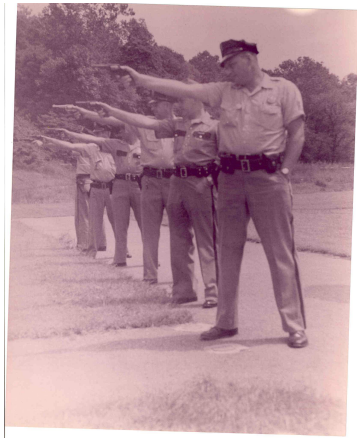
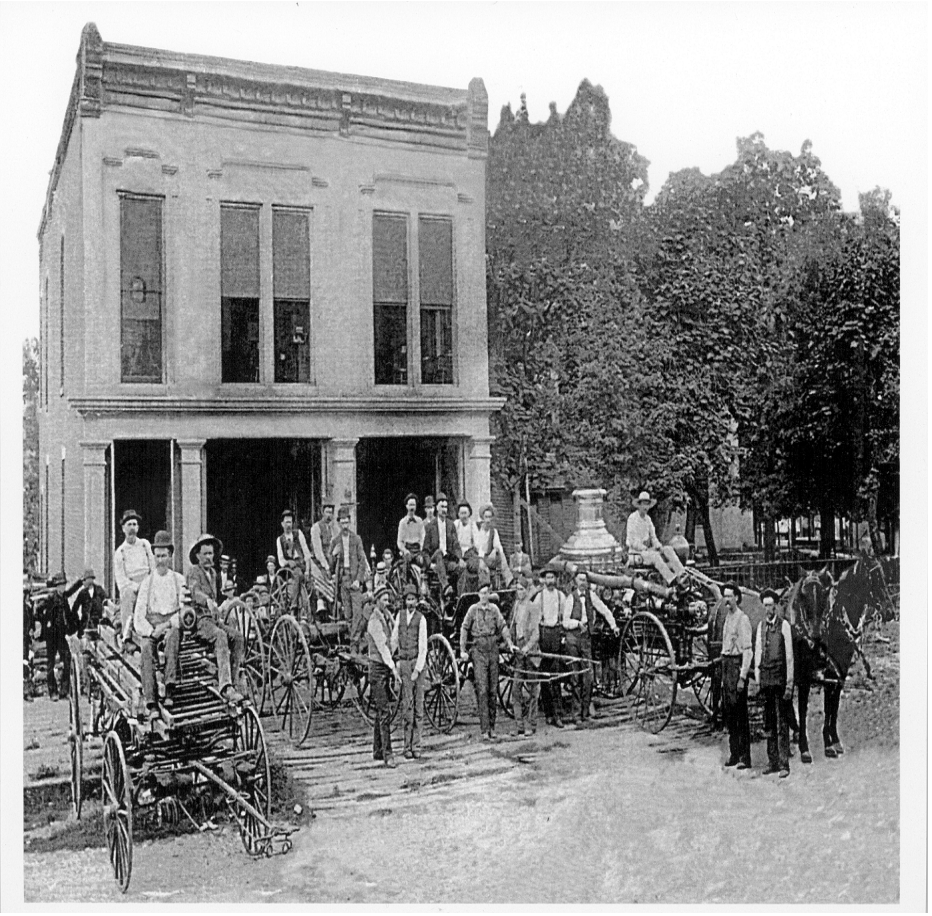
police department

The Bloomington Police Department

Our History…



- Bloomington becomes an incorporated town in 1847.
- The first Town Marshal was David B. Judah. He served from 1847 to 1853.
- In 1860 “Night Watchers” began patrolling the City.
- In 1876 Bloomington becomes a City.
- On September 18, 1899 the City Council approved the formation of the Bloomington Police Department.



September 18, 1899
The City fire engine house on the Court House lawn is designated as the first Police Headquarters by the City Council.

Circa 1910
Bloomington's First Uniform Police Force

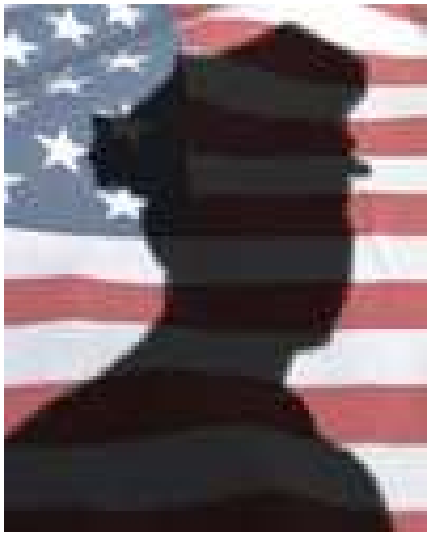
- In 1915, the Police Department moves to the new City Hall building at 122 South Walnut Street.

