Worthington Police News

Chief
Troy Appel

Captain
Kevin Flynn

Sergeants
Tim Gaul
Nathan Grimmius
Josh McCuen
Dustin Roemeling

Patrol Officers
Chris Hillesheim
Kirk Honius
Randy Liepold
Colin Meinders
Tyler Olson
Jacob Refsland
Mark Riley
Lucky Sayveo
Kyle Schreier
Madison Stearns
Gabe Vander Veen
Jake Walker

Investigators
Shawn Elsing
Dave Hoffman
Joe Joswiak
Brandon Peil

School Resource
Dan Brouillet

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Body Cameras

Body cameras are here!

The Worthington Police Department has rolled out the new body cameras to the patrol division and they have been an overwhelming success.

The new body cameras are WatchGuard body cameras that work in tandem with the WatchGuard video systems in the patrol cars.

When the body camera is activated, it also turns on the squad car camera and vice versa, allowing the most video evidence to be collected.

Some of the evidence already collected in the first few days they have been used included: an assault, a drunk and disorderly suspect resisting arrest, DWI field sobriety testing, and a vehicle search where drugs were located.

The body cameras already have tremendous support from the officers wearing them.

One of the most common comments made about the body cameras is that we wish we had these years ago.

A study by the University of Cambridge showed a 93% drop in complaints made against the police when body cameras were used.

In another study performed by the International Associate of Chiefs of Police (IACP), showed body cameras improved officer safety, enhanced documentation of traffic violations, increased successful prosecution, and reduced frivolous lawsuits.

Dispatch Corner: FaceTime for 911

Directory

Animal Control
Josh Erwin

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
Frankee
Mack
Winston

The Pennington County (Minnesota) Sheriff's Office will be one of the first in the state to allow cell phone callers to stream live video and audio when they call 911.

According to Pennington County Sheriff Ray Kuznia, this new technology will help dispatchers make more informed decisions on what resources are needed for a wide range of calls from traffic crashes to domestic assaults.

The technology works by the dispatcher sending a text message to the 911 caller with a message asking if the caller will allow the dispatcher to access their cell phone camera.

Once this request is accepted, the dispatcher will be able to see anything the caller points their cellular telephone at.

Pennington County is one of 15 locations across the United States that is part of this pilot project.

Currently this technology is not available in Nobles County; however, pending the results of the pilot project, this may become the new face of 911 in Minnesota.

Hands Free is Here

August 1st is here and that means Minnesota's new hands-free cell phone law is here and in full effect. This means that you cannot hold your cellular telephone while driving, unless it is to obtain emergency assistance for an immediate threat to life and safety.

A first-time violation of this law is $50 plus court costs, while additional violations will result in a $275 fine plus court costs.

A common question about this law is if it applies to the police. Under state statute, hand-held phone use is allowed in authorized emergency vehicles; which would include law enforcement vehicles, fire vehicles, and ambulance vehicles.

We Need Your Help!

The Worthington Police Department needs your help solving a couple of crimes that happened recently.

The first crime is a motor vehicle theft that occurred sometime in the overnight hours of July 28th into the early morning hours of July 29th.

In this case, an unknown person or persons stole a silver Toyota Camry from the 1700 block of North Burlington Avenue and later crashed the vehicle in the City of Worthington.

In the second case, an unknown person or person burglarized the Family Value store during the overnight hours of August 2nd into August 3rd.

In this burglary, multiple items were stolen including money and a video camera system.

Anyone who has information about these crimes is encouraged to contact the Worthington Police Department at 507-295-5400 with the information.

Refer to IR 19-5337 for the Motor Vehicle Theft or IR 19-5476 for the Burglary.

If you wish to remain anonymous, you can do the following:

- Download the BRDTF app from the app store. Open the app and click on New Tip.
- Click the "No Group Selected" link and then select BRDTF Worthington PD; click Done.
- Enter your tip information
- Click Send at the top of the screen.

Motor Vehicle Theft
IR 19-5337

Burglary
IR 19-5476

Suicide Awareness

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, suicide is a major public health concern.

In 2017, 47,000 people died by suicide making it the 10th leading cause of death in the United States.

Suicide is complicated and tragic, but it is often preventable if you know the warning signs, which include:

- Talking about suicide/wanting to die
- Talking about feeling empty, hopeless, or having no reason to live
- Making a plan or looking for a way to kill themselves
- Talking about great guilt or shame
- Feeling unbearable pain (emotional or physical)
- Talking about feeling trapped or

that there are no solutions
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increased use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated
- Withdrawing from friends or family
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Taking great risks that could lead to death
- Talking and thinking about death often
- Displaying extreme mood swings (from very sad to calm or happy)
- Giving away important possessions
- Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Putting affairs in order such as making a will

If these warning signs apply to you or someone you know, get

help as soon as possible, particularly if the behavior is new or has increased recently.

Suicide Prevention Resources:

- Worthington Police Department: 911 or 507-295-5400
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255
- Southwest Mental Health Center: 507-376-4141
- Sanford Worthington Medical Center: 507-372-2941

For more information about suicide prevention, please visit the National Institute of Mental Health at www.nimh.nih.gov.

Credit: National Institute of Health

Humor in Law Enforcement

No Vacancy?

Late one night, Mitchell Deslatte walked into a Baton Rouge, Louisiana, hotel and asked the clerk for a room.

However, the clerk was not a clerk – he was a Louisiana State Trooper and the hotel was not a hotel, but a state trooper barracks.

Deslatte was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

Deslatte received a room for the night, just not the one he wanted.

Worst Customer Service Ever!!!

Joseph Goetz entered a York (PA) bank with the intent to rob the bank.

The first teller he approached fainted. Not being one to quit that easily, he approached two other tellers, but neither teller had money in their drawers.

Fed up, Goetz stormed out of the bank, threatening to write an angry letter to the bank.

All subjects in these stories are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Mission Statement

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

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SUITE 300
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**