



Sharing Ohio's Best Program

Recognizing Outstanding Community Policing



Agency of the Month

Russells Point Police Department

August 2023

The Russells Point Police Department is a community-based policing organization who proudly serves the great residents of the Village of Russells Point.

The Russells Point Police Department works daily to build and refine relationships with the community they serve. Over the last several years, each member, past and present, has been encouraged to break down social barriers, misconceptions, prejudices, and biases by simply getting out and talking with residents young and old. Officers can be found out of their vehicles nearly every day walking through local business, apartment complexes, checking homes for residents on vacation (or seasonal), and visiting the local retirement complex.

The day starts with the Chief of Police who selects one of a dozen bus stops throughout the week where multiple Indian Lake students wait as a group. This time is spent making small talk and simply checking in on students from Kindergarten through Graduation. Second shift officers often catch up with students and their parents after school while on bike rides and walks through the local nature trails, as well as school hosted community events such as family game night.

The Russells Point Police Department has partnered with five area churches to create four quarterly events designed to encourage community engagement and support local growth and networking among neighbors. Officers are on hand in and out of uniform at each event to show off police equipment and vehicles.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The first event begins in the Spring with the Community Easter Egg Hunt, which involves thousands of eggs scattered throughout the municipal building campus. Each church takes several totes and grabs volunteers from their congregation to fill the eggs and then helps to distribute them just in time for the Easter Bunny to arrive. The four separate age group areas allow for children of all ages to search for the treat filled eggs.



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Family Movie Night

The next event is weather dependent, yet simple in nature. Family Movie Night is simply that, a large blown-up screen placed in the back field, with sound support from the local radio station WRPO. Snacks are provided by the community, and everyone is encouraged to bring a chair or blanket and join us for a casual movie night.



Trunk or Treat

In the fall we work together to create “Trunk-or-Treat”, a family oriented trick-or-treat event held at the Russells Point municipal building parking lot. While many of the community members still prefer the door-to-door decorations and treats, many younger generations prefer the safety of the “one stop shop” for their younger treat seekers. Local churches have folks volunteer to decorate their vehicles and serve treats from their trunks.





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Progressive Christmas Dinner

Their newest event is the Progressive Christmas Dinner, each church provides one part of a traditional Christmas meal, and part of a well-known Christmas story. Participants are given a hay ride through the village to visit each church. While the Christmas dinner is intended for the youth of Russells Point, the whole family is encouraged to join us for the final stop at the Russells Point Police Department for funnel cakes and a family movie!



Safety Town & Homecoming Parade

The department hosts two other major events each year, The Indian Lake Safety Town, and the Indian Lake Homecoming Parade. Both events were created in response to a community oriented policing grant received in 2009 and again in 2012. Both grants paid for a full-time officer's salary and benefits, as long as the village created a community oriented policing plan. The two events mentioned were part of the plan and the Homecoming Parade has become the community's largest attended event outside of playoff football games. The Indian Lake Safety town was adopted by the Indian Lake School District in 2022 and now serves the entire kindergarten class.

SAFETY TOWN



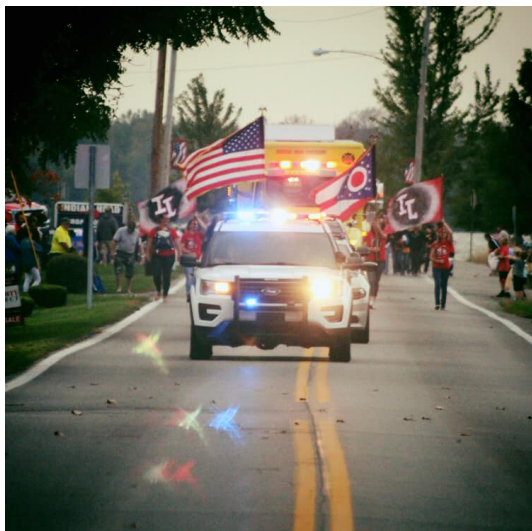


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HOMECOMING PARADE





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Passport to Fishing Program



Giving Back – Community Clean Up Day



Throughout the week, officers spend much of their patrol time conducting proactive policing initiatives such as targeted patrols at dangerous intersections, speed enforcement on busy residential streets, business walk-throughs for businesses struggling with loss prevention efforts, and foot patrols in areas known for higher drug related crime.

They are proud of their small department's hard work every day and are grateful for the support of Mayor Robin Reames, Council, Village Support Staff, and the community.