

May 2013

Volume 2, Issue 5

# Worthington Police News

## Chief

Michael Cumiskey

## Captain

Chris Dybevic

## Sergeants

Bill Bolt  
Kevin Flynn  
Tim Gaul  
Brett Wiltrout

## Patrol Officers

Erick Baumgart  
Chris Hillesheim  
Kirk Honius  
Joe Joswiak  
Randy Liepold  
Josh McCuen  
Colby Palmersheim  
Mark Riley  
Kirk Schelhaas  
Bruce Stugelmeyer  
Dan Walton

## Investigators

Troy Appel  
Shawn Elsing  
Nate Grimmus  
Dave Hoffman

## School Resource

Jacki Dawson

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

## Dispatcher Profile: Hannah Huls

The dispatcher profile for May is Dispatcher Hannah Huls.

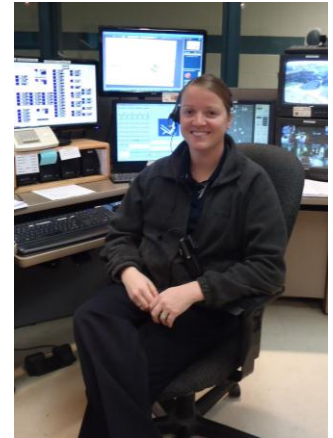
Hannah is a Worthington native as well as a graduate of the Worthington High School. After high school, she attended South Dakota State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Health Sciences in 2008.

Hannah was hired as a Dispatcher by the Worthington Police Department in February 2013 and finished her training on May 3, 2013.

Hannah was recently married last October and spends her winter months watching hockey. Fortunately, her husband is a hockey coach.

When Hannah is not watching hockey, she enjoys spending time with her niece and nephew and often goes on vacation with them.

When asked about the one thing that surprised her about being a police dispatcher, Hannah was quick to say all the responsibility.



Police dispatchers are required to monitor an alarm panel, control access into and out of the jail by the use of video cameras and electronic doors, monitor multiple radio talkgroups, enter warrants into the statewide computer system in addition to answering the regular telephone lines and the 911 phone lines.

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## National Public Safety Telecommunication Week

National Public Safety Telecommunication Week in the United States ran from April 14 to April 20, 2013 and is a time to recognize the hard work and dedication our police dispatchers show in the performance of their duties. Most of the work that police dispatchers do is done behind the scenes with little fanfare or recognition.

I would like to take the time to say Thank You to Tonya, Stephanie, Hannah, Candy, Larry, Regan and Nancy for all you have done to keep the City of Worthington and Nobles County safe.

**Animal Control**  
Virgil Veen

**Community Service**  
Myra Onnen

**Chaplain**  
Pastor James  
Sickmeyer

**Reception**  
Barb Hussong

**Records**  
Shari Droll  
Julie Jeppesen

**TAC/IT**  
Gary Gerdes

**Dispatch**  
Tonya Aanenson  
Stephanie Culham  
Hannah Huls  
Candy Malmquist  
Larry Rogers  
Regan Roloff  
Nancy Veen

## Law Review: Vehicle Lighting

Marion recently wrote in asking why there were many vehicles driving around in town and on the interstate without headlights on during inclement weather and after dusk.

My guess is that many people don't understand when they need to use their headlights.

Minnesota Statute 169.48 (Vehicle Lighting) is clear on this topic. Headlights are required anytime from sunset to sunrise, anytime it is raining, snowing, sleeting, or hailing and

anytime visibility is impaired by weather, smoke, fog or other conditions that prevent the driver from seeing people or vehicles at a distance of 500 feet or more.

This statute further states that parking lights shall not be used instead of headlights to meet the requirements of this statute.



## Deactivated Cell Phones

Recently I spoke with Dispatcher Larry Rogers about a frustration he wanted everyone to be aware of and that is giving children deactivated cellular telephones.

What many people don't know is that a cellular telephone does not have to have an active service account to still call 911.

Federal regulations require all cellular telephones to have the ability to call 911.

The problem comes in when people give their old cell phones to children to play with. Inevitably many children will call 911 and the call will go through. Because the phone does

not have active service, dispatch is not able to determine who owns the phone and is not able to call the phone back.

According to Dispatcher Rogers, the Worthington Police Dispatch Center receives many 911 calls that appear to come from children playing with cellular telephones.

If you still choose to give your children your old cell phones, please remove the battery. This simple action can help prevent unnecessary calls from tying up the 911 system and possible preventing real emergency calls from going through.



**Text Anonymous  
Information**

Send confidential tips to the  
Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force

Text 372DTF with your tip  
Send to 847411 (tip411)

**tip 411**

\*100% Anonymous\*

## Scam Alert: The Fake Debt

A recent scam going around Worthington is the fake debt scam.

In this scam, the victim will receive a call from someone claiming that they owe the caller money for a product that was never purchased and demand that they send money via money order or Western Union immediately.

If someone hesitates at sending money to the caller, the caller will try to threaten them or intimidate them into paying.

The scammer has used different threats to try and intimidate the victim such as telling the victim they missed a court date and there is a warrant for their arrest or telling the victim this debt will affect their legal status in the United States and they will be arrested for missing court. The caller has also been known to pose as an attorney and threaten legal action against the victim.

All of these actions are an attempt to play on the victim's emotions and coerce them to send money to the caller.

In this particular scam, the telephone numbers being used are 818-510-3213 and 305-330-6502. The callers have so far identified themselves using the names Christina Santos or Alma Rojas.

If you receive a telephone call from these numbers, your best option is to not answer them.



## Ask an Officer

Carol wrote in recently asking why cars in funeral processions typically have their headlights on.

The cars in a funeral procession have their headlights on and travel in close proximity to each other as a way to identify the group of cars as belonging to the procession.

This identify as a funeral

procession is required by Minnesota State Statute 169.20 in order to require other vehicles to yield the right of way to the funeral procession.

Funeral home vehicles may also identify themselves with flashing lights that are typically purple in color. So when you see a funeral procession, make sure you pull over and yield the right

of way. Failure to do so, not only is a violation of the traffic code, but intentionally attempting to impede a vehicle in a funeral procession is a crime under Minnesota Statute 609.501 and can subject the person to criminal charges as well as a civil liability for their actions.

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)

## Drug Task Force Launches BRDTF Tips Android and iPhone App

The **Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force** is launching a **BRDTF Tips** app for Android and iPhone devices. The app enables the public to send anonymous tips and photos to the Task Force and lets an agent respond back, creating a two-way, anonymous "chat".

Developed by CitizenObserver, a St. Paul MN company, **BRDTF Tips** puts a powerful new 100% anonymous crime fighting tool into the hands of citizens of all ages and demographics. CitizenObserver's technology

removes all identifying information before the Task Force sees it, so there's no way to identify the sender.

According to **BRDTF Commander Troy Appel**, this capability is a new paradigm for creating safer communities – especially in reaching out to a younger demographic.

"We're proud to make this technology available to our citizens free of charge. This tool, along with our existing tip411 program, will help citizens play an active role in

keeping neighborhoods safer and will save law enforcement time and resources."

"It's important to remember that the tip services are not a substitute for 911. Please call 911 for emergencies. If you need a squad car or other emergency personnel to respond, you should call 911."

The **BRDTF Tips** app can be downloaded online at the Google Play store or on iTunes.



Citizens can also send an anonymous tip to the **