donald "Duck" Kaminski and Don Boing.**

Crime and Traffic

Through research, it was found that there was a large number of thefts and burglaries in the area. This is evident by an arrest made by patrolmen **Reno Santini** and **Buster Gallitz** in the early 1950s. Their arrest and subsequent investigation of the two men led to evidence that solved and recovered property from over 200 burglaries in six surrounding communities.

It was just after this arrest that a Cuyahoga Heights officer was shot in the line of duty. In 1953, patrolmen **Franklin Hess Sr.** and **August Crombine** would be on patrol in the area of the former Hillside Party Center on East 71st street. Upon the investigation of a barking dog, they would surprise two men attempting to break in to the tavern. One of the men would fire three shots at the officers with one round striking Patrolman Frank Hess Sr. in the left arm. Both men were later arrested for the incident, but no records were found regarding conviction. Hess would later be treated for his wounds and released from the hospital.

Leading the department in the 1950s was still the colorful **Chief Baur**. As mentioned previously, traffic problems were a constant concern in the village. It was around this time the department started using radar units to enforce speeding infractions. This, however, was a point of dissension between Chief Baur and the village council. Orders being what they were, the council demanded the equipment be used and the radar units were deployed. The chief later described the use of radar enforcement as a "Pearl Harbor sneak arrest." Other technology that became utilized during this period was a radio/dispatch network which was manned around the clock. Gone were the days of call boxes and police whistles. The department, with a staff of thirteen, would also evolve to the eight hour per day, 40 hour work week.

Early Training

Another advancement was in the area of training. Up until the mid 1950s officers received little to no training. There were no known formal academies open to suburban police departments. When speaking with the oldest surviving member of the force, **Lieutenant Don Boing**, it was discovered that newly hired members were "given a gun and a badge and sent to work." Boing stated that when first hired, he received no formal

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academy training or field training from veteran officers. He went on to say, “You just used common sense.” Boing explained that officers were on their own and allowed to make their own decisions regarding arrests. There were very few rules or policies to regulate their actions. Boing stated “When you saw a drunk...you arrested that drunk...or you took that drunk home. You became the judge.” Boing remembered that range or firearms training was conducted near what is now the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s northern property. Officers shot revolvers and shotguns into the hillside of the rail bed of the CSXT railway west of I-77.

The first formal police training to be documented was in 1956. The Law-Medicine Center of Western Reserve University would develop what was known as the Suburban Police Course. As the top law enforcement entity in the county, the Cuyahoga County Coroner’s Office would host the training at their facility. This course was divided into three different classes or seminars of instruction: General Law Enforcement, Crime Scene Investigation, and Traffic Accident Investigation. Officers attended one week of training in each subject. Boing recalled attending this training approximately four years after he was first appointed in 1954.



Ernest Knaack and Frank Bartczak at Suburban Police Course in 1956

1960s and a New Chief

In the 1960s, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would experience yet another transition. Since 1932, Chief Baur had been at the helm of the department. He retired from this post in 1960 and still holds the record as the longest serving chief of police at 28 years. Along with this record, he also holds the village record for largest snapping turtle ever caught!

Chief Baur’s replacement would be **Captain Frank V. Bartczak**. On August 1, 1960, the village council appointed the 44 year old veteran captain to the rank of chief of police. Bartczak was hired in 1937 as a patrolman by Mayor Kennedy. He worked his way through the ranks and was promoted to captain in 1949. Chief Bartczak’s starting salary in 1960 was \$7,600 a year. At the same meeting, **Frank Feuerstein** was hired as the newest patrolman to fill the vacancy created by Baur’s retirement.

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Chief Bartczak was known to be very active on the streets as chief and was rarely found in his office. He was labeled by reporters of the press as the patrolling chief. He and **Captain Ernest Knaack** were the first members of the department to receive the formal training at Western Reserve University. Among his other accolades, Bartczak had the reputation of being apt in public relations work which he used to promote community needs. He, unlike his predecessor, promoted the use of radar to reduce and enforce speed in the school zone. Chief Bartczak also gained local fame as heavyweight Gold Gloves boxer in the 1930s. At the beginning of Chief Bartczak's tenure, construction of a new police station at 5480 Grant Avenue began. Chief Bartczak would oversee the construction and eventual move in 1962. Under roof at this station would be: a modern dispatch and call center; a jail/booking area; a couple of two-car garages; an interview room; a locker room and an administrative office for the chief. It was quite the upgrade from the small area previously occupied in what is now the fire department's kitchen and TV room.



Chief Frank Bartczak



Frank Bartczak and Frank Feuerstein

Tragic Accident

On November 2, 1962, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would respond to and assist Independence police with one of the deadliest traffic accidents in the area's history. On this date, members of the department responded to the Willow Freeway just south of the Independence/Cuyahoga Heights border. The accident involved a commercial semi truck and a car. The car was occupied by six Akron City school teachers. All six teachers were killed when their vehicle was crushed by the truck. The case was heard by a panel of three Common Pleas Court Judges. The testimony of investigating officers: **Chief Frank Bartczak**, **Captain Reno Santini** and **Patrolman Joseph Crooks** was presented to the court. The semi driver was charged with six counts of manslaughter.

As with any department, members age and retire. Officers are then usually replaced through attrition. To replace the retired Captain Ernest Knaack, Patrolman Joseph Wallace and with the imminent retirement of Captain Frank Hess Sr., Mayor William R. Gerdon appointed three new policemen in 1964. The officers were as follows: **Lawrence "Larry" Mack**, **Robert Hine** and **Franklin "Butchie" Hess Jr.** This would bring the department back to its normal manning levels.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office made assistance to law enforcement a major focus of the 1960s and 1970s. The Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission was formed in 1965. This commission was formed

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to oversee training requirements and curriculum for peace officers, private security, local corrections, and jail personnel. The staff also oversaw the certification standards of peace officers. The first commissioned Cuyahoga Heights Police Department officer to be listed on the official state roster was Patrolman Frank “Butchie” Hess Jr. Later that same year, **Patrolman Raymond Smosarski** was hired.

Tensions Mount

In the mid to late 1960s, the winds of political and civil unrest were blowing, and the Village of Cuyahoga Heights was not immune. Like many small communities across the country, the village would see many native sons shipped off to fight the war in Vietnam. Racial tensions were at an all-time high and the neighboring Cleveland Police Department would be placed on the front line with the Hough Riots, 1966, that were followed by the Glenville Shootout and Riots, 1968. Continuing to add insult to injury, in 1969 an oil slick would catch the Cuyahoga River on fire, bringing national attention to the area’s pollution problem. During this time, two landmark Supreme Court cases were decided: *Miranda v. Arizona* 1966 and *Terry v. Ohio* 1968. These decisions greatly affected policing not only here but across the entire country.

