

April 2012

Volume 1, Issue 2

# Worthington Police News

## Chief

Michael Cumiskey

## Captain

Chris Dybevic

## Sergeants

Bill Bolt

Kevin Flynn

Tim Gaul

## Patrol Officers

Erick Baumgart

Ted Buhner

Jacki Dawson

Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

Joe Joswiak

Randy Liepold

Josh McCuen

Mark Riley

Kirk Schelhaas

Bruce Stugelmeyer

Brett Wiltrout

## Investigators

Troy Appel

Shawn Elsing

Nate Grimmus

Dave Hoffman

## School Resource

Bob Fritz

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Worthington Police Department (507) 372-2136

## Officer Profile: Chief Michael Cumiskey

Chief Mike Cumiskey is a 26-year police veteran with job experience in Winona and Worthington. Mike served in the United States Marine Corps from 1980-1984. Mike has a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Winona State University and an MBA from Southwest Minnesota State University. Mike has been the Worthington Police Chief since August 1999.



## Cop on Top

Once again the Worthington Police Department is teaming up with Hy-Vee to raise money for Special Olympics Minnesota.

Starting at 6:00 p.m. on May 24<sup>th</sup> and extending until 6:00 p.m. on May 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a member of the Worthington Police Department sitting on the roof of Hy-Vee to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics Minnesota.

Last year's efforts, which were spearheaded by Officer Jacki Dawson raised over \$7,000, far exceeding our goal of \$1,500.

This fundraiser won't be successful without your support! Stop by our booth and check out the selection of t-shirts we have on hand.

All donations will go to support this worthy cause.

We hope to see you there!



**Animal Control**  
Virgil Veen

**Community Service**  
Myra Onnen

**Chaplain**  
Pastor James Sickmeyer

**Reception**  
Barb Hussong

**Records**  
Shari Droll  
Julie Jeppesen

**TAC/IT**  
Gary Gerdes

**Dispatch**  
Tonya Aanenson  
Laura Christensen  
Candy Malmquist  
Larry Rogers  
Regan Roloff  
Nancy Veen



# SKYWARN

### Text Anonymous Information

Send confidential tips to the Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force

Text 372DTF with your tip  
Send to 847411 (tip411)

# tip 411

\*100% Anonymous\*

## Call of the Month

April's Call of the Month involved a DWI arrest that helped solve a local burglary.

Early one Sunday morning, a local officer was leaving the station when he observed a vehicle driving south on Highway 59 with a large amount of sparks coming from underneath the vehicle.

As the officer caught up to the car, the vehicle drifted over the center line. The officer stopped the vehicle and observed several bottles of hard alcohol on the floor behind the driver's seat.

After administering field sobriety tests, the driver was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated and the bottles of alcohol were seized as evidence.

Later that evening, the Worthington Police Department received a call of a burglary at a local bar and the same officer responded to the burglary.

While speaking with the bar owner, he listed several types of alcohol that were stolen in the burglary. The alcohol stolen just happened to match the alcohol collected during the DWI arrest earlier in the day.

To top things off, the bar owner had a video of the burglary in which the officer immediately recognized the burglar as the man he arrested the night before. In fact, the man was arrested for the DWI approximately 10 minutes after the burglary was committed.

With the assistance of the Fulda Police Department, the man was located and arrested for the burglary.



## Skywarn Training

On April 10<sup>th</sup>, members of the Worthington Police Department, along with area fire departments, first responder units and ambulance services attended the Skywarn training sponsored by the National Weather Service.

The training provided by Adrian native, Todd Heitkamp, focused on the recognition and identification of severe weather.

With the severe weather season starting early this year you can rest assured that the hard working men and women of our area police, sheriff, fire, first responders and ambulance crews, will be ready when severe weather occurs.

Just a reminder that when you hear the sirens, seek shelter inside your house. Don't go outside to try to see the storm!

## Ask an Officer

The Ask an Officer question this month comes from Leticia, who asks "Does Minnesota have a Stand Your Ground Law?"

The "Stand Your Ground" Laws have come to the forefront of national news with the shooting death of Travon Martin by George Zimmerman.

The Stand Your Ground Law, also known as the Castle Doctrine, is a legal doctrine that states a person protecting their property may stand their ground and use deadly force against another person who commits a serious crime or who intends to cause great bodily harm against the person.

The doctrine removes the duty to retreat requirement from the use of force incident as long as you are in a place in which you have a legal right to be.

In many states, the doctrine provides immunity from any lawsuits arising from the use of force and prevents the assailant from receiving compensation for medical bills, property damage, disability and pain and suffering.

Minnesota does not have a "Stand Your Ground Law". The law made it through the House of Representatives and Senate, but was vetoed by Governor Mark Dayton on March 6, 2012.



States with a current "Stand Your Ground"

## Scam Alert: The Phony Debt Collector



Have you ever received a telephone call saying you have failed to pay a debt and if you don't pay immediately, the police will be coming to arrest you?

If you have, you may have just talked to a scammer trying to separate you from your money. The fake debt collector, like many of the other scammers will try to play on your emotions to get your cash. In this case, they use the fear of going to jail to pry open your wallet.

The debt collector scammer is one of the hardest scammers to detect due to the number of unscrupulous debt collectors who have been known to break the law.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there were over 140,000 complaints against debt collectors in 2010.

