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Worthington Police News



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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

School Bus Safety

To the pleasure of many parents citywide, the start of school is just around the corner on August 24th.

With school buses hitting the roads again, now is the perfect time to think about school bus safety.

According to the National Traffic Safety Administration, there is an average of 139 fatalities per year involving school transportation related crashes.

Approximately 72% of these crashes are caused by other vehicles and another 20% are caused by people walking or biking to school. The majority of school age pedestrian fatalities occur between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. than any other time of day.

As a driver, it is crucial to be extra cautious during school pickup and drop-off hours and to treat school buses as something best seen from a distance.



Here are some rules to make sharing the road with school busses safer for everyone.

- Never pass a school bus that is stopped to load and unload children.
- Never pass a school bus on the right since it is illegal and dangerous.
- Flashing yellow lights indicate that a school bus is

preparing to stop to pick up or drop off children.

- Red lights and an extended stop arm indicate the school bus is stopped and that children are preparing to get on or off the bus.

Our children's safety is in your hands, please use caution this school year.

Animal Control
Virgil Veen

Community Service
Myra Onnen

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

Dispatch Supervisor
Nancy Veen

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Culham
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Jodi Mulder
Larry Rogers

K-9 Officers
Mack
Thor

Dispatch Corner

Five things that dispatchers wish callers knew:

1. Dispatchers will maintain a professional, serious tone, but they truly care about your emergency. Dispatchers are trained to remain calm while making sure everything is being done to save lives.
2. Old and deactivated cell phones that parents let their children play with are still capable of making emergency calls to 911. If you give your child an old cellular phone to play with, take out the battery.
3. Dispatchers have a series of questions they need to ask to determine the appropriate emergency response and to make sure the location is safe and secure. All of the questions a dispatcher asks are for officer safety and the caller's safety.
4. Be aware of your location and know that information will be needed. Your address will not always show up in the 911 system, so know your address and make sure other family members do too.
5. Dispatchers are working to get emergency assistance to your location as soon as possible. Many times an officer may not be close by. Hold tight and trust they are en route. In emergencies, callers may believe a half-hour has passed when only five minutes may have passed.



Dispatchers have an extremely tough job, but knowing these things can help make their jobs easier.

DON'T JUST STAND BY AND WATCH

Text confidential tips to the

Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force

100% Anonymous



BRDTF Tips available on Apple and Android devices

Law Review: Cats and Dogs in Motor Vehicles

With the hot and humid days of summer in full swing, we are finding people leaving their pets in the cars while they are shopping. On an 85 degree day, the interior temperature can reach 102 degrees in just 10 minutes and 120 degrees after 30 minutes.



Not only is this dangerous for your pet, it is illegal under Minnesota Statute 346.57. The statute states that a person may not leave a dog or cat unattended in a standing or parked motor vehicle in a manner that endangers the animal's safety. This statute allows peace officers, fire department members, and rescue squad members to use reasonable force to enter the motor vehicle and remove the animal.

Scam Alert: Advanced Fee Loan

According to the Better Business Bureau, a new scam starting to show up throughout the Midwest is the Advanced Fee Loan Scam.

Victims of this scam have reported receiving numerous harassing telephone calls from someone identifying themselves as being with the attorney general's office from Washington DC.

The callers are demanding that the

recipients of the calls resolve outstanding debts with them, often for thousands of dollars.

When callers have requested specific information, the caller gets aggressive and eventually hangs up on the victim, after making threats to have a warrant issued for their arrest and to have their driver's license revoked.

The scammers have also threatened to cause problems with the

victim's employer. Other victims have reported receiving harassing emails from the scammers as well.

The simple way to deal with these scammers is to simply hang up on them or to block their telephone calls with your phone company.



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: Did the DWI Laws Change?

I heard that Minnesota DWI laws have changed. Is that true?

As of August 1, 2015, it will become a gross misdemeanor to drive while intoxicated with a blood alcohol level of .16% or higher. The prior alcohol concentration for a gross misdemeanor DWI was .20% BAC.

This means that someone arrested for a gross misdemeanor level DWI will be held in jail and expected to post the standard bond for this level of DWI, which is \$12,000.

Someone convicted of a gross misdemeanor DWI will mean that the offender could face a maximum jail sentence of one year in jail and/or a \$3,000 fine.

If the DWI is a 3rd degree gross misdemeanor DWI, the license plates for the vehicle will be seized and the offender will be required to obtain DWI license plates for all vehicles they own.

If the DWI is a second degree DWI, the vehicle will be seized in addition to the license plate revocation for all other vehicles owned by the offender.

This is in stark contrast to the misdemeanor DWI which is up to 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

A high alcohol test is not the only reason that someone can be charged with a gross misdemeanor DWI.

Other factors that can lead to a gross misdemeanor DWI include; having a

prior DWI conviction or implied consent revocation within the last 10 years, and for child endangerment which includes having a passenger under the age of 16 in the vehicle as long as they are less than 36 months younger than the offender.

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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Animal Control

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Community Service Officer

(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

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

Humor in Law Enforcement

Our tale today started out one day with our suspect criminal crashing his car into a mailbox and parked truck.

Being the ever honest citizen he was, he quickly drove off not realizing a witness had written down his license plate.

When the police found our suspect criminal, he had a story that officers had never heard before.

Our suspect criminal told the police he had

a passenger with him who had a pet tarantula and the tarantula got loose and started to bite him on the neck, causing him to crash his car.

While a tarantula biting your neck would be enough for anyone to crash their car, the story was unusual enough the officers wanted to verify it.

After a thorough search of the car, the police were relieved when they did not find the spider.



After finding a lack of bite marks on the suspect criminal's neck, he was promptly arrested for the hit and run accident.

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**