

Off The Cuff Of.....
Chief Steve Springer

Change, change, change – it's a never ending aspect of life. Just as we were getting settled into and used to our new police facility, more change is appearing on the horizon for the police department.

As some of you already know, I have decided to retire effective May 7, 2004. This was a very difficult decision that I reached with mixed emotions as I have truly enjoyed serving this community for most of my adult life. However, after more than 30 years with the Fairview Heights Police Department, I feel that it is time for a change in my life and to move on to other aspects and challenges.

During my tenure with the police department, I have had the privilege of serving under three dedicated mayors, various community oriented elected officials, three extraordinary chiefs of police, and with numerous outstanding police and city employees. I have always considered the Fairview Heights Police Department to be the best in the area, and the individuals who have served the department as being the most dedicated, professional law enforcement personnel I have ever had the privilege to know.

However, there is more to maintaining a safe and secure community than just having dedicated, professional employees. Successful law enforcement efforts require the support and involvement of the entire community; and, since the inception of Fairview Heights, the mayors, elected officials, and residents have consistently provided that support and involvement. This support and involvement has not only

enhanced the effectiveness and efficiency of the police department, it has also made this an exceptionally positive environment in which to serve the public.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the elected officials, police department employees, city employees, and citizens for their support, assistance, and friendship over the years. It has been both an honor and a privilege to have to have served this community and the Fairview Heights Police Department throughout the past three decades.

STEPHEN M. SPRINGER
Chief of Police