



Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Chief

Troy Appel

Captain

Kevin Flynn

Sergeants

Tim Gaul

Nathan Grimmus

Josh McCuen

Dustin Roemeling

Brett Wiltrott

Patrol Officers

Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

Randy Liepold

Colin Meinders

Micah Mesman

Tyler Olson

Jacob Refsland

Mark Riley

Lucky Sayveo

Gabe Vander Veen

Jake Walker

Investigators

Shawn Elsing

Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Brandon Peil

School Resource

Dan Brouillet

Individual Highlights:

PTSD	2
Changes (cont)	2
Scam Alert	3
It's 3 a.m.	3
Criminal of Month	4
Mission Statement	4

Changes at the Prairie Justice Center

In life, the one thing that never changes is change itself.

Around the Prairie Justice Center, there have been some big changes recently; some happy, some sad, some bittersweet.

The first change the Worthington Police Department would like to announce is the passing of K-9 Thor.

K-9 Thor started working with the Worthington Police Department in 2009 and was first partnered with then Officer Brett Wiltrott for a short time, before being partnered with Officer Colby Palmersheim.

K-9 Thor worked until his retirement in 2016. K-9 Thor lived with Officer Palmersheim until his passing in December.

K-9 Thor was an excellent partner and a better friend. Our thoughts and prayers go out to K-9 Thor's family and friends during this time.



Virgil Veen

The next big change is the retirement of Animal Control Officer Virgil Veen.

Virgil started his career in 1999 when he was hired as an animal control officer.

As most officers can confirm; Virgil had a special connection with the animals he came across. He could calm down the most aggressive animals with nothing more than a pair of welding gloves.

He will leave some big shoes to fill.



K-9 Thor



Bob Munkel

The third big change at the Prairie Justice Center is the retirement of Deputy Sheriff Bob Munkel.

Deputy Munkel started his career 40 years ago when he was hired as a police officer for the Adrian Police Department.

(Continued page 2)

Animal Control**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

First Responder PTSD Law

A new law took place January 1, 2019 that will help our first responders.

The new law will add additional workers compensation rights for Minnesota first responders who develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The law was passed by the Minnesota House and Senate and was signed into law by Governor Dayton in 2018.

PTSD is a serious problem for first responders who experience the worst of humanity. They respond to violent crimes, fatal accidents, medical emergencies, and death.

This exposure takes its toll on first responders and puts them at risk of developing PTSD.

PTSD can be debilitating to the person suffering from it and it affects all aspects of their life.

According to PoliceOne.com, for the third straight year, more officers died by suicide then were killed in the line of duty.

The 159 officer suicides last year are only the officers known to have killed themselves. Due to the stigma surrounding suicide, the real number of police officer suicides is probably much higher.

This new law is a big step forward in helping our first responders seek



help when they have experienced too much.

This law covers licensed police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and EMTs, licensed nurses who provide emergency services outside a medical facility, public safety dispatchers, correction and detention officers, sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and members of the Minnesota State Patrol.

Credit: Meuserlaw.com

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

Changes (Continued)

Deputy Munkel then worked for the Nobles County Sheriff's Department as a Correctional Officer, before completing his degree in law enforcement.

Deputy Munkel completed his law enforcement degree at Minnesota West Technical and Community College and was hired as a Deputy Sheriff with the Nobles County Sheriff's Department.

The Worthington Police Department would like to extend our congratulations to Animal Control Officer Virgil Veen and Nobles County Deputy Sheriff Bob Munkel on their retirements, you both earned it!!!

Scam Alert: Payroll Email Scam

There is a new scam out there that has been spreading out across Minnesota and this scam is targeting businesses.

The scam starts with the scammer calling a business and impersonating a current employee.

The scammer will tell the business payroll department that they need to change their direct deposit to a new bank account.

The potential victim does not know the scam occurred until the next payday when they discover their pay never posted.

There are a few simple steps that can be used to prevent scams like this.

First and foremost, all changes to how your employee gets paid should be done in person if possible.

The identity of the employee should be

verified when they come in unless you know them personally.

If any changes are made by telephone or email, the employer should verify the change with the employee before being made. The employee should be contacted by a phone number or email on file with the employer.

These simple steps can help prevent your business from being a victim of this scam.



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.

It's 3 a.m.

The following poem was posted on the New Ulm Police Department Facebook page by their night shift officers.

It is a first-hand experience of what it like being a police officer working the night shift.

“It’s 3 a.m.

I am on patrol alone in a police car. My only company is the endless chatter on the radio.

The streets are quiet and the houses I pass are dark. It is in moments like this that I realize what policing is truly about.

The community sleeps in the quiet and comfort and safety of their

homes, because I am out here. I am awake, vigilant, ready and prepared to protect and serve.

The city sleeps and reenergizes itself for a new day while *I work to keep it safe.*

As dawn approaches, the houses begin to light up, and the city awakes and prepares for a new day.

While the city works, I will sleep, renew, and prepare to guard it once again.”

This poem is an excellent example of what policing is all about!

The police allow everyone to live

and sleep in their home in safety, knowing that there are men and women ready to respond to their emergencies at a drop of a hat.

It does not matter what day it is, it does not matter what time it is, and it does not matter who is calling. The police will respond.



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

Animal Control
(507) 360-7044

Community Service Officer
(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

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

Humor in Law Enforcement

It is no surprise that people do dumb things.

Sometimes people strive to take the dumb things they do to new levels.

For one Oregon bike thief, that new level was stealing a bike chained up in front of the Gladstone Police Department.

The suspect clad in a black ski mask and armed with bolt cutters went to work cutting the lock off the bicycle.

If the thief would have looked up, he would have seen the big window directly in front of him with the words "Gladstone Police" on the window.

He may have also noticed the video camera watching him the entire time he was attempting to steal the bike.

After being confronted and arrested by Sergeant Matt Okerman, the suspect had no words for why he would try



to steal a bike at the police department.

Sometimes people do things so dumb that they are at a loss for words for their actions.

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**