

April 2021

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Worthington Police News



Chief

Troy Appel

Captain

Nathan Grimmus

Sergeants

Tim Gaul

Josh McCuen

Brandon Peil

Dustin Roemeling

Patrol Officers

Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

Randy Liepold

Colin Meinders

Tyler Olson

Jacob Refsland

Mark Riley

Lucky Sayveo

Kyle Schreier

Bryant Schroeder

Christina Shorter

Alex VanSomeren

Gabe Vander Veen

Investigators

Shawn Elsing

Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Jake Walker

School Resource

Dan Brouillet

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

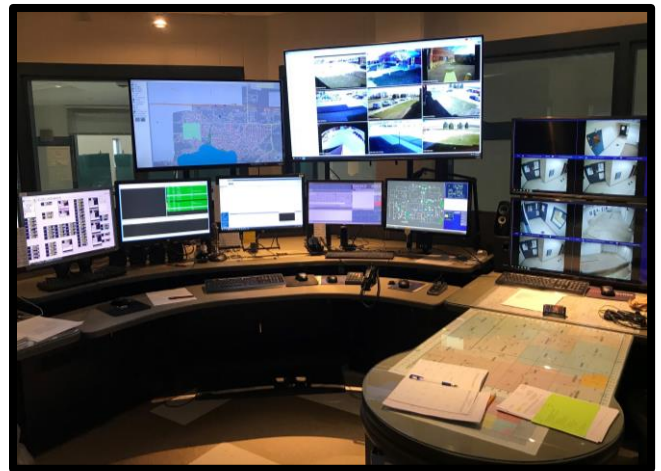
National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 11-17, 2021

Public Safety Communicators or more commonly called 911 Dispatchers are coming to work every day to protect and promote the public's safety. On a daily basis, we see the work that police officers, firefighters, and EMS crews do to keep our communities safe. The group, not on the front lines that plays a large role in those efforts, are the public safety dispatchers.

Each day, people dial 9-1-1 for help in emergencies ranging from house fires and automobile accidents to heart attacks and injuries from a fall. There's a valid reason why the dispatcher on the other end of the 9-1-1 calls and police radios are referred to as the "life-line". They are the vital link between our residents and emergency personnel.

On any given day, a dispatcher must handle a number of sensitive and difficult calls. Providing as much information as possible makes it easier for them to get you the help you need as quickly as possible.

A lot of people don't understand the job is more than just answering the phone. They are talking on the radio, paging out emergency personnel, giving out calls to officers, and at times, talking to several people at once. The most important thing you can give the dispatcher is your location! Anytime someone has ever had an emergency, it starts with us!



Dispatcher's dedication and value have never been more apparent than during the recent months of COVID-19. When so many people are working from home, they report each and every day. They have to be there night and day, 24/7, always open for business.

To those behind the scenes, gathering information and dispatching the appropriate assistance, answering those calls for help, we appreciate you!

Thanks to Tonya, Steph, Jodi, Joe, and Zach for all your hard work and dedication. You are the perfect example of an "essential worker".

Nancy Veen
Dispatch Supervisor



Severe Weather Awareness Week April 12-16, 2021

Animal Control
Laura Garcia

Community Service
Myra Onnen

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

Dispatch Supervisor
Nancy Veen

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Evers
Jodi Mulder
Zach Ramerth
Joe Reith

K-9 Officers
Frankie
Mack
Winston

Alert – Warnings – Storms – Hail – Lighting – Wind - Tornadoes

It's that time of year!

Are you prepared?

All types of weather can potentially be hazardous. Make sure you receive alerts and warnings, and that you know what they mean.

When a severe thunderstorm threatens, stay inside a strong structure. Every thunderstorm produces lightning! If you are outside and cannot find shelter, avoid tall trees, hilltops, open fields, and beaches. If you are in a boat, get to shore and off the water as soon as possible and find shelter.

No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area. Thunderstorms can produce straight-line winds that exceed 100 miles per hour. For this reason, you should treat them just as you would tornadoes.