New Mayor and Chief

During the 1965 election, Mayor Gerdon was upset in the mayoral race by George Gallitz, the incumbent treasurer. Gallitz would take office in January of 1966. On February 28, 1967, due to health reasons, Chief Bartczak retired from the post he had held for seven years and from a respected career spanning more than thirty years. The mayor and council proclaimed May 17, 1967 as “Chief Frank V. Bartczak Day.”

After Bartczak’s retirement, Mayor Gallitz appointed his son, **Captain George “Buster” Gallitz**, as the Chief of Police on March 1, 1967. During this time, the post of assistant chief of police was created, and **Captain Reno Santini** was appointed to fill the new rank. On the same day, **Robert L. Wey** was appointed to replace the vacancy left in the ranks due to the chief’s retirement and subsequent promotions. Seven months later, **Ludi V. Vaccher** was hired to fill the spot created as a result of the new assistant chief’s position. In 1967, the department would have a roster of 15 full-time police officers.



Ptl. Crooks and Chief Bartczak



Chief Bartczak’s 1967 Retirement Party.

Frank Feuerstein, Don “Duck” Kaminski, Don J. Boing,
Chief Bartczak, Robert A. Hine and Larry W. Mack

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1970s

With **Chief Gallitz** and **Assistant Chief Santini** in charge of a roster of 15 officers, the village would be protected well into the 1970s.

Up until this point, Cuyahoga Heights Police Department officers always investigated their own cases and kept their own records. This started to change as law enforcement became more complex due to increasingly liberal civil rights laws and stricter rules governing police response and action. Advances in investigative techniques and technology also brought around a need for a more specialized officer or a detective.

After speaking further with former **Lieutenant Donald Boing**, it was discovered that in order to meet this need, cases and investigations started to be assigned to **Patrolman Larry Mack**. Mack would serve in a dual capacity as a road patrol and investigator. Although the detective bureau would not be created for several years, officer Mack was considered to be the department's first detective. Cases were heard at three different levels. Traffic and lower level misdemeanors were heard in the local mayor's court. The high-level misdemeanors were sent to the Garfield Heights Municipal Court and all felonies were sent to Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas in downtown Cleveland.



Chief George Gallitz



Chief Reno A. Santini



Ptl. Frank Feuerstein

Officer Seriously Injured

One of the more notable events in the history of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department occurred on Wednesday June 28th, 1972. It was during the afternoon shift just after rush hour traffic had slowed. Cuyahoga Heights Police Department officers were dispatched to the Willow Freeway (I-77) near the Grant Avenue ramp for flooding. **Patrolman Frank J. Feuerstein** was out on the freeway directing traffic around the high water when he was struck by a speeding motorist. It was the police officer's 45th birthday.

At this time, the freeway had no center median barrier as it does today and the vehicle that struck Feuerstein had lost control and crossed left of center. The impact was of such great force that it was reported that the officer was thrown fifty feet. Patrolman Feuerstein was transported to the hospital with numerous life-threatening injuries. Doctors did not expect him to survive. The patrolman, husband and father of three, would remain in a coma for six weeks. After regaining consciousness, Feuerstein would remain in the hospital for another 12 weeks before being released.

Long days of rehab were to follow. Patrolman Feuerstein would eventually return to work, but he

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would not return to patrol. He would be assigned to the dispatch center for the remainder of his career before retiring from the force in 1983 with 23 years of service. Patrolman Frank J. Feuerstein died prematurely in 1989 from medical conditions believed related to the accident.



Frank Feuerstein visited by Mayor Louis J. Bacci and Cleveland Councilman Jim Stanton



Early 1970s Patrol Unit

Two officers, **Robert L. Wey** and **Ludi V. Vaccher**, hired in 1967 were the last two officers hired based solely by the appointment process. Up until this point, all positions on the police and fire departments were appointed by the mayor. Village jobs were always in high demand by residents. Jobs were at times passed down through families. It was also common knowledge, that veteran police officers or firemen nearing retirement age were often paid to retire from their positions. Often deals were made for political support and the younger residents that were promised employment, would then negotiate a price with an aging employee, essentially greasing the rails in order to expedite the pending retirement. Once hired the newly sworn officer would have “the envelope” waiting for the veteran at his retirement party.

In 1968, the village created the process by which residents were given physical agility and written examinations when there was an imminent opening on one of the departments. Extra credit points were given for years of residency and military service. Candidates were then ranked by a score final and an eligibility list was created. The first police officer to be hired by this process was **Richard W. Unger**. He replaced Lieutenant **Francis “Bronco” Byrne**, who retired after 26 years of service.

Modern Training and Standards

Other changes came that same year when the previously mentioned Ohio Police Training Commission would create the first Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) in 1976. All newly sworn officers were to be trained by OPOTA approved staff. Staff members provided instruction in basic, advanced, and technical subjects for the Ohio law enforcement community. Based on the latest research, OPOTA would eventually set Continued Professional Training (CPT) requirements for all veteran officers in order to update them on recommended professional practices and tactics. Included in this Continued Professional Training was a yearly firearm proficiency qualification course.

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All police officers were now required to qualify annually with their duty weapon and with any weapon carried off duty as well. This qualification and other firearms training would be held at the newly constructed indoor range built in 1978 on Canal Road in the upstairs area of the service department. This indoor range is still in use today. After the completed 12 weeks of training at the Case Western Reserve Police Academy, **Richard “Rick” Unger** became the first Cuyahoga Heights Police Department officer to graduate from an OPOTA certified basic academy. Patrolman Unger would also be the first rookie hired on to the department in nine years and the last and only officer hired by the department in the 1970s.

It should also be mentioned **Rena Billi Doskey** was the clerical backbone of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department from 1973 to 1987. She collected traffic citation fees, typed police reports and other clerical duties. Rena was also the first face you would see when you entered the police station.

Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired during the 1950s:



Francis “Bronco” Byrne



Joseph L. Crooks



Robert Chase



Edward Stawicki



Donald “Duck” Kaminski



Donald J. Boing

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Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired during the 1960s and 1970s:



Frank J. Feuerstein



Robert A. Hine



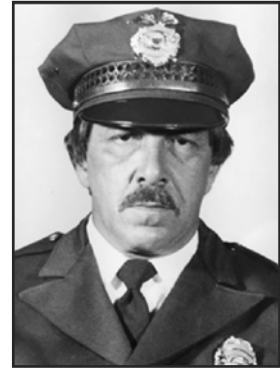
Lawrence "Larry" Mack



Franklin "Butchie" Hess Jr.



Raymond Smosarski



Robert L. Wey



Ludi V. Vaccher



Richard W. Unger

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Leading the Way: 1980s to 2000s

1980s

At the beginning of the 1980s, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department continued to grow and progress. Other surrounding departments were also starting to grow, as the inner ring suburbs were experiencing unprecedented growth due to numbers of families moving out of Cleveland. The early 1980s also brought with it the cocaine and crack cocaine epidemic and the Cleveland inner ring suburbs were not immune. The large amount of money generated by drug trafficking would also give birth to numerous violent street gangs.

