

April 2013

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Worthington Police News

Chief

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Bill Bolt

Kevin Flynn

Tim Gaul

Brett Wiltrout

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Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

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Dave Hoffman

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Dispatcher Profile: Candy Malmquist

The profile for the month is Dispatcher Candy Malmquist.

Dispatcher Malmquist started her career over 34 years ago when she became a member of the Worthington Police Department in December 1978.

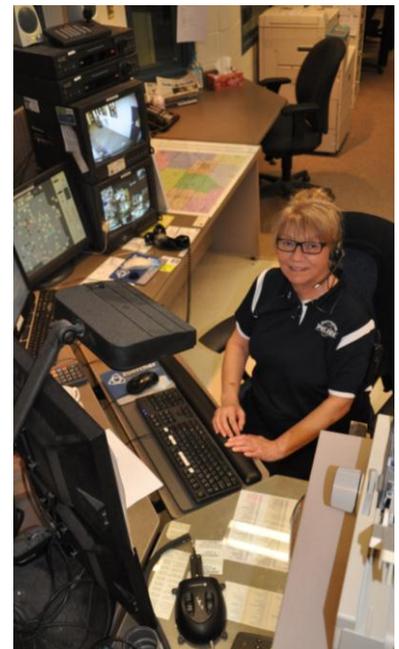
Dispatcher Malmquist talked about the numerous changes that have taken place in dispatching over the years. When she started her career, the 911 system did not exist. During emergencies, instead of dialing 911, people had to call the regular telephone number to contact the police.

If someone needed the fire department, there was another telephone number used that would ring into a red telephone in the dispatch center. If someone needed to look up information about a suspect, they had to go to the records room and look through the files by hand. The radio system at that time only consisted of four channels.

Today the dispatch center shows little resemblance to the dispatch center of the 1970's. Computers have taken over every aspect of the job. Telephone calls are answered via a computer and headset with the location of 911 calls shown on a map. The location of squad cars is shown on another computer screen.

The radio system is also computerized with dispatchers having access to over 40 radio channels that communicate with local, state and federal officials in the event of emergencies. Even the basic job of giving out calls has changed. Dispatchers now send out calls by computer instead of the radio.

The greatest change for Dispatcher Malmquist will soon be here with her retirement on May 31, 2013. She will be moving to Mankato to be closer to family and to help care for her parents.



Dispatcher Malmquist is also looking forward to spending time in the Spring and Fall near the ocean in Maryland visiting her grandchildren.

No matter where her journeys take her, she will be missed by her friends and family at the Worthington Police Department and Nobles County Sheriff's Office.

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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
Stephanie Culham
Candy Malmquist
Larry Rogers
Regan Roloff
Nancy Veen

Law Review: Vehicle Lighting

One of our readers, Linden, had the great idea for a column in the newsletter. Linden suggested that each month we cover a regulation, law, or statute that is new or one that people may not be aware of.

The statute for this month will be Minnesota Statute 169.48, Vehicle Lighting.

This statute covers the three times when headlight use is required by motor vehicles.

The first time you are required to use your

headlights is between sundown and sunrise. The second time you are required to use your headlights is when it is raining, snowing, sleet or hailing. The third time headlights are required is when visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions.

The use of fog lights or parking lights in lieu of headlights is not lawful under this law and you could be cited for violating the statute.



Call of the Month: The Not So Stolen Car

The call of the month for April started when one of our local officers was just starting his afternoon shift.

Our officer walked out of his house to get into the patrol car and quickly noticed that something was amiss; his car was not in his garage. A quick search of the house revealed that his car keys were missing as well.

After finding his car and his keys missing, our officer called for a second officer to take a report for a stolen vehicle.

The second officer arrived on scene and took a report for the stolen vehicle.

Police officers have been known to enjoy pranks from time to time, so the responding officer decided to make a few telephone calls to find out if this was indeed a prank or not.

The responding officer found out it was not a prank and through the phone calls was able to locate the missing car. The car was located at the police department, right where the first officer left it the previous day when he drove into work.

It turns out the officer had driven into work and completely forgot about his car and received a ride home after his shift.

Coming out the next day, he still forgot that his car was at the police department and thought someone had stolen it.

For clarification, the majority of the time police officers are picked up at their residence and dropped off when their shift is done. This officer periodically takes his squad car home, thus resulting in the confusion.

As the old saying goes, you gotta be able to laugh at yourself. This was one of those times.

**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

Scam Alert: Check Routing Number Scam

There is another new scam that is starting to show up in the area.

In this scam, the criminal steals information from your checks in order to create new checks with your information.

Since the scammer uses your name, account number and the bank routing number, the check would come back as valid if anyone would call to verify it.

Anyone can buy blank checks at office supply stores and print them at home. This makes the fake checks

indistinguishable from the real checks.

It is not known how many of the scammers are getting the information off of the checks, but it is believed that someone either copies the information off the check or takes a photograph of the check using a cell phone.

This type of scam can be difficult to protect yourself from. The biggest thing you can do to protect yourself from this scam is to consistently monitor your checking account for any charges that you do not recognize.

If you do find a charge that you do not recognize, notify your bank immediately, fill out an affidavit of forgery and notify the police department.

Outside of monitoring your checking account, be aware of your

surroundings when you are writing a check. If someone is watching you, move to a different area or cover up your check book.

With this scam, being vigilant is the key to protecting yourself from financial loss.



Ask an Officer

I have recently seen a new police car driving around town and I was wondering what type of car it was and why did the police department change cars?

The Worthington Police Department recently added a Ford Explorer and a Ford Interceptor to the department fleet.

The biggest reason for changing squad cars is that Ford stopped making the Crown Victoria and Chevrolet stopped making the Impala squad cars.

The department looked at the various cars being used as patrol cars and settled for the Ford Interceptor.

The Ford Interceptor has two features that make it a major improvement over the previous squad cars.

The first improvement is that it has a heated trunk. The heated truck is needed to keep sensitive equipment warm such as oxygen bottles and the defibrillator.

The second feature is all-wheel drive. The police respond to calls in all types of weather and the all-wheel drive feature will allow us to drive to calls in all types of weather and to do so safely.

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



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(507) 372-5977

E-MAIL:
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

Dumb Criminal of the Month

The Worthington Police Department is no stranger to shoplifting calls. Last year we responded to 56 calls throughout the year and have heard all kinds of excuses to go with them.

Every once in a while we are left scratching our heads at some of the conduct we see. The dumb criminal of the month is no exception.

Our dumb criminal came into Wal-Mart and cashed his paycheck. After cashing his paycheck, the dumb criminal decided he really had to have one light bulb.

The dumb criminal removed a light bulb from

the package, placed it in his shirt pocket and walked out the door.

When caught, the dumb criminal told investigating officers that he was going to take the light bulb out to the car and come back in to do his shopping.

Over a \$1 light bulb, our dumb criminal is looking at a misdemeanor theft charge with penalties up to 90 days in jail and hundreds of dollars in fines.

One can only wonder what possessed this guy to steal one light bulb with plans to return to the store to complete his shopping.



Mission Statement

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

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