

Windsor Police Department moves, waits for new structure to be built

BY ASHLEY KEESIS-WOOD



Windsor Chief of Police John Michaels stands with the boxes as the police department prepared to move Tuesday. This is the fifth move Michaels has been a part of as a member of Windsor Police Department.

WINDSOR — Boxes, boxes everywhere. And tables. And chairs. And filing cabinets. “It’s kind of stressful today,” Windsor Chief of Police John Michaels said earlier this week sitting in his partially dismantled office. The Windsor Police Department moved Tuesday from the basement of Town Hall to its temporary location at 960 Diamond Valley Drive. The department is moving because of the remodel work being done at Town Hall and because it will have a new police department facility built next year. “The new elevator shaft is coming in right here,” Michaels said, gesturing to his desk. “So, out we go.” The department will remain on Diamond Valley Drive until the new \$4 million police facility being built on 11th Street is completed. But there’s not a lot of nostalgia involved in leaving the basement of Town Hall, even if it has been home to the police department for 25 years “The way I look at it, each move our department has made is a step up, and we’ve moved five times,” Michaels said. The police were originally located on the lower floor of the Arts and Heritage Center, also known as Old Town Hall. They relocated up a floor in the same building. During those moves, Michaels was part of the manual labor force crew. “Hauling boxes, moving up and down stairs, it’s hard on a person,” he said. “My back isn’t as young as it used to be.” The next pair of moves were to the second floor of Town Hall and then later to the basement. “We started with two rooms in the basement and had maybe eight or nine people in the department,” Michaels said. “Now, we have 20 full-time officers, three civilians, one parttimer and a volunteer in four rooms.”