- On December 20, 1916, the City Council approved the purchase of an automobile for use as a police car. The cost was $380.00.
- On June 22, 1922 the City purchases the first motorcycle to be used by the Police Department.

- November 24, 1928, Officer Ralph Pogue was shot while serving a warrant at the residence of Dewey Boshears.

  Mr. Boshears was suspected of operating a “Blind Tiger”, the name given to places serving illegal alcohol during prohibition.

  Officer Pogue died the next day becoming the first officer killed in the line of duty.



- December 24, 1928 Chief Perry Cardwell succumbed to injuries sustained approximately one year earlier while directing traffic at a local football game.

  His injuries caused him to leave the police department and health continued to decline until he finally succumbed to his injuries becoming the second officer killed in the line of duty.

- On September 7, 1937, the first radio equipment is purchased.
- In 1956 the first portable radio is purchased. It was a 15 pound suitcase style radio.
- In 1958 call boxes are installed in schools, around the Court House and in other busy locations.

- March 25, 1955 Police Officer Dale Mishler is killed in the line of duty. Officer Mishler and Officer Jerry Green began chasing a vehicle towards Ellettsville and lost control of their police car and crashed. Officer Mishler was killed instantly becoming the third officer killed in the line of duty.

  Officer Green was seriously injured. He never fully recovered and died in 1967 becoming the fourth officer killed in the line of duty.

Patrolman Dale Mishler

Patrolman Jerry Green

police department

- Between 1958 and 1973, the Police Department operated the ambulance service. Officers were not trained as medics. It operated more as a speedy taxi service to the hospital.
- “Load and go” was the motto

- July 28, 1966 the Bloomington Board of Public Safety is formed. The Board is the governing body of the Police and Fire Departments.
- Appointees "serve at the pleasure of the mayor" and terms on the board are otherwise concurrent with the mayor's term in office.
- Current Members. Betsy Walsh, Jim Sims, Michael Huerta, John Whikehart and Bill Vance.

- August 15, 1975, Donald Owens becomes the fifth Officer killed in the line of duty. Captain Donald Owens was shot and killed by a prisoner he was escorting from court. The prisoner, who was handcuffed in front, was able to draw Captain Owens' service weapon and shoot him, killing him instantly.

- In 1986, the Police Department moves to the lower level of the Justice Building. The Courts, Sheriff's Department, Jail and Police Department are all located in one building.

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- In 1998, the Police Department moves into its current location at 220 East Third Street. The building was originally built for Police Headquarters in 1963, but was occupied by City Hall instead. The communications center combines City and County dispatch as well as fire and ambulance. Central Dispatch begins.

Today…

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bloomington Police Department is to safeguard life and property while respecting diversity, encouraging civility, solving problems, and maintaining a high standard of individual integrity and professionalism.

Personnel

BPD comprised of:

- 98 sworn officers
- 36 civilian employees

Administrative Ranks

- Chief
- Deputy Chief
- Captain of Operations
- Captain of Administration

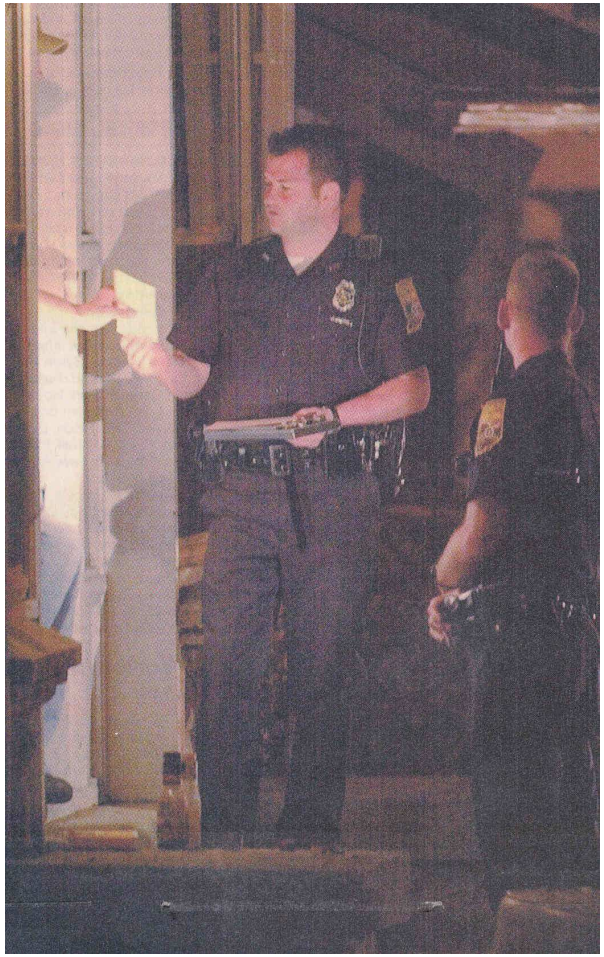
The Police Department is divided into an Operations and Administrative Division. The Operations Division consist of the Patrol and Investigative Division.

