

# Campus police relocate office

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Visitors to what will be the new YSU police station are now required to buzz in before entering the building on Wood Street, which is the old Red Cross facility.

The building, which will eventually house the entire department, is still in the works. Many of the rooms in the building are still vacant, but the office of the chief of police and the administration, and the lieutenant's and sergeant's offices have already been placed in the new facility.

Although some of the rooms are vacant, YSU Police Chief John Gocala pointed out that all the areas serve a purpose.

Gocala said separate men's and women's bathrooms and locker rooms, a training and roll call room, conference room, separate rooms for booking, holding

and interrogation, and a fitness training room for the officers can be found in the new station. He said some of these facilities are new to the YSU police station and others have been modified.

A weapons room is also a new edition to the station, which holds all of the ammunition, armor, shotguns and chemical mace. The weapons in the old building were held in a cubbyhole in the attic.

New radio and video equipment rooms are also a new feature at the department. Gocala said through video they can extensively watch the stadium, gyms and library throughout campus.

Police chief assistant Laura Malloy said the move was necessary for different reasons.

"We have outgrown the building in so many ways," said Malloy. "We cannot do our job as adequately [in the old building]."

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Malloy, who was in charge of the renovation project, said the new building "is overall a safer and more secure environment."

Gocala said that with the extra space, they are now capable of bringing suspects in through the rear of the building, a sally port, instead of having to walk them in through the lobby entrance of the old building.

The current department, which is located on University Plaza, still houses the actual department. Gocala said he does not want to confuse patrons of YSU until everything is finalized in the new building.

Malloy said if anyone has a complaint, he or she is asked to go to the University Plaza location.

"Dispatchers and officers are there," said Malloy. "It is still open 24 hours a day."

Gocala said, "The dispatchers will be the last and most expensive components to move."

Gocala said the increased space allows them to experiment with various aspects of the law.

He said they are able to bring in members of the police academy to teach them how to give Breathalyzer tests and other drinking related inspections. The fitness center will enable the station to provide classes for students who are interested in learning how to protect themselves from a potential attacker.

The Wood Street building is 12,000 square feet in size compared to the University Plaza building, which is 2,400 square feet.

The move began Aug. 6 and may be finished in late spring or summer.