Seek shelter if you are in the storm's path. Before severe storms and lightning move into the area, consider securing outdoor objects, consider postponing outdoor activities, and know where the nearest shelters are. Know where to get weather reports and have a weather radio with battery backup. Check your emergency kit and make sure it is ready!

Statewide tornado drills will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 1:45 p.m. and again at 6:45 p.m. Outdoor sirens and NOAA weather radios will sound. This is the perfect time to review your emergency plans and think about how you can prepare for upcoming severe weather season.

More information about emergency preparedness steps is provided on the HSEM weather safety and National Weather Service websites.

HSEM website: hsem.dps.mn.gov
or
NWS Website: www.weather.gov



Looking west from the Prairie Justice Center, August 14, 2020

Scam Alert: The Fake Email

Email messages can be faked to look like they are coming from anyone, even the Chief of Police!

Recently members of the Worthington Police Department received an email with the name “Chief Troy Appel” asking if we were able to handle his request.

This email was easy to recognize as a phishing email.

First of all, Chief Appel does not have his title as

part of his official email address.

Next, when you hovered the mouse cursor over the name, it showed a Gmail account, which the Worthington Police Department does not use.

The email also contained several grammatical issues that are not consistent with the way Chief Appel writes.

Finally, the email contained the words “May God Bless You”,

which is language typically not used in government emails.

This is a good reminder that scams are everywhere and can happen to anyone.

If you receive a message you believe is fake, just take a few minutes to critically look at the message and when in doubt, call the sender of the message and verify if it is real.



Do you have a question about a scam or have been a victim of a scam that you would like warn others about? If so, please email chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us. You may remain anonymous.

Ask an Officer: Colored Lights on Cars

Can I have colored lights under my car?

Under Minnesota State Statute 169.64 Prohibited Lights, unless your vehicle is authorized by the commissioner of public safety, no vehicle shall be equipped, nor shall any person drive or move any vehicle or equipment upon any highway with any lamp or device displaying a red light or any colored light other than those required or permitted in this chapter.

So, the short answer is no, unless your vehicle meets one of these requirements:

- Is an authorized emergency vehicle,

- Is a collector's item emergency vehicle as long of the lights are not activated on a public street except for parades and special events,
- Road maintenance equipment or snow removal equipment operated by a state or political subdivision,
- A motorcycle, collector vehicle, or vehicle eligible to display a collector plate displaying a one-inch diameter blue light as part of the rear brake light,
- A service vehicle (amber light),
- A self-propelled implement of husbandry.

These statutes cover the display of colored light. There are

additional statutes for displaying flashing lights as well.

I want to listen to my iPhone while driving, is it legal to have headphones in while driving?

Under Minnesota State Statute 169.471, you cannot have headphones or earphones that are used in both ears simultaneously. So, you can use one earphone but not two while driving.

Do you have a question for a police officer, but never had the chance to ask?

Here is your chance! Each month, one question will be selected and answered in this newsletter. Send your comments and questions to:

chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us

Worthington Police

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(507) 295-5400

FAX:
(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:
bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us

Animal Control
(507) 329-0070

Community Service Officer
(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ci.worthington.mn.us

**CRIME
STOPPERS**
of Minnesota

1-800-222-TIPS
www.crimestoppersmn.org
Crime Doesn't Pay...We Do!

Humor in Law Enforcement

Normally winning a scratch off lottery ticket is a good thing for most people, but not for Florida man.

Florida man was hanging out at the local Speedway when he noticed the cashier was not paying attention to the lottery tickets, so he grabbed a handful of tickets worth about \$100 and slipped out of the store.

After checking out the lottery tickets, Florida man found a \$30 winner!

Running down to the local Speedway, Florida man had some big plans for his \$30.

Once Florida man arrived at the local Speedway to cash his ticket, the quick-thinking employees recognized him and called the police.

Yup, he returned to the store that he stole the tickets from.

The police quickly arrived on scene and took Florida man to jail.



Florida man was charged with petty theft and dealing with stolen property.

On the police department Facebook page they stated "It's safe to say it was not his lucky day"

Credit: Fox News

Mission Statement

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity
by working WITH the community
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
1530 AIRPORT ROAD
SUITE 300
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**