



**Chief**  
Troy Appel

**Captain**  
Kevin Flynn

**Sergeants**  
Tim Gaul  
Nathan Grimmus  
Josh McCuen  
Brett Wiltrout

**Patrol Officers**  
Jacki Bomgaars  
Chris Hillesheim  
Kirk Honius  
Randy Liepold  
Tyler Olson  
Colby Palmersheim  
Jacob Refsland  
Mark Riley  
Dustin Roemeling  
Gabe Vander Veen  
Jake Walker

**Investigators**  
Shawn Elsing  
Dave Hoffman  
Joe Joswiak  
Brandon Peil

**School Resource**  
Dan Brouillet

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## Officer Profile: Colby Palmersheim and Thor

As December rolls around, there will be a couple of missing faces around the Worthington Police Department.

Officer Colby Palmersheim will be leaving the Worthington Police Department and has accepted a position with the Fergus Falls Police Department as a police officer.

Officer Palmersheim stated that working with K-9 Thor and being part of the Worthington Police Department has been a rewarding experience.

Officer Palmersheim expressed that he has really enjoyed working with the Worthington Police Department and that all of the great people helped him become the officer he is today.

Along with Officer Palmersheim leaving, his partner K-9 Thor will be leaving also.

K-9 Thor, who is 12 years old, has earned his

retirement and will spend the remainder of his life with Officer Palmersheim.

K-9 Thor had a great career with the Worthington Police Department and is credited with locating approximately \$110,000 in drugs, money, and assets.

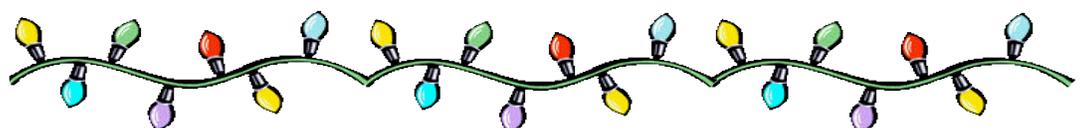
K-9 Thor also tracked down and located a sexual predator near Bristol Park who had exposed himself to a child.

One of Officer Palmersheim's favorite experiences with K-9 Thor was when he assisted the Nobles County Sheriff's Department in locating an armed Domestic Assault suspect hiding in a corn field outside of town. Not only did K-9 Thor find the suspect, he returned to the field and found the handgun, which was buried in the field.



From everyone at the Worthington Police Department, we would like to wish Officer Palmersheim the best at his new job.

We would like to also wish K-9 Thor a long, happy, and well deserved retirement.



**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 Evers  
Hannah Huls  
Jodi Mulder  
Larry Rogers

**K-9 Officers**  
Frankee  
Mack  
Thor

## Winter Holiday Fire Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, fire departments across the United States on average respond to 210 home structure fires that started with Christmas trees.

These fires cause an average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries, and \$16.2 million in direct property damage.

Of these fires, 26% of the Christmas tree fires and 80% of the deaths were caused when a heat source, such as candles or equipment were left too close to the tree.

When the Christmas trees do catch on fire, they tend to be deadly with 1 in 34 home Christmas tree fires resulting in death as

opposed to an average of 1 in 143 home fires resulting in death.

Don't let a house fire ruin your holidays! With a few safety tips, you can keep yourself and your family safe.

- Always have a smoke detector in your home and replace the batteries twice a year.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet from any heat source, such as fireplaces, candles, and heat vents.
- Use lights that are listed as being approved by a qualified laboratory, such as UL.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulbs. Read the manufacturer's instructions on how many strings of lights can be connected.
- Never use lit candles to decorate your tree.

With these safety tips, you can help keep your holiday season a joyous occasion.



**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: Good Samaritan Law (Continued)

The second part of the Good Samaritan Law covers general immunity from liability.

The law gives general immunity for a person who, without compensation or the expectation of compensation, renders emergency care, advise, or assistance at the scene of an emergency or during transit to a location where professional medical care can be rendered is not liable for any civil damages as a result of acts or omissions by that person in rendering emergency care, advice, or assistance, unless the person acts in a willful and wanton or reckless manner.

## Scam Alert: Secret Sister Gift Exchange

There is a scam that is making its rounds on Facebook again and that is the Secret Sister Gift Exchange.

The scam starts with a message asking you to buy a gift card of \$10.00 or more and then adding your name to a list.

In exchange, the scam promises that you will receive 36 gifts.

This is a typical pyramid scheme and the use of Facebook is allowing it

to spread a lot faster.

The problem with the Secret Sister Gift Exchange is that it is a pyramid scheme and sending the gift cards by mail is in violation of federal postal regulations.

This also becomes a violation of Facebook's terms of service by posting your personal information online and they could block or close your account.

Play it safe and just exchange gifts with people you know in person.

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

You may remain anonymous.



## Fentanyl Laced Heroin

A disturbing new drug trend is starting to show up throughout Minnesota. Drug dealers are starting to lace the drug Heroin with the narcotic pain killer Fentanyl.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid pain medication with a rapid onset and short duration of action. Fentanyl is believed to be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

Fentanyl overdoses are serious and can cause symptoms such as confusion, difficulty thinking and speaking, seizures, low blood pressure, slowed heart rate, unresponsiveness, coma, slow and shallow breathing, respiratory arrest and death.

One of the biggest dangers about

Fentanyl is that it can be absorbed through the skin and can result in adverse effects up to and including death in just minutes.

Police K-9 units are also at heightened risk of exposure to this deadly drug combination. K-9 units can be exposed to Fentanyl by inhalation by performing a sniff test of suspected narcotics.

If quick action is taken, many Fentanyl overdoses can be reversed with the drug Naloxone, commonly known as Narcan.

Naloxone can cause an acute opioid withdrawal causing sudden and unpleasant side effects. Naloxone typically “destroys the buzz” the drug user feels and they

may react violently to the sudden withdrawal.

In the United States in 2014, drug overdoses were the leading cause of accidental deaths with 47,055 lethal drug overdoses. Of these, 10,574 overdose deaths were from heroin.

In 2015, over 18 pounds of heroin, or enough for about 82,000 doses was seized throughout Minnesota.

According to the Minnesota State Department of Health, heroin killed 216 people in 2015 and that number is expected to rise in the near future.

If someone you know is using drugs, seek help now! Their life depends on it!

## **Worthington Police Department**

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Animal Control  
(507) 360-7044

Community Service Officer  
(507) 372-8189

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We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.ci.worthington.mn.us](http://www.ci.worthington.mn.us)

## **Humor in Law Enforcement**

Stealing a police car is just plain stupid.

But for one Tulsa, Oklahoma man, John Pinney, he took stupid to a whole new level.

Not only did he steal a police car, but he live streamed the theft on Facebook for the entire world to see.

After stealing the police car, Pinney logged into Facebook using a police iPad mounted in the car to live stream his antics.

In the video, Pinney is

quoted as saying “If you don’t believe me right now, I’m in the cop car. Where are my sirens at? Hear my sirens, check it out if you don’t \*\*\*\*\* believe me”?

Unknown to Pinney, the iPad had a tracking app that let other officers know his location and where to catch him.

With the video, he gave officers all the evidence needed to convict him as well.

Fortunately, no one



was hurt and the officer learned a lesson about leaving the keys in the car when he stopped for coffee.

Pinney is 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  
1530 AIRPORT ROAD  
SUITE 300  
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**