Operations Division Organizational Chart

- Captain of Operations
- Lieutenant (1 for each of 3 shifts)
- Sergeant (3 per shift)
- Officers (several assigned to a Sergeant or a “rotation”)

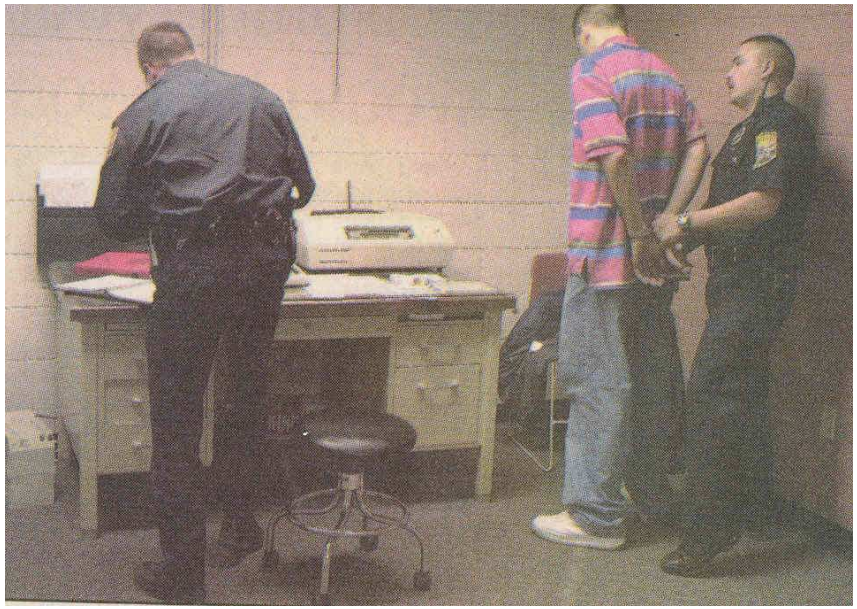
- Within the Patrol Division, Police Officers perform a variety of tasks everyday. This Officer is conducting a vehicle stop for a traffic violation.

- The Police Department participates in several traffic safety programs. These officers are working operation pull-over checking drivers for seatbelts.



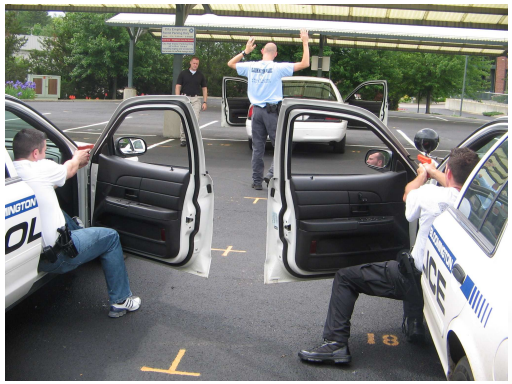
- Officers working Quiet Nights.

- Officers working a serious vehicle accident.



- Officers with suspected drunk driver in the breath test room.

- The Training Division is responsible for providing Officers with in-service training on a monthly basis, updating Officers on changes in the law and keeping records that must be submitted to the State.



