

January 2022

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# 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

## *Individual Highlights:*

2022 New Laws 2

2021 Traffic Deaths 2

Scam Alert 3

Ask an Officer 3

Criminal of Month 4

Mission Statement 4

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## New Year Resolutions

It's hard to believe that 2022 is upon us already.

Our New Year resolution to you and the Worthington Police Department's mission statement is that we are "serving Worthington with honor and integrity by working WITH the community to provide exceptional public safety".

The men and women of the Worthington Police Department will always be here for our



community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Have a happy and safe New Year and

know that we will be here when you need us!

## Work Anniversaries

### December

Zach Ramerth	Dispatcher	3 years
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### January

Tonya Aanenson	Dispatcher	23 Years
Randy Liepold	Patrol Officer	19 Years
Dustin Roemeling	Sergeant	6 Years
Jacob Refsland	Patrol Officer	6 Years

**Animal Control**  
Laura Miesen

**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

## 2022 New Laws

The new year brought in two new changes in state law regarding public safety.

### **Driving After Suspension**

The first change is that Minnesota will no longer suspend someone's driver's license following a conviction for driving under suspension, driving after revocation, or failing to pay for a traffic ticket, parking fine, or parking citation.

### **Civil Forfeiture**

Minnesota's Civil forfeiture laws received multiple changes including:

Forfeiture notices must warn a person who had a vested interest in the vehicle, they can submit an innocent owner claim,

Forfeiture proceedings in the case of a DWI is stopped if the driver participates in the ignition interlock program.



The law identifies specific ways law enforcement agencies can use forfeiture money,

The law states that a vehicle is subject to forfeiture if used in the transportation or exchange of controlled substances for distribution or sale if the value of the controlled substances is at least \$100.00.

## 2021 Traffic Deaths

2021 was the deadliest year on Minnesota's highways since 2007 according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS).

497 people died on Minnesota roads according to the preliminary numbers. This is a sharp increase over the average number of 378 deaths from 2016 to 2020.

The DPS reports that speed was the largest contributing factor in the traffic fatalities, accounting for 162 deaths, or almost 1/3 of all fatal accidents.

109 of the fatalities involved someone who was not using a seatbelt.

67 motorcyclists, 58 pedestrians, and 9 bicyclists were also killed in 2021.

Impaired driving deaths dropped from 135 in 2020 to 124 in 2021. Distracted driving deaths also decreased from 32 in 2020 to 24 in 2021.



## Scam Alert: Fake AT&T Text Messages

Recently several Worthington residents have been receiving fake text messages pretending to be from AT&T.

Some of the text messages will thank you for a recent payment while other text messages will claim that you have failed to make a payment and they will shut off your phone service.

What both types of text messages have in common is that they

want you to click on a link in the message.

Once you click on the message, several things could happen.

One possibility is that some type of malware could be downloaded onto your cellular telephone.

Another possibility is that they will want you to enter your log in credentials in order to hijack your account so the scammer can order

phones and other products on your account.

If you receive a text like this, simply erase it. If you are worried that you missed a payment, simply call your cellular telephone provider, and verify with them your account is current.



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.

## Ask an Officer: Workplace Discrimination and Other Issues

### Why can't the police help me if I am being discriminated against at work?

Most workplace issues are considered civil issues under Minnesota State Law and under Federal Law.

If you believe you are being treated unfairly at work, you should start by talking with your direct supervisor and explain your concerns in a calm and factual manner.

If that does not work, then try to talk with the company personnel department or higher-level supervisor.

If you are unable to resolve your issue with your employer,

Minnesota has several agencies that can help you with your concerns.

If your concern is about potential safety violations, you can contact the local Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

If you have a concern about paychecks or wages, breaks, overtime, and other workplace concerns, you can contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry.

If you believe you are being discriminated based on protected class, such as race, color, religion, sex, disability, or other protected status, you can contact the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

You can also reach out to an attorney for advice and help in resolving your concerns.

### Resources

Minnesota OSHA  
12 Civic Center Plaza  
Suite 1650  
507-389-2746

MN Department of Labor and Industry  
12 Civic Center Plaza  
Suite 1650  
877-470-6742

MN Department of Human Rights  
540 Fairview Ave North  
Suite 201  
St. Paul, MN 55104  
800-657-3704

## 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)

**CRIME  
STOPPERS**  
*of Minnesota*

**1-800-222-TIPS**

[www.crimestoppersmn.org](http://www.crimestoppersmn.org)

**Crime Doesn't Pay... We Do!**

## Humor in Law Enforcement

Not to be outdone by some of our dumb criminals recently, the IRS has chimed in.

Believe it or not, profits made from illegal activities are a taxable event!!!

Income from illegal activities, such as money from dealing drugs needs to be reported on your taxes.

Simply include the amount of money you made on Schedule 1 (Form 1040) line 8, or

on Schedule C (Form 1040) if from your self-employment activity.

If you have sticky fingers and like to steal things from time to time, the IRS hasn't forgotten about you either!

The IRS states that if you steal property, you must report its' fair market value in your income in the year you steal it, unless in the same year, you return it to the rightful owner.



Make sure you are reporting your illegal activities this year, or the IRS may come knocking on your door!



## 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**