

December 2021

Volume 10, Issue 12

# Worthington Police News



## Chief

Troy Appel

## Captain

Nathan Grimmus

## Sergeants

Tim Gaul

Josh McCuen

Dustin Roemeling

## Detective Sergeant

Brandon Peil

## Patrol Officers

Chris Hillesheim

Randy Liepold

Colin Meinders

Tyler Olson

Jacob Refsland

Mark Riley

Lucky Sayveo

Bryant Schroeder

Christina Shorter

Alex VanSomeran

Gabe Vander Veen

Logan Waldner

## Investigators

Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Kyle Schreier

Jake Walker

## School Resource

Dan Brouillet

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## Officer Profile: Logan Waldner

Please join us in welcoming Logan Waldner to the Worthington Police Department!

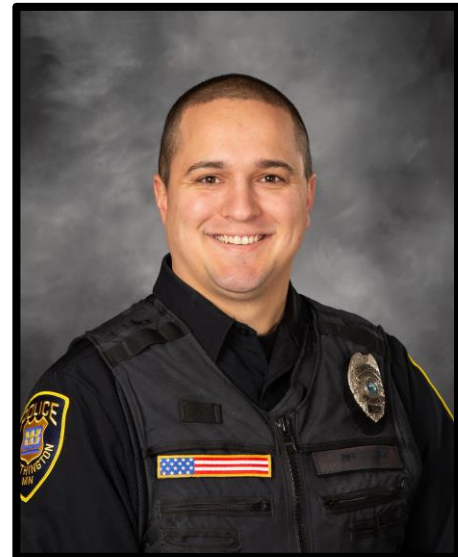
Officer Waldner joined the Worthington Police Department and has just finished the Field Training Program (FTO) this month.

Officer Waldner is a Worthington native, born and raised here.

Growing up, Officer Waldner attended Prairie Elementary School, Worthington Middle School, and graduated from Worthington High School.

After high school, Officer Waldner joined the United States Marine Corps and served as an infantryman for four years.

Officer Waldner attended Minnesota West Community and Technical College for Law Enforcement.



Officer Waldner then joined the Worthington Police Department to serve the community he loves.

When he is not working, Officer Waldner enjoys spending time with family and friends, sports, and hunting. However, taking care of

his newborn just does not leave a lot of free time.

Fun fact: Officer Waldner is one of two Taekwondo black belts on the Worthington Police Department.

Please stop and say "Hi" to Officer Waldner when you see him!

## Individual Highlights:

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**Animal Control**  
Laura Garcia

**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

## Traffic Fatalities

2021 is on pace to be one of the deadliest years on Minnesota highways in the last couple decades.

According to the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety, there have already been 465 people killed in traffic crashes from January to November across Minnesota.

This is an increase of 87 fatalities from all of 2020.

Of these fatal accidents, 150 were speed related, another

114 were alcohol related, and 103 were not using seatbelts.

Three simple changes can help keep you safe this holiday season; slow down, drive sober, and buckle up. These simple changes can help make your travels safer this year.

The Worthington Police Department participates in the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) initiative.

The TZD initiative is a statewide campaign



that provides federal funds to local law enforcement agencies to provide extra enforcement of traffic laws with an emphasis on impaired driving, occupant protection, speed, and distracted driving.

## The Kool-Aid Man Challenge

**What does the Kool-Aid man and Tik Tok have in common?**

Just the latest "challenge" that is getting kids in trouble across the nation. In this challenge, the person will run at a fence and try to break through it in a manner similar to the Kool-Aid Man breaking through a wall.

Not only does the person risk being injured by the stunt, but they can also face a Criminal Damage to Property charge. This charge can be up to and including a felony depending on the amount of damage done to the fence. Don't let one bad decision affect your future!



## Scam Alert: Fake Shipping Alerts

With the Christmas and Holiday season upon us, there has been an uptick in scams going around.

This month we will look at the Fake Shipping Alert scam.

In this scam, the victim will receive an email or text message that shows they made a purchase and the message will direct them to click on a link or call a telephone number to dispute the charge.

If you click on the link, a virus or spyware may be downloaded onto the victim's device.

If you call a telephone number they provided, they will try different social engineering tricks to get the victim to turn over vital information such as credit card or banking information.

If you receive one of these messages, ignore the message or contact the retailer directly and do not use a link or telephone number in the message you received.

### How to identify a fake online shopping site:

If you are trying to determine if an online

shopping website is real or not, look for these tips to help identify them.

The site could be a scam if:

- The deals are too good to be true
- The website looks strange
- There are a lot of 5-star reviews that are irrelevant to the product
- Unusual payment methods such as wire transfers
- Unreasonable requests for detailed personal information, such as social security numbers
- Typos and questionable wording.



- A lack of valid contact details on the site.

If you are in doubt, find the product on a different website.

## Ask an Officer: Blackout Wednesday

### I have been hearing people talking about something called Blackout Wednesday. What is Blackout Wednesday?

Blackout Wednesday is a term used to describe the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

It is referred to as Blackout Wednesday since many Americans will engage in excessive alcohol consumption due to being off work for the holidays.

This behavior can quickly lead to DWIs, accidents and fatalities. During the last five years, there have been more than 11,000 DWIs from Blackout Wednesday until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Credit: Stillwater Police Department

### My landlord came into my house without permission. Can he do that?

Minnesota Statute 504B.211 is the Residential Tenant's Right to Privacy statute.

Under this statute, there are reasonable purposes that allow the landlord to come into the rental property after making a good faith attempt to notify the renter.

Some of these purposes include: showing the unit to prospective residential tenants, performing maintenance work, if the residential tenant is causing a disturbance in the unit, or if the residential tenant has vacated the unit.

The landlord can enter the unit without notice in certain cases such as to prevent injury to persons or property due to conditions related to maintenance, building security, or law enforcement or to determine a residential tenant's safety.

Violations of this statute are civil issues and will need to be addressed in civil court.

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](mailto:chillesheim@co.nobles.mn.us)

## Worthington Police

1530 Airport Road  
Suite 300  
Worthington, MN 56187

PHONE:  
(507) 295-5400

FAX:  
(507) 372-5977

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

Animal Control  
(507) 329-0070

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)

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*of Minnesota*

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[www.crimestoppersmn.org](http://www.crimestoppersmn.org)  
**Crime Doesn't Pay... We Do!**

## Humor in Law Enforcement

Dakota County Deputy Weber was just minding his own business at the Miesville Speedway gas station on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

Deputy Weber who was in his fully marked squad car noticed two men sitting in their vehicle at the fuel pumps.

The men, who must have thought that Deputy Weber had an awesome Halloween costume, took a hit from their meth pipe

right in front of Deputy Weber!

The two men quickly learned that Deputy Weber was real and just saw what they did.

Deputy Weber arrested the two men and searched their vehicle, finding enough meth for a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree sales charge.

A search of the men located even more meth in one of the male's pants pocket.



At the jail, Deputy Posterick was searching the inmate's property and found a hidden compartment in the suspect's shoe and he located even more meth!

Credit; Dakota County Sheriff's Office

## 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**