Specialized Units

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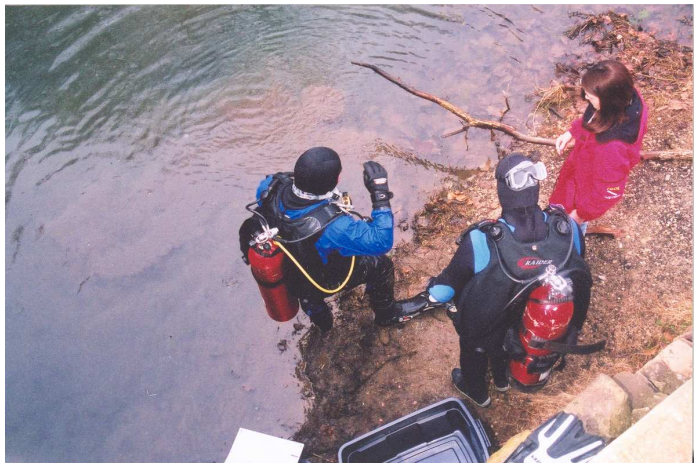
- Dive Team
- A multi-jurisdictional team of volunteer divers called upon to search for persons, evidence of crimes, and recover lost or stolen property from lakes, rivers and quarries.



- CIRT (Critical Incident Response Team)
- A highly trained disciplined team designed to handle emergencies and situations involving extreme danger. Regular training and conditioning are an integral part of the program.

- <u>K-9 Unit</u>
- Trained to track fugitives, search for suspects and drugs, search out accident victims and assist in finding lost persons.

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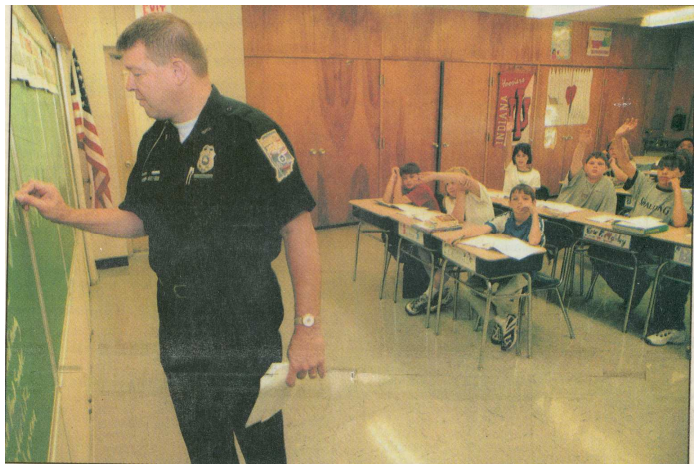
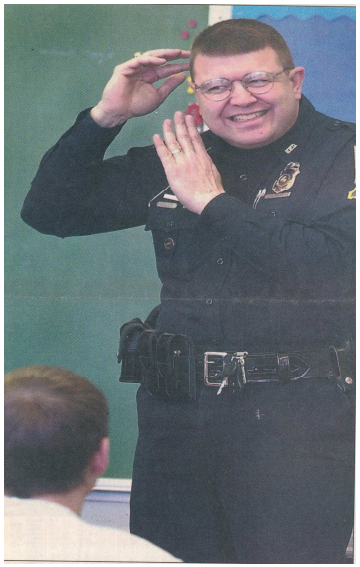
- Officer Friendly/Life Skills/Cops in Schools
- Officers involved in the elementary schools, middle schools and high schools teaching age-appropriate content or being visible and available to students.





- Foot and Rhino Patrol
- Uniformed Officers patrol the city's downtown, the B-Line Trail and areas adjacent to the IU campus by bike and Segway. The bike program increases exposure to the public and enhances the Department's community policing initiatives. It also allows us to patrol areas not accessible by car.

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- The Administrative Division consists of the Records and Communications Division.

- The Bloomington Police Department operates with 3 shifts:
  - Morning Shift: 5:30 am to 2:00 pm
  - Afternoon Shift: 1:30 pm to 10:00 pm
  - Night Shift: 9:30 pm to 6:00 am.
  - Detectives: 7:00 am to 10:00 pm

BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION

Organizational Chart

- Lieutenant
- Sergeants
- Detectives (General Assignment)
  -after hours and weekend coverage
- Special Investigations Unit
- Evidence Technicians
  -after hours and weekend coverage
- Evidence Clerk

Detective Specialties

- Sex Crimes
- Financial Crimes
- Forensic Computer Analysis
- Burglary/Robbery
- Drug Investigations
- Video Analysts

Cases Worked by Detectives

- Homicides
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Sexual Assault
- Child Molesting

Cases Worked by Detectives

- Fraud
- Forgery
- Death Investigations

  -suicide

  -suspicious deaths

  -drug overdose

Cases Worked by Detectives

- Internal Theft
- Drugs
- Assist Uniform Division with:

  -locating witnesses, victims or suspects

  -obtaining statements

Social Media

- BPD is on Facebook

  -provide information on our activity in the community

  -solicit tips and information in an effort to solve crimes

Questions?