



**Chief**

Troy Appel

**Captain**

Kevin Flynn

**Sergeants**

Tim Gaul  
Nathan Grimmus  
Josh McCuen  
Brett Wiltout

**Patrol Officers**

Jacki Bomgaars  
Chris Hillesheim  
Kirk Honius  
Randy Liepold  
Micah Mesman  
Tyler Olson  
Jacob Refsland  
Mark Riley  
Dustin Roemeling  
Gabe Vander Veen  
Jake Walker

**Investigators**

Shawn Elsing  
Dave Hoffman  
Joe Joswiak  
Brandon Peil

**School Resource**

Dan Brouillet

**Individual Highlights:**

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## De-escalation Training

Persons suffering from mental illness and behavioral disorders pose special challenges for police officers and have the potential to become violent.

In order to help make these interactions safer for everyone involved, the Worthington Police Department recently hosted the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute as they provided training in De-escalation Strategies for Persons with Mental Illness or Behavioral Disorders in Crisis.

Officers from the Worthington Police Department, Nobles County Jail, and other area law enforcement agencies attended the training, which is designed to help police and jails deal with the special challenges surrounding the mentally ill and those suffering from behavioral disorders.



The 8-hour training covered important topics that include:

- Common mental illnesses and behavior disorders;
- Stress related conditions such as post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury;
- Strategies to assess and effectively relate to persons in crisis;
- Alternative dispute resolution tactics;
- Measured response theory;
- Communication skills that form the basis for de-escalation techniques;
- Minnesota resources for persons in crisis and their families.

The training provided will give our police officers and local jail staff the proper tools to help those suffering from mental health emergencies and encourage a safe outcome for everyone involved.

**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

**K-9 Officers**  
Frankee  
Mack

## Drug Overdoses

Drug overdoses are in the news everywhere.

You can hardly pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without hearing about a new overdose victim.

It really makes you wonder if the problem is actually that bad or is this a case of the media just sensationalizing the drug problem.

The truth is the drug problem is much worse than anyone could imagine.

In fact, drug overdoses are now the leading cause of death for all Americans under the age of 50.

More deaths than cancer; more deaths than heart disease; and even more deaths than car crashes.

According to United States Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, the horrifying surge of drug overdoses has contributed to the largest yearly increase in overdose deaths on record in America.

The head of the Drug Enforcement Agency, Chuck Rosenberg compared the number of overdose deaths to the Pulse Night Club shooting.

The Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida was the scene of the deadliest mass



shooting by a single gunman in U.S. history when a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 more.

Rosenberg stated the drug overdose deaths was the equivalent of 3 of these shootings happening every day for 365 days.

These are some truly terrifying numbers but there is hope with police officers being equipped with Narcan.

## Narcan to the Rescue

When a person is suffering from an opioid overdose, their breathing slows down or can even stop, which can be fatal if not immediately treated. The drug Narcan can be administered to help block the effects of the opioids and save the life of overdose victims.

The Worthington Police Department recently received training in the use of Narcan from the Southwest EMS Corporation. In addition, the Southwest EMS Corporation provided the police department with approximately 20 doses of Narcan to supply our patrol officers, sergeants, K-9 officers, and agents from the Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force.

As soon as department policies for the use of Narcan are completed, it will be distributed to our officers and start saving lives!

**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

## Scam Alert: Hilton/Marriott/Hyatt Hotels Vacation Scam

After receiving constant barrages of scam calls with telephone numbers from all over the country, many people have stopped answering them.

Not to be deterred, the scammers have started to spoof local telephone numbers to trick potential victims into answering them.

If you answered one of these calls, you will receive an automated voice claiming the caller is from the Hilton, the Marriott, or the Hyatt Hotels offering free or greatly reduced vacations.

If you press “1”, you are connected to a live operator who will ask a series of questions seeking personal information they can use to later steal your identity.

If you hesitate to give them the information they are seeking, they will make up false emergencies to pressure you into giving out your information.

These false emergencies can include that the deal is only good today or that space is limited and if you don’t sign up today, it will be gone.

The truth with these scams is that they are not affiliated with any of the hotels and there is no vacation. This is simply a phishing scam looking to steal personal information that can be used to commit identity theft.

If you receive one of these calls, just hang up immediately and do not give out any information.



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.

## Law Review: What is Graffiti?

As we continue in our review of Worthington’s graffiti ordinances, the question remains; what is graffiti?

When we think about what defines graffiti, the easy answer might be that I will know it when I see it.

However Worthington defines graffiti as:

*“Any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of public or private property by any graffiti implement, to the extent that the graffiti was not authorized in advance by the owner or occupant of*

*the property, or despite advance authorization, is otherwise deemed to be a public nuisance by the City Council, or any inscription, word, figure, painting or other defacement that is written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted or engraved on or otherwise affixed to the surface of any public or private property by any graffiti implement which is considered to be documented criminal gang graffiti by the Police Department.*

The graffiti definition can be broken down into three sections.

The first segment defines graffiti as the unauthorized defacement of any surface without permission.

The second section defines graffiti as authorized defacement of any surface, but the

Worthington City Council deems the defacement a public nuisance.

The third section defines graffiti as defacement of a surface that is considered to be documented criminal gang graffiti by the police department.

The graffiti ordinance refers to a graffiti implement several times in the ordinance.

A graffiti implement is defined as an aerosol paint can, a broad-tipped marker, gun label, paint stick, etching equipment, brush or any other device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on a natural or man-made surface.

Next month we will discuss graffiti prohibited acts.

## 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) 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

This story comes from a Department of Defense (DoD) police officer working on a military base.

Our base did not have animal control so the military police and the DoD police were left to deal with all animal complaints

One day, I received a call to one of the busiest roads on the base, because a huge snapping turtle had taken up residence in the middle of the road and was not moving.

One of the DoD police officers used his night stick to push the turtle off the road.

Everything was going well until the turtle reached the grass.

Once they reached the grass, the turtle shot his neck out at lightning speed and grabbed the night stick out of the officer's hand and started waddling off into the woods.

Seconds later the officer was heard on the radio calling into



dispatch that the suspect was now armed and was attempting to flee!!!



## 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**