Tactical Team Created

Given these factors, leaders in the local law enforcement community recognized a need for a specially trained and equipped tactical unit. Spearheading this effort, was future **Chief Larry Mack**. Mack is credited with forming and serving as the first commander for the regional SWAT team. In 1980, seven local police agencies: Brecksville, Brooklyn Heights, Valley View, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Seven Hills and Cuyahoga Heights, would form the Cuyahoga Valley Regional SWAT team. Each of these agencies supplied one to three officers. First members picked to serve were usually those with hunting experience or previous military experience, especially Vietnam Veterans. Peak physical fitness would be the standard.

Mack oversaw monthly practices at which the team would be introduced to specialized training. This training focused on topics such as: barricaded subjects, gas deployment, riot control, hostage rescue, warrant service and building/area searches. Team members would work their normal assignments with their respective departments and would be notified if a critical incident occurred. These officers were notified of a call-out by an early paging system.

Early equipment was mostly funded by the individual communities. Then in 1981, congress passed the Military Cooperation with Law Enforcement Act. This gave police access to surplus military equipment and weaponry for the fight against drugs. Chief Mack was also a training representative for a tactical chemical munitions company. Along with the military surplus and Mack's representative position, the team had more than ample equipment. In fact, before the old station was razed in 2006, there was a cache of miscellaneous tactical gases and munitions found that would have made Saddam Hussein envious.



Chief Larry Mack with early team members of Cuyahoga Valley SWAT

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Eventually in 1993, the Cuyahoga Valley Regional SWAT team would merge with a larger regional unit known as SEB, the Southwest Enforcement Bureau. This unit would consist of three teams: SEB East, the Cuyahoga Valley Team; SEB Central, Parma SWAT; and the SEB West, Cuyahoga County western suburbs.

The Cuyahoga Heights Police officers that have been assigned to the regional SWAT team:

Chief Larry Mack | 1st Team Commander

Chief Richard Unger | Entry

Lt. Mark Hine | Entry and Scout Sniper

Capt. Bill Cerha | Entry and Hostage Negotiator

Lt. Michael Stack | Hostage Negotiator

Ptl. Ross Contipelli | Assistant Team Commander

Ptl. Frank A. Trusso Jr. | Entry

Ptl. Jamie J. Lukas | Entry

Chief Brian D. Sturgill | Entry and Scout Sniper

Lt. Joseph T. Wallace | Entry

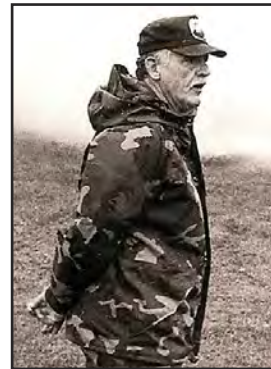
Ptl. Ted B. Mackiewicz | Entry

Ptl. Kevin A. Stack | Entry



Early SEB East Members with CHPD Officers

William "Bill" Cerha and Ross Contipelli



Chief Larry Mack

1st Tactical Team Commander

The Old Guns

In 1981, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would see a mass exodus of officers. In the previous year, the Ohio Police and Fire Pension and Disability Board allowed members to purchase their years of military service. These years were then credited as time to the years of police service. This allowed for an early retirement with full pension benefits. Nine officers, over 50% of Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, would retire between 1981 to 1988, including **Chief George Gallitz**. Mayor Louis Bacci would then appoint **Assistant Chief Reno A. Santini** to the vacant post. Chief Santini would serve as Chief of Police for only two years before using the military benefit himself, retiring in 1984.

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Officers Retiring in the 1980s

Chief George Gallitz 1981 | Capt. Joseph Crooks 1981 | Capt. Edward Stawicki 1981
Lt. Donald Kaminski 1981 | Lt. Donald Boing 1981 | Ptl. Robert Hine 1981
Capt. Robert Chase 1983 | Ptl. Frank Feuerstein 1983
Chief Reno Santini 1984 | Capt. Ray Smosarski 1986 | Capt. Robert Wey 1988



Retirement Party

Captain Robert Chase, Mayor Louis Bacci, Chief Reno Santini
and Patrolman Frank Feuerstein

This turnover dramatically changed the structure and the average age of the department members. Nine new officers would be hired from 1981 to 1986.

Douglas J. Pallini 1981 | Mark J. Hine 1981 | William “Billy” Cerha 1981
John C. Reiger 1981 | Edward C. Pritchard Sr. 1981 | Raymond “Spags” Spagnola 1983
Michael J. Stack 1983 | Ross A. Contipelli 1985 | Michael R. Angiocchi 1986

Larry Mack was appointed as the new Chief by Mayor Louis Bacci. Once in this position, he would create a full-time detective bureau. Newly promoted **Lt. Rick Unger** was assigned as the first full-time detective in the department’s history. He would eventually be promoted to the rank of captain while in the bureau. After **Lt. William Cerha’s** tenure as the detective, the assignment would only be made available to the rank of patrolman. The detective position would evolve into an administrative position. The detective managed cases and set procedures dealing with report writing and investigations.

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Past Cuyahoga Heights Police Department Detectives:

Det./Capt. Rick Unger | Det./Lt. Michael Angiocchi | Det./Lt. William “Billy” Cerha
Det. Jack M. Bacci | Det. Mark L. Davis | Det. Jeremy A Grabowski | Det. David J. Lukas



Detective Rick Unger



Detective Jack Bacci

In 1987, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired village resident, **Deborah Reiger** as the Chief's secretary on October 26. Reiger's duties at the time were mainly clerical: drafting letters, payroll and setting appointments for Chief Mack. Other tasks were eventually assigned to Secretary Reiger such as typing and proofing reports, filing traffic citations and public records filing. This position would evolve significantly in the early 2000s with the addition of a computer records system. Ms. Reiger's title today is the Administrative Assistant of Police Services. Her duties now include, but are not limited to, the following: traffic citation and accident filing, records retention, purchasing, payroll, IT and computer maintenance. She also serves as the department's liaison to the Garfield Heights Municipal Court. Most of the departments procedures in regard to paper work and reporting are of Reiger's design. She serves in a human resource capacity assisting officers with issues relating to benefits and payroll. Up to the village's centennial year, Reiger has provided her dedicated support to four different chiefs and is currently the longest serving member of the department. Though no one is ever irreplaceable, it would be very hard to duplicate the corporate knowledge, dedication and passion that Deborah Reiger has brought to the position through her thirty plus years of service.