These complaints included threatening to have the alleged debtor arrested, attempting to collect a debt outside of the statute of limitations, collecting debt from the wrong person and in one case, threatening to kill and eat the family dog.

So how do we determine who is a legitimate debt collector and who is a scammer?

A debt collector is required under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to send a written letter within five days of initial contact. The letter is required to contain specific information like the amount of the debt, the name of the debt collection agency and the initial creditor.

If you are contacted by a person claiming to be a debt collector, request that they send you a written statement outlining the alleged debt.

If you receive a letter from them, you can go to the Minnesota Department of Commerce website and see if the debt collection agency is licensed to work as a debt collector in the State of Minnesota.

If you are still in doubt, you can call the original creditor and see if this debt is real or even yours.

One important thing to remember is that some debt collectors are like scammers and don't care who pays a debt.

So what can you do to protect yourself?

You can take a few simple steps to help protect yourself. First never give out any personal information over the telephone. There is a wealth of information available on the internet so don't be surprised if the

caller knows personal and detailed information about you.

Next, remember that scammers are effective because they play on your emotions, in this case fear.

Finally, never let the caller pressure you to pay immediately. Many scammers love Western Union. Anytime someone wants you to send money by Western Union, you should be extremely cautious. Once you send the money it is gone and there is no way to get it back.

Are the police going to show up at your house because you forgot to pay a bill? No, the police do not get involved in civil matters such as debt disputes.

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*Anytime someone wants you to send money by Western Union, you should be extremely cautious.*

**F**air  
**D**ebt  
**C**ollection  
**P**ractices  
**A**ct

## Dumb Criminal of the Month

Our dumb criminal of the month is another hapless Worthington resident who just could not figure out where he was going.

Our tale starts with officers being called to the Watland Addition of Worthington for a driving complaint.

It seems our hapless suspect just could not figure out where he was going. He would drive past the complainant's house at a slow speed.

Driving at a slow speed is not bad, unless you are driving across other people's lawns like this criminal was doing. Not

only was he driving on other people's lawn, he was driving in circles on their lawns and driving between their houses.

Officers soon arrived on scene and searched the area, but were unable to locate the suspect.

A responding officer stopped at the complainant's house to get some more information about what happened.

While talking with our surprised complainant, our hapless criminal returned to the area, still driving across neighborhood lawns.

Officers stopped our dumb criminal and found the source of his confusion, alcohol.

The dumb criminal was arrested for felony level DWI and was taken to the Nobles County Jail where he tested over three times the legal limit.

If that was not bad enough, he got the brilliant idea to kick the arresting officer, earning him an assault charge as well.



## Saying Goodbye

Those of you paying close attention to the newsletter this month may have noticed there are only three sergeants listed instead of the usual four.

Sergeant Jason Beckmann resigned to continue his law enforcement career as a conservation officer with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Like all new conservation officers, Sergeant Beckmann will attend an intensive training academy for several months where he will learn all aspects of

being a conservation officer.

If that was not enough, he will be assigned to a field training officer for many more months after completion of the training academy.

With Sergeant Beckmann's strong work ethic, we're sure he will be patrolling the woods and waterways of Minnesota in no time!

Everyone here at the Worthington Police Department wishes Sergeant Beckmann the

best of luck with his new career.



## Rules of the Road: Pedestrians and Bicycles

With the early start of the good weather this year; more people are out walking and riding their bicycles around town.

However, the police department has received many complaints that people are not following the rules of the road when they are out and about.

For those who may not be familiar with the rules of the road when it comes to bicycles and pedestrians, bicycles are required to ride with traffic and pedestrians are required to walk against traffic.

If there is sidewalk available, the pedestrian is required by law to use the sidewalk.

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, in 2010 there were 808 traffic crashes resulting in 36 pedestrians killed and another 824 injured.

When it came to bicycle accidents, there were 898 traffic crashes resulting in 9 people killed and another 882 injured.

In order to help reduce the number of bicycle and pedestrian accidents, the Worthington Police Department will be enforcing the rules of the road in order to make our community a safer place to live.

**Worthington Police Department**

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[bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:bhussong@co.nobles.mn.us)

**Animal Control**  
(507) 360-7044

**Community Service Officer**  
(507) 372-8189

**We're on the Web!**  
*See us at:*  
[www.ci.worthington.mn.us](http://www.ci.worthington.mn.us)

**Behind the Scenes**

When someone thinks of the police department they tend to picture the patrol division. After all the patrol division is the most visible aspect of any police department.

Many times we don't see the behind the scenes work that is needed to make the police department successful

There are many different jobs that need to be done

with everyone working toward the common goal of providing public safety.

Over the upcoming months, we will cover the different jobs in the police department in an effort to give you a better understanding of how each job functions in the police department.

The jobs we will cover will include: Chief of Police, Captain, Sergeant,

Detective Sergeant, Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer, Detective, Task Force Detective, Dispatcher, Reception, Records, Animal Control, Community Service Officer, Chaplain, and TAC/IT.



Have an idea for an upcoming newsletter? We would love to hear from you.  
Please e-mail your ideas to [chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us](mailto:chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us)

**Mission Statement**

Serving Worthington with honor and integrity by providing community oriented law enforcement and emergency services to all people.

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