

April 2022

Volume 11, Issue 4

Worthington Police News



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Bryant Schroeder

Christina Shorter

Gabe Vander Veen

Logan Waldner

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Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Kyle Schreier

Jake Walker

School Resource

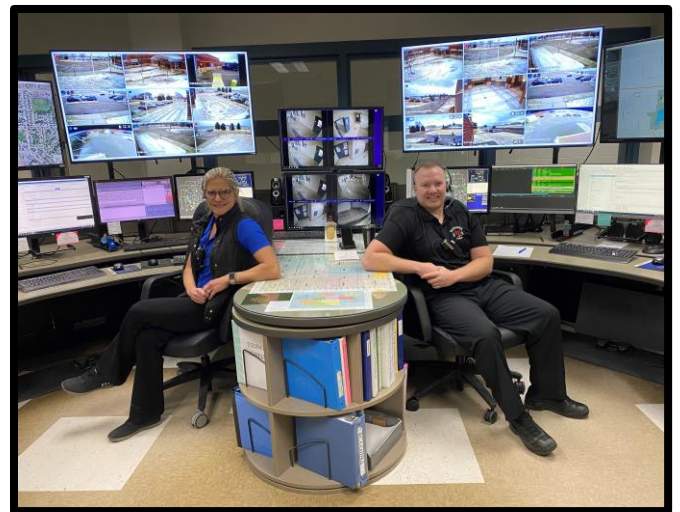
Dan Brouillet

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Do you ever wonder who the person is behind our emergency calls to 911? To most people, it is just a voice. That is why the second week in April (April 10-16) is observed as National Public Safety Telecommunicators week, every year. It is an opportunity to honor and thank our invisible telecommunicators who have dedicated their lives to public safety.

In 2021, over seven-thousand 911 calls came into the Worthington Dispatch Center and even more non-emergency calls were answered. Many people want to know why we need to ask so many questions when they call in, and why we can't just send someone! We need to get accurate information to all our officers, so they can make the best decisions on how to approach the situation and how to respond to the call.



We do understand you can be very excited or upset about your situation, but help us by getting the information we need to get emergency personnel to the scene as quickly as possible. It helps us a lot if our callers stay calm and know the location of their emergency.

When something bad happens, 911 dispatchers are usually the first ones to hear their cry for help. We are there to assess the situation, calm the caller down and send help. No one can deny that this job can be demanding and stressful.

So, throughout this week, take the time to thank the dispatchers for their hard work and dedication. They are here to serve the public and make it a safer place.

We appreciate the job you do!!!

Individual Highlights:

Severe Weather	2
Scam Alert	3
Orbeez TikTok	3
Humor in LE	4
Mission Statement	4

Animal Control
Laura Miesen

Community Service
Kirk Honius

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
Winston

Severe Weather Awareness Week April 4-8, 2022

This is the perfect time for families, communities, schools, and local businesses to review and talk about their emergency plans and how they can prepare for the upcoming severe weather season.

We will be participating in the statewide tornado drill on Thursday, April 7th, when the sirens will be activated.

The first drill will be at 1:45 p.m. and is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is at 6:45 p.m. and is intended for second shift workers and families.

- Outdoor tornado warnings are normally given by sirens. People indoors should listen to radios, TV, or weather radio warnings to find out the latest information.
- Sign up for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your mobile devices.
- Learn how outdoor warning sirens are activated in your county and why.
- Know the difference between advisories, watches, and warnings.
- Prepare an emergency kit and make a family communication plan.
- Postpone outdoor activities during bad weather.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.

Many people still recall two of the most destructive F5 tornadoes that went through southwest Minnesota in the past. The Tracy Tornado, on June 13th, 1968, struck around 7:00 p.m. with wind speeds that reached over 300 miles per hour as it tracked 9 miles through Murray, Lyon, and Redwood Counties.

Then on June 16, 1992, at 5:18 p.m., Chandler-Lake Wilson was hit with a tornado that was on the ground for over an hour with wind speeds of 260 miles per hour, traveling 35 miles across southwest Minnesota. Both tornadoes destroyed many homes and businesses, causing major property damage. There were fatalities and many people injured.

Understanding this threat and knowing what to do when a tornado is approaching can save lives. This is a great opportunity to review emergency plans and procedures and conduct emergency drills at work and at home.

Prepare! Don't let severe weather take you by surprise.



1992 Chandler Tornado



1968 Tracy Tornado

Scam Alert: FTC Legal Action

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) just sent letters to 19 Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service providers that warned them that “assisting and facilitating” illegal telemarketing or robocalling is against the law.

VoIP service providers have played a unique part in the robocall ecosystem, allowing fraudsters and abusive telemarketers to call customers for a fraction

of a penny per minute according to FTC Bureau of Consumer Protection Director Andrew Smith. The warning letters are warning the VoIP service providers that the FTC is ready to take action to stop the illegal robocalls.

The FTC has not released information on which companies have received the letters but stressed that combatting illegal telemarketing is a top priority of the

FTC.

The FTC stated they have already brought legal action against one defendant, James B. Christiano and a VoIP service provider Globex Telecom.

To file a complaint with the FTC, you can file online at [ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov) or by telephone at 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357).



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.

Orbeez TikTok Challenge

A new TikTok “challenge” is spreading across the nation called the Orbeez Challenge.

Orbeez are airsoft style guns that shoot gel pellets fast enough that it can cause bruising or break the skin of a person shot by the gun.

The Orbeez challenge is encouraging users to sneak attack unsuspecting people with the gel pellet gun.

Use of a Orbeez gun against someone without their consent is illegal and would be considered an assault.

In Volusia County, Florida, officers have already arrested 4 people for

participating in the Orbeez challenge. In one case, a 19-year-old man was arrested for shooting an Amazon delivery driver while he was driving his route. The delivery driver was struck in the neck and his glasses prevented him from being hit in the eye.

If your family has some of these guns, please talk to your children about their proper use.



Orbeez Guns

The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.

-Sir Robert Peel,



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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

With Severe Weather Awareness Week just round the door, it is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

Our friends at the New Ulm Police Department had a hand info-graphic to help us remember the difference between the two.



Clarification

In last month's newsletter, we mentioned there were 110,488 permits to carry issued. This number is the new permits to carry.

The total number of permits were 387,013 with 3,863 were 1% of permit holders who committed a crime, which was consistent with following years.

Thanks to reader Linden for the clarification!!!

Mission Statement

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

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