Deborah Reiger

Administrative Assistant of Police Services

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Change Through Loss

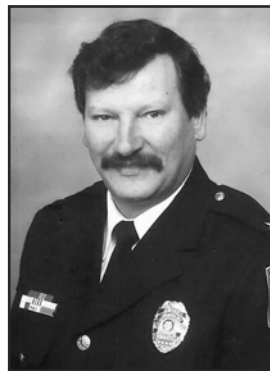
In 1991 the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would suffer a serious loss. On September 11, 1991, **Chief Larry Mack** was found in his home at 4795 East 71st Street having suffered a fatal heart attack. Chief Mack was a veteran of the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1958. Shortly after his military service, Chief Mack returned to the Village of Cuyahoga Heights where he served as service department director before becoming a police officer in 1964. During his career as a police officer, Chief Mack was well known in the law enforcement community as an instructor and trainer. He instructed at several different police academies including Case Western Reserve University, Cuyahoga County Community College and Lakeland Community. Chief Mack is remembered as a “cop’s cop” who had a childlike affection for fully automatic firearms and explosives. Mack also owned and operated a local bar named Bear’s. The bar, named after the Mack’s family dog, was located on East 71st Street just north of Grant Avenue. Chief Mack’s daughter, Michelle Mack McManus, would follow her father into the law enforcement field by serving as a special/auxiliary and jail matron. She is currently employed as a Special Deputy for the U.S. Marshals in the U.S. Federal Court House in Cleveland, Ohio. His grandson, **James L. McManus**, is currently an officer on the City of Cleveland Heights Police Department.

After Chief Mack’s death, **Captain Richard W. Unger** was promoted to Chief of Police in late 1991. Chief Unger grew up in the village and graduated from the Cuyahoga Heights High School.

Rick was a standout in track where he held several school records and was a two-time Ohio State Champion. He was inducted into the Cuyahoga Heights High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. As mentioned earlier, Unger was one of the first team members on the Cuyahoga Valley tactical team. He would eventually become the first full-time detective and the only one to serve in this capacity with the rank of captain. Unger was highly regarded in the law enforcement community for his knowledge and expertise in the area of metal and industrial theft. He and Detective Tom “Smitty” Smith of the Cleveland Police Department were used as an asset by many surrounding agencies. The FBI, with Unger’s collaboration, solved theft crimes that crossed state and international boundaries.



Chief Larry Mack



Chief Richard Unger

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Enter the Outsiders

Prior to 1990, the Village of Cuyahoga Heights would only hire residents for the full-time positions in the safety forces. In the 1990s, the council would repeal the residency requirement. This allowed the testing process for entry level patrolman to be opened to the outside for the first time in the department's history.

As a result, on May 15, 1992 the first non-resident police officer, **Bruce "Tommy" Osborne**, was sworn in by Mayor Louis J. Bacci. Later that same year, the mayor would swear in his youngest son, **Jack M. Bacci**, as a patrolman. Osborne filled Chief Mack's vacancy on the roster and Bacci was field-trained by the same officer he would later replace, **Lieutenant Ludi Vaccher**.

In the mid 1990s, the department's roster was increased with the appointment of village residents, **Patrolman Mark Davis**, **Patrolman Frank A. Trusso Jr.** and **Patrolman Jude M. Kaliszewski**. The last officer hired in the 1990s was another non-resident and Virginia native, **Patrolman Brian D. Sturgill**, who was hired to replace the recently retired **Captain Butchie Hess Jr.** in 1999.



Lieutenant Tommy Osborne and Patrolman Brian Sturgill

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Like all of the decades before, the 1980s and 1990s experienced its own newsworthy and cases of significance. The following are some of the more memorable and noted. These events would be just a precursor of what would be in store for the department and the country in the decades to come.



Station Shooter

On March 25, 1984, a Cleveland man came into the lobby of the police station and fired five rounds at officers, sending them diving for cover. Fortunately, the shooter and the officers were separated by a bulletproof glass partition. The suspect was later apprehended and arrested on Harvard Avenue. After an investigation, the man was found distraught and the incident was deemed as “suicide by cop” type of event.

Destructive Explosion Kills Two

A second notable event was an explosion at Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORS D). On June 20, 1990, at 03:10, a large gas explosion occurred in a building located on the district property off of Canal Road. This explosion killed two NEORS D employees instantly. Our investigators and state fire marshals determined the explosion was due to a gas leak. This gas leak was believed to have occurred after a gas pipe was tampered with by a disgruntled NEORS D employee thus making the incident a homicide. During an extensive investigation, numerous employees were interviewed, the crime scene was documented thoroughly, the debris field was separated and sifted through. Eventually a person of interest or subject was developed. However, due to the amount of damage sustained to the building which led to a lack of any physical evidence, the state was unable to bring the perpetrator(s) to justice. The case is still open to this day.

Freeway Shooting

On January 1, 1994 at 03:26 hours, our officers were dispatched to a motor vehicle accident on I-77 south. Once on scene, officers found the vehicle occupied by four subjects. After further investigation, the driver was found to be unconscious with a bullet wound to the forehead. A search for the weapon ensued with members of the National Guard being called to assist in the search. The weapon was never found. After waking from an eight-day coma, the victim identified the shooter to be his passenger. The case went to trial and was dismissed even though all evidence pointed at the passenger’s guilt. According to court records Judge John Angelotta stated that he dismissed the case because...“he (the judge) couldn’t believe that the defendant would risk his own life by shooting the driver of the car in which he was riding at highway speeds.”

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Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired during the 1980s:



Doug J. Pallini



Mark J. Hine



William N. Cerha



John C. Reiger



Edward C. Pritchard Sr.



Michael J. Stack



Raymond J. Spagnola



Ross A. Contipelli

Michael Angiocchi (not pictured)

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Members of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department hired during the 1990s:



Bruce "Tommy" Osborne



Jack M. Bacci



Mark L. Davis



Frank A. Trusso Jr.



Jude M. Kaliszewski



Brian D. Sturgill

Service into the Future | 2000 to Present

The end of the twentieth century was a very exciting time. As with any significant date in history, the year 2000 brought with it numerous fears, conspiracy theories, and rumors. The Y2K computer bug threat, related to the formatting of dates beginning in the year 2000. Problems were anticipated and arose, because many programs represented four-digit years with only the final two digits. This made the year 2000 indistinguishable from 1900. A twentieth-century date in such programs could cause various errors, such as the incorrect display of dates and the inaccurate ordering of automated dated records or real-time events.

A variety of fringe groups and individuals attracted to conspiracy theories, embraced Y2K as a tool to instill fear and provide a form of evidence for their respective agendas. Apocalyptic and survival themes were common place.

The Y2K situation created a unique problem for the law enforcement community. With all technology at risk, we were forced to prepare for the worst. The electrical backups, phone lines, the 911 system and

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radio systems and all methods of data storage were tested. All police personnel were trained on technological failure procedures and scenarios should the forecasted problems of Y2K come to fruition. Critical incident recall procedures to provide additional officers if needed were also put in place.

On New Year's Eve 1999, officers on the road waited for the countdown and for the Y2K arrival with anticipation. Y2K arrived in the Village of Cuyahoga Heights without incident, except for one of the largest firework displays ever seen. Every direction officers looked was like the 4th of July, but ten-fold.

