

May 2021

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# Worthington Police News



## Chief

Troy Appel

## Captain

Nathan Grimmus

## Sergeants

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Josh McCuen

Brandon Peil

Dustin Roemeling

## Patrol Officers

Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

Randy Liepold

Colin Meinders

Tyler Olson

Jacob Refsland

Mark Riley

Lucky Sayveo

Kyle Schreier

Bryant Schroeder

Christina Shorter

Alex VanSomeren

Gabe Vander Veen

## Investigators

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Dave Hoffman

Joe Joswiak

Jake Walker

## School Resource

Dan Brouillet

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## National Police Week

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that day falls as Police Week.

National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have given their lives in the line of duty.

This year the names of 394 law enforcement officers will be added to the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.



295 officers died in 2020 with COVID-19 being responsible for 182 fatalities.

The names of 99 officers whose stories of sacrifice have been lost to history will also be added to the memorial.

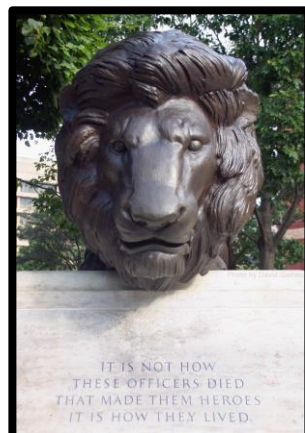
This year, one Minnesota law enforcement officer will be added to the walls of the memorial, Sheriff Lemick Arthur Larson of the Waseca County Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Larson died on September 29, 1940 when he was killed in an automobile crash when his vehicle was

struck by another vehicle while he was transporting a prisoner.

Of the 22,000+ names on the memorial, there are 258 Minnesota officers listed there.

There are two local law enforcement officers also listed on the memorial, Worthington Police Officer Roy Robert Fitch who died on June 19, 1938 from a duty related injury and Nobles County Sheriff Terrance Joseph McCall who died by gunfire on August 8, 1920.



**Animal Control**  
Laura Garcia

**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**  
Frankie  
Mack  
Winston

## 2021 Police Week Events

Due to the scourge of COVID-19, the in-person events of Police Week will be held October 13-17, 2021 in Washington D.C. and will offer the same respect, honor, remembrance, and community support as National Police Week.

This will allow law enforcement survivors, and citizens to gather and pay tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

There will be a virtual candlelight vigil held online on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. Eastern.

If you are interested in seeing the candlelight vigil, you can sign up for it at [nleomf.org](http://nleomf.org).



## Officer Down Memorial Podcast

Have you ever wondered about the stories behind the men and women of law enforcement who have given their lives in the line of duty?

Look no further than the Officer Down Memorial Podcast (OPMP).

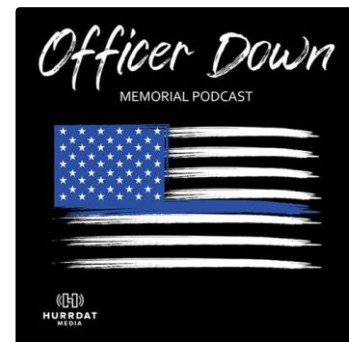
The ODPM is a new podcast produced by Dodge County (MN) Sheriff Scott Rose, who shares the stories

of how these men and women heroically lost their lives in the line of duty.

So far, these stories have covered Minnesota officers, but Sheriff Rose is currently working with the Omaha Police Department to tell the stories of their fallen officers as well.

The goal behind Sheriff's Rose' podcast is to honor

the fallen heroes, help us remember their service, remind us that we must always support the families they left behind, and never forget their sacrifice.



## Scam Alert: Venmo Scam

Did someone “accidentally” send you money on Venmo and now they want it back?

If this has happened to you, you might be the latest victim of the Venmo scam.

In this scam, the victim will receive a payment to their Venmo account from someone they do not know.

The scammer will follow up with a message saying that they sent the

money by accident and they want you to send the money back.

If this happens to you, do not send the money back and instead tell the person to contact Venmo to reverse the charge.

Most of these transactions are made using stolen credit card numbers and if you send the money back, you will be out the money when the credit card company reverses the charge.

When you tell the scammer to contact Venmo to reverse the charge, expect they will threaten to report you to the police for theft or otherwise try to intimidate you into sending the money back.



Hold fast and do not send the money back.

This scam only works when the victim sends the money to the scammer.

## Ask an Officer: Pocket Bikes and Scooters

### What are the laws regarding pocket bikes and mopeds?

When operating your moped or pocket bike, here are some things to remember:

Minnesota law does not differentiate motor scooters from motorcycles in terms of licensing, titles, and registration requirements.

In order to operate a moped, you will need a driver's license. People 15 years old or older can obtain a moped permit.

Mopeds may not ride on bicycle lanes, trails, or interstate freeways.

Mopeds must operate as close to the right side of the road as possible.

Moped operators need to wear a helmet if they are under 18 years of age.

Your moped must have a working headlight on during use. Mopeds manufactured before 1987 normally do not have a headlight and may be operated during daytime hours only.

The moped also is required to have a taillight and stop lamp also.

Pocket bikes go by many names including mini-bikes, mini-motorcycles and mini-choppers, but typically resemble a miniature motorcycle.

Pocket bikes are not street legal and do not need to be titled or registered.



### When do I need to report a traffic accident to the police?

A traffic crash needs to be reported to the police if there is property damage over \$1,000 or if someone is injured or killed.

If no one is injured or killed and the damage is under \$1,000, the drivers involved can exchange information between themselves.

The information that needs to be exchanged is driver information, vehicle registration, and insurance information.

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

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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

This story comes from Reddit User ItsMeTanya.

A few years ago my kids were having a birthday party sleepover at our house.

About 10 o'clock that night, I took a car full of 7-8-year-old kids to the local Dunkin Donuts.

Shortly after leaving with treats in hand, I got pulled over for a taillight that was not working.

Two police officers approached the car with blinding flashlights in hand and the officer on the passenger side starts cracking up.

I looked over my shoulder and my



daughter had a donut hanging out of the window by two fingers whispering, "Here you go copper".

I have no earthly idea where she picked that up from and luckily the officers thought it was hysterical!

## 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**