In the year 2000, the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department had one of its largest rosters. Two officers, **Patrolman Kenneth F. Schoeffler** and **Patrolman Joseph T. Wallace** were hired early in the year. Later in the year, **Patrolman Jamie J. Lukas** would be added to replace **Lieutenant Michael R. Angiocchi** who would take early retirement due to medical reasons. This roster would consist of 18 full-time officers from the chief down through patrolman.

The Y2K Cuyahoga Heights Police Department Roster

•

Chief Richard W. Unger | Capt. Douglas J. Pallini | Capt. William N. Cerha
Lt. Edward C. Pritchard #32 | Lt. Michael J. Stack #33 | Lt. John C. Reiger #34
Ptl. Mark J. Hine #106 | Ptl. Raymond J. Spagnola #104 | Ptl. Bruce T. Osborne #108
Det. Jack M. Bacci #101 | Ptl. Mark L. Davis #110 | Ptl. Ross A. Contipelli #105
Ptl. Frank A. Trusso Jr. #111 | Ptl. Jude M. Kaliszewski #102 | Ptl. Brian D. Sturgill #107
Ptl. Kenneth F. Schoeffler #112 | Ptl. Joseph T. Wallace #103 | Ptl. Jamie J. Lukas #113

The Worst Day

On a normal beautiful and clear Tuesday morning, Lieutenant Tommy Osborne and Patrolman Brian Sturgill had just finished daily school zone saturation and bus details. Sturgill had just returned to the police station to retrieve the daily Garfield Heights Municipal Court and village hall paperwork from Secretary Deborah Reiger. As the two were discussing the delivery, a report was heard from the television in the background. **The date was September 11, 2001 at approximately 08:45 a.m.**

The report coming from a small black and white television was that a large passenger jet crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Osborne, still on patrol, was advised by dispatch of the situation. He then returned to the station to watch the tragic news. As the evacuation of the tower got underway, television cameras broadcasted live images of what initially appeared to be a freak accident. Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, a second passenger plane appeared out of the sky, turned sharply toward the World Trade Center and sliced into the south tower.

Everyone watching in our office froze in utter horror, trying to comprehend what they had just witnessed. As the haze of shock and disbelief cleared, Chief Unger looked at the officers and said, "This is no accident. Get out on the road!" The officers returned to road patrol armed with sub-machine guns. Police attention was concentrated to the school campus, the fuel depots and railroads. Concerned with an "Oklahoma City type" attack, Chief Unger then instructed the Cuyahoga Heights officers to stop and investigate all rental and panel type vans and trucks.

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During their patrol duties, officers received updates from dispatch and news radio, eventually learning of the attack on the Pentagon and of the hijacked Flight 93 that was somewhere in the skies above the Village of Cuyahoga Heights. Later that day and for three days following, the skies above were noticeably and eerily absent of any aircrafts and contrails. The attacks caused the deaths of 2,996 people and the injuries of more than 6,000 others. The death toll included 265 on the four planes, 2,606 in the World Trade Center and 125 at the Pentagon

In the aftermath, it was learned that a total of 411 emergency workers died as they tried to rescue people and fight fires. The New York City Fire Department (FDNY) lost 343 firefighters. The New York City Police Department (NYPD) lost 23 officers. The Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) lost 37 officers. Eight EMTs and medics from private agencies were also killed.

In the weeks and months after 9/11, American pride and patriotism were running rampant. So many American flags were displayed that a shortage was created. President Bush's approval rating was at a record 90%. The respect and admiration shown toward safety forces was truly touching. Every cop, fireman, EMT and dispatcher was held in high regard. Pride for wearing the badge had never been greater. It felt as if every day was the first day out of the academy.

The emergency response to the 9/11 attacks was not perfect and from it many lessons were learned. A term that all emergency services would become familiar with was "inter-operability". The trend in training became focused on the technology and training that would allow different departments from different locales to communicate and work with one another efficiently. Shortly after 9/11 the Ohio State Legislature would ratify ORC-5502.27 requiring all municipalities to create and keep on file an "Emergency Management Plan". In the years after the September 11th attacks, the country's attention focused on the war in Iraq and things slowly went back to normal.

In 2003, after 27 years of service, **Chief Richard Unger** would enter into retirement. Mayor Louis J. Bacci would then appoint **Captain Douglas J. Pallini** as the department's new chief. Pallini's childhood and high school years were spent in the village. His childhood home was the village's first public hall and police facility. He worked as a paperboy for the *Cleveland Press* then later for *The Plain Dealer*, and at the village pool and service department. The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District hired him in 1978 where he worked as a laborer/operator. Chief Pallini joined the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department on January 13, 1981. Due to the previously mentioned mass exodus of village officers, he became a Lieutenant in 1983 after less the two years on the job. He was again promoted to Captain in 1988. Pallini attended the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) in 1997. Upon the retirement of **Captain Franklin "Butchie" Hess Jr.** in 1999, Pallini became second in charge under Chief Unger. He was also a member of the Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association, where he served as a committee member on the Counter Anti-Terrorism Committee.

Same Place...New Look

In 2004, **Chief Pallini** and **Captain Edward Pritchard** began to plan and design the new Cuyahoga Heights Police Station. Construction on the new station was started in 2006 at a cost of 3.5 million dollars. For most of 2006, our personnel worked around and through a construction zone. The new building was built directly behind the old station with a portion of the old one being demolished prior to construction.

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The move into the new station was a tedious process due to the amount of equipment, records and evidence that needed to be transferred. Resulting from an extended medical leave of absence taken by Chief Pallini, the responsibility of managing the move would fall to **Captain Pritchard**, **Captain Cerha** and **Detective Bacci**. It was an “all hands on deck” event that included almost every police officer, dispatcher and other civilian personnel. On the eve of the final demolition, Cuyahoga Heights Police Department personnel gathered in the station’s dispatch center for a toast to the building’s memory.



Chief Douglas Pallini



Police Station Construction

View of the north side in 2005



Ray “Spags” Spagnola

A Loss

It was a normal Sunday night shift. The officers on the shift started their shifts at 10:00 p.m. **Lieutenant Michael J. Stack** and **Patrolman Ray “Spags” Spagnola** would be on patrol. After working all night, the two got off work at 06:00 am early Monday morning and returned home for some sleep. Both officers were scheduled to return on the following evening for another night shift. Lieutenant Stack showed up to his shift at his scheduled time. However, upon his arrival Stack would notice that Patrolman Spagnola had not shown up. This may have seemed normal for anyone else, but “Spags” was known to always be at least 30 minutes to an hour early. He enjoyed his coffee. Lieutenant Stack then made calls to Spagnola’s residence which went unanswered. Stack then took a patrol unit and drove to the patrolman’s residence. Tragically, Lieutenant Stack found what he had feared. Patrolman Spagnola was found deceased of an apparent heart attack. The date was February 20, 2006. He was found still wearing his uniform from the previous shift. Members of the department had lost a friend and their comic relief. Spags was always the practical joker of the department. Whether it was an “inappropriate and revealing” photo found on an unattended crime scene camera, a spoiled wonton noodle in Chief Unger’s suggestion box or baby powder in the air vents of a cruiser, everyone knew that in some way “Spags” was and had to be involved.

Patrolman Raymond “Spags” Spagnola was buried with Police Honors after 23 years of service. SEB team members performed the rifle salute. The pallbearers consisted of Cuyahoga Heights Police Department officers; **Lieutenant Michael Stack**, **Patrolman Joe T. Wallace**, **Patrolman Ross A. Contipelli**, **Lieutenant Mark J. Hine** and Valley View Police Department officers; **Sargent Roy Sabelli** and **Patrolman Tony Nero**.

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Detective Runs for Office

In 2005, Cuyahoga Heights Police Department **Detective Jack Bacci** announced his candidacy for the Mayor's position. He was running for mayor as a write-in after Detective Bacci's father, Mayor Louis Bacci, passed away while in office in October of 2005. Former Mayor Ralph Contipelli was his opponent. Although the race was decided by only a few votes, Detective Bacci would have to wait two years to run again.

In 2007, Bacci would be elected to the position of mayor by a wide margin over three other opponents. This victory would end his 15 years of service with the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department. Bacci did, however, retain his commission and holds a special officer designation through OPOTA. **Jack M. Bacci** became the second mayor who had previously served in the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, with **Bill Gerdon** being the first to do so. **Patrolman Mark L. Davis** took Bacci's place in the detective bureau.

Tough Times

The Great Recession, which officially lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, began with the bursting of an eight trillion dollar housing bubble. The resulting loss of wealth led to sharp cutbacks in consumer spending. This loss of consumption combined with a volatile stock market also led to a collapse in business investments. As spending and investments dried up, massive job losses followed suit. The employees of the Village of Cuyahoga Heights were not immune to the effects of the economic downturn.

In Spring of 2009, five officers from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department were laid off. The layoffs would last approximately 8 to 10 months for most. During this time, two administrative officers **Captain Bill Cerha** and **Captain Ed Pritchard Sr.** would retire. The rank of captain was eliminated from the department's structure for the first time in its history. The jailer position was also abolished. Combining the retirements with concessions, wage cuts and freezes—eventually all but one officer returned to full-time status. The structure of the department was changed, and numbers reduced. Legislation was passed capping the roster of the police department to a total of 14 full-time officers. The last laid-off officer returned to work in 2011 through attrition when **Lieutenant Mark J. Hine** entered into retirement.

While still maintaining the level of service expected, accomplishing more with less became the standard at the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department. The chief and lieutenants would now share the administrative duties, that prior to the staff reduction, were carried out by the captains. The full-time detective position would also be changed to a "uniformed detective position." The detective is now assigned patrol responsibilities in addition to investigations and case work.

From 2012 to 2014, **Lieutenant John C. Reiger**, **Patrolman Ross A. Contipelli** and **Chief Douglas J. Pallini** entered into retirement. Hired to fill the void created by these retirements were **Patrolmen Ted B. Mackiewicz**, **Kevin A. Stack** and **Jamie E. Lukas**.

The addition of **Patrolman Jamie E. Lukas** added another legacy officer to the history of the department. He would join his father, **Patrolman Jamie J. Lukas**, 2000, and his older brother **Detective David J. Lukas**, 2008, in the ranks.

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Law Enforcement is Often a Family Business

Several other officers have been legacies in the police department's history.

Marshal Delbert L. Davis (1918 to 1931)

Grandfather of **Deputy Chief Mark L. Davis** (1993 to Present)

•

Captain Franklin Hess Sr. (1938 to 1965)

Father of **Captain Franklin "Butchie" Hess Jr.** (1964 to 1998)

•

Patrolman Robert A. Hine (1964 to 1981)

Father of **Lieutenant Mark J. Hine** (1981 to 2011)

•

Chief Larry W. Mack (1964 to 1991)

Father of **Special Auxiliary/Jail Matron Michelle Mack McManus** (1992 to Present)

•

Lieutenant Ludi Vaccher (1967 to 1993)

Grandfather of **Patrolman James L. Berdysz** (2017 to Present)

•

Captain Ed Pritchard Sr. (1981 to 2009)

Father of part-time **Patrolman Ed Pritchard Jr.** (2010 to 2017)

•

Patrolman Frank A. Trusso Jr. (1996 to Present)

Older brother of part-time **Patrolman Vincent J. Trusso** (2011 to 2019)

•

Patrolman Jamie J. Lukas (2000 to Present)

Father of brothers **Detective David J. Lukas** (2008 to Present)

Patrolman Jamie E. Lukas (2014 to 2018)

Current Department

In March of 2014, **Brian D. Sturgill** was appointed the Chief of Police by Mayor Jack Bacci. Chief Sturgill grew up on a beef and tobacco farm in Chilhowie, Virginia, located in the Appalachian Mountains in the state's southwest corner. He graduated from Radford University in 1993. There he earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Geography. Sturgill then moved from Virginia to Ohio in 1994. He started his law enforcement career in April of 1999, when hired as a patrolman by Mayor Louis J. Bacci. As a Cuyahoga Heights Police Department patrolman, he served the department as a Range Officer; Field Training Officer and Evidence Technician.

In 2001, Sturgill was assigned to the Southwest Enforcement Bureau (SEB) tactical team. He spent most of this 13-year tenure assigned to the Scout/Sniper Unit. Brian was promoted to the position of lieutenant

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position in 2011. As lieutenant, he would serve as the lead training officer, head range officer and would supervise the departments field training program. He is a certified Ohio Basic Academy instructor and an Active Shooter Response instructor. Chief Sturgill is a 2015 graduate of the Police Executive Leadership College (PELC). He is also a member of the: Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP); Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association (CCPCA); International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP); National & Ohio Tactical Officers Association (NTOA and OTOA) and the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA). With a passion for advanced training and education, Sturgill promotes both within the department. As Chief Sturgill believes in the premise that advanced training combined with knowledge and experience, make for a more confident and safer police officer.



Chief Brian D. Sturgill



Deputy Chief Mark L. Davis

During the same promotion process, **Mark L. Davis** was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief. As mentioned previously, Deputy Chief Davis is the grandson of the first police officer to serve the Village of Cuyahoga Heights, Marshal Delbert L. Davis. Deputy Chief Davis, a lifelong resident, was hired in 1993. Davis served as the department's detective from 2007 to 2012. He would then be promoted to lieutenant. In the Deputy Chief's position, Deputy Chief Davis is second in command, supervises the detective bureau, oversees the juvenile program and is in charge of building and vehicle maintenance.

War on Cops

From 2014 until 2017, law enforcement officers across the country would become targets in what would be labeled the "War on Cops". Cataclysmic incidents such as: the justified shooting of a black robbery suspect in Ferguson, Missouri; the negligent death of a black prisoner in Baltimore, Maryland; and the tragic yet justified shooting of a black juvenile in Cleveland put police officers from every state placed under a microscope. Attacks against police officers would become the norm. President Obama would enflame tensions further as he lent support to and recognized the Black Lives Matter (BLM) organization. The backing of the president would give the appearance of legitimacy to what is seen by many as a domestic terrorist organization. The BLM organization often staged protests disrupting and blocking major roadways while calling for the death of police officers.

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To make matters worse, edited videos depicting officers making violent arrests were posted daily on social media. During the Obama administration, approximately 94 officers were purposely and fatally ambushed. Obama's politically-based response was to instruct police officers to look at themselves in the mirror and to assess their propensity for implicit bias, essentially placing the blame on law enforcement.



2018 Greater Cleveland Police Officers Memorial Ceremony

Mackiewicz, Sturgill, Davis, Berdysz, D. Lukas, Morrow, Schoeffler and K. Stack

Republican National Convention (RNC)

In the summer of 2016, things would become even more heated. The City of Cleveland would host the Republican National Convention (RNC). Gaining the GOP nomination was Donald Trump. Over 50,000 attendees, members of the media and protesters would come to northeast Ohio for a week. The Cuyahoga Heights Police Department would play an important part with the security due to its close proximity to downtown and I-77. Considered a strategic target for protests, our officers trained in crowd and riot control measures. Details were established with neighboring agencies and I-77 was patrolled and placed under 24 hour surveillance. Over 5,000 law enforcement officers were present. The RNC came and went without major incident. Eventually, Republican Donald Trump would shock the country by winning the presidency over Democrat Hillary Clinton in the most polarizing election in history.

Moving On

After the RNC and Trump's election things improved for law enforcement officers across the country. The pendulum of scrutiny and opposition toward police officers had seemingly swung back to the center. Officers began to engage with the public as before. To help heal the strained relations, departments became more involved in their community and began using social media to help where it once had hindered.

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Two new members, **Patrolmen Matthew R. Kontura** and **James L. Berdysz** were added to the roster in 2016 and 2017. Both patrolmen are residents of Brooklyn Heights and graduates of the Cuyahoga Heights High School. All “rookies” are the future of any department. Kontura and Berdysz are expected to carry into the future the same level of service that is a trademark of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department. The same service once provided by Berdysz’s grandfather, **Lieutenant Ludi Vaccher**, who patrolled the village streets from 1967 to 1993.

Looking Ahead

Policing the Village of Cuyahoga Heights has changed in many ways over the past hundred years. Officers have come and gone. Technology has become more advanced. Every generation has had something better and something worse than the previous generation. Once a veteran officer stated that the “worst thing to happen to police work was the installation of air conditioning in the cars.” Meaning that officers were not as connected with the community because they patrolled with the windows up. Such is change and time moves on. Today, it would be difficult to imagine patrolling without air conditioning. It stands to wonder what Marshal Davis or Chief Baur would think of the in-car computers and smart cell phones that are so commonplace today.

As with all things, change is inevitable. The agency that refuses to evolve will fail given the dynamic and volatile nature of public service today. When these periods of change and transition occur, the best organizations will respect and apply the knowledge gained from years of experience and continue to hold dear those traditions that have made them successful. For the past one hundred years the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department has always been able to maintain that special balance.

As a member of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, it is the goal of every officer to go home safe to their families every shift, including that last day on the job. The second goal is to leave the department better than we found it, bringing pride to those who came before us and instilling in those that come after us the same **Commitment, Honor, Pride and Determination** that is the mission of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department.



Cuyahoga Heights Police Department Headquarters Sign

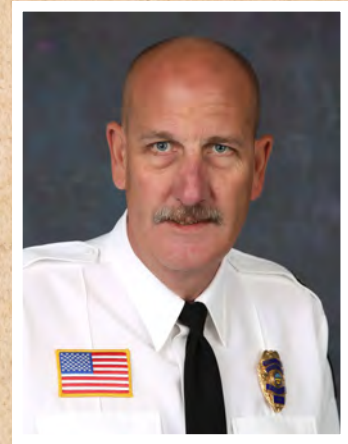
Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



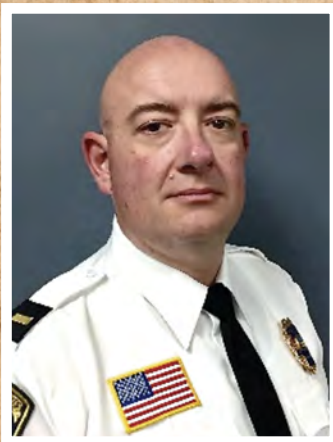
Chief Brian D. Sturgill
1999 to Present



Centennial Roster



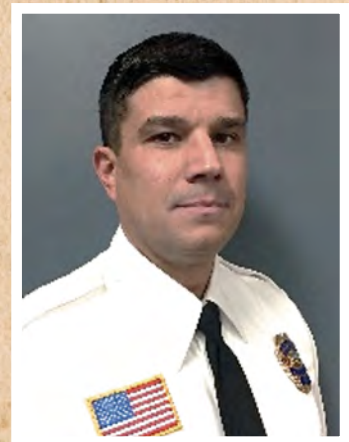
Deputy Chief Mark L. Davis
1993 to Present



Lt. Kenneth F. Schoeffler
2000 to Present



Lt. Joseph T. Wallace
2000 to Present



Lt. Jeremy A. Grabowski
2006 to Present



Ptl. Frank A. Trusso Jr.
1996 to Present



Ptl. Jude M. Kaliszewski
1997 to Present



Ptl. Jamie J. Lukas
2000 to Present

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



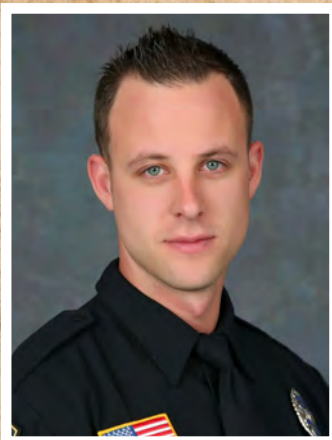
Det. David J. Lukas
2008 to Present



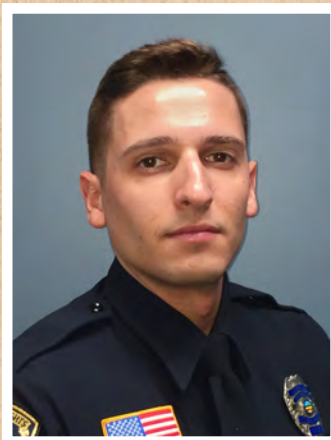
Ptl. Thaddeus "Ted" Mackiewicz
2013 to Present



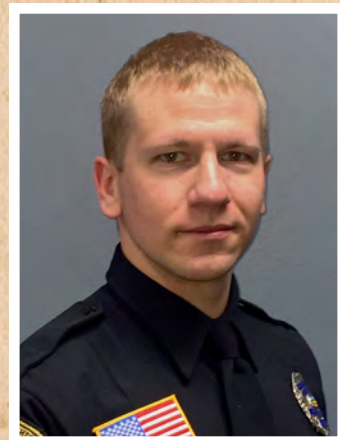
Ptl. Kevin A. Stack
2014 to Present



Ptl. Jamie E. Lukas
2014 to 2018



Ptl. Matthew R. Kontura
2016 to Present



Ptl. James L. Berdysz
2017 to Present



Ptl. Mark J. Hine
2011 to Present (part-time)

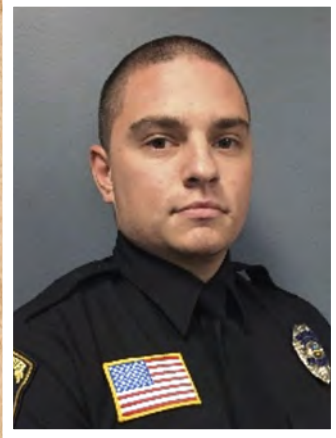


Ptl. David J. Volek
2011 to 2019 (part-time)



Ptl. Craig A. Morrow
2012 to Present (part-time)

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial



Ptl. Brad M. Beaulieu
2017 to Present (part-time)



Ptl. Jack G. Pietraszkiewicz
2017 to Present (part-time)



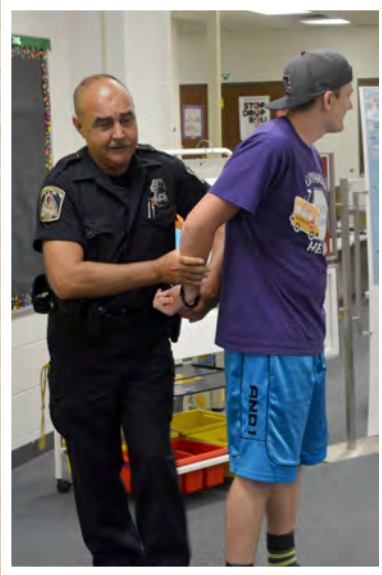
Admin. Assist. Deborah J. Reiger
1987 to Present

Not Pictured — Ptl. Vincent J. Trusso (part-time)



*Deputy Chief Mark L. Davis in the
2018 Memorial Day Parade*

Safety Town Activities



Patrolman Mark Hine



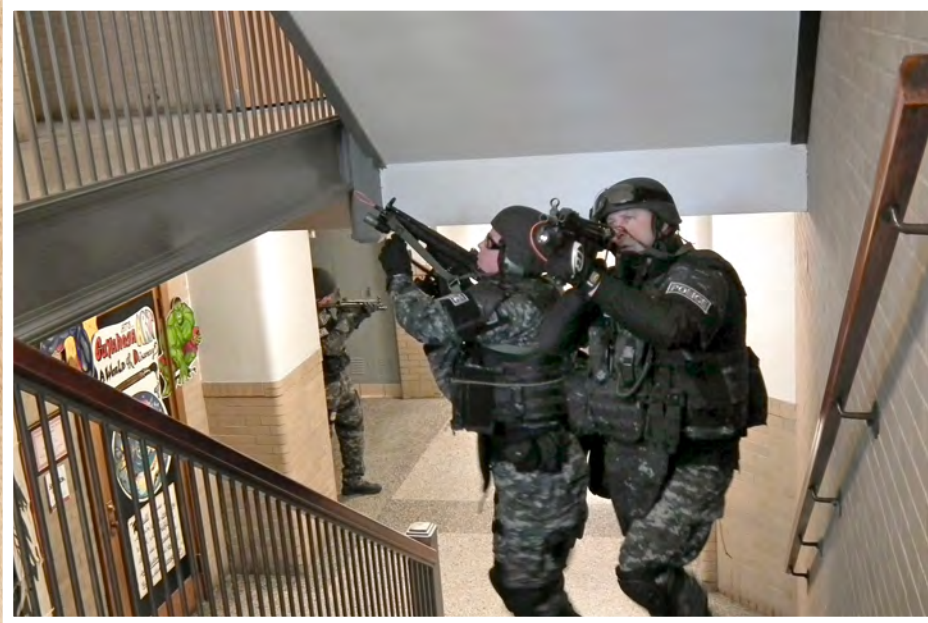
*Lieutenant
Ken Schoeffler*



Patrolman James L. Berdysz



*Patrolmen David Lukas and
Mark Hine training*



*Patrolmen Jamie Lukas leads
SWAT Team search*



*Juvenile Officer Jude Kaliszewski
Lieutenant Mike Stack in the driving simulator*

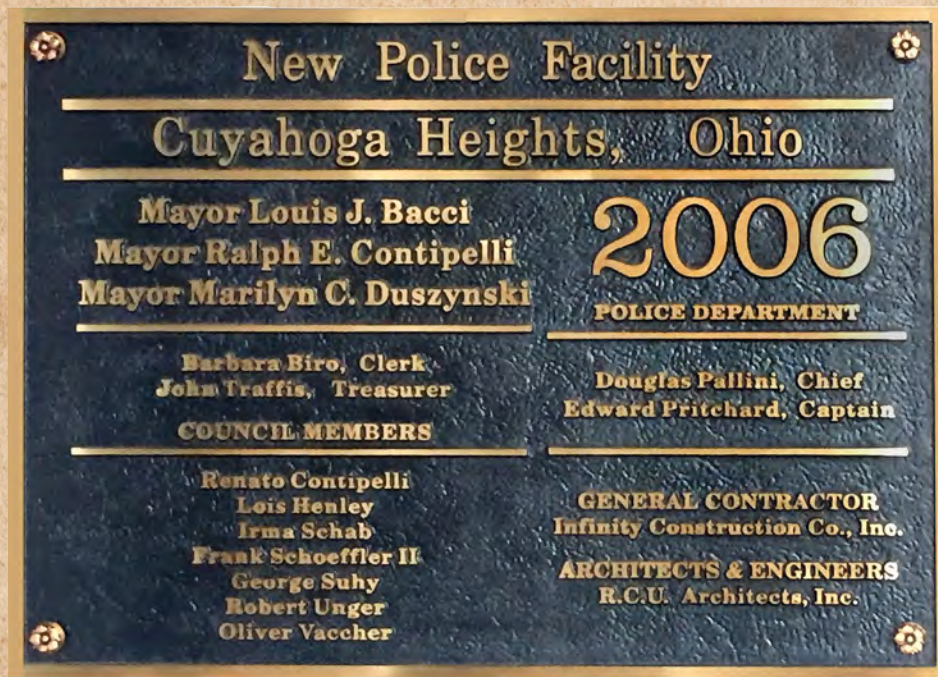


2016 Shop-With-A-Cop Participants

Chief Brian Sturgill, Patrolman Jamie Lukas
and Patrolman Matt Kontura



*Patrolman Frank Trusso Jr. conducting
Active Threat classroom training*



Police Department Headquarters Wall Plaque

Cuyahoga Heights 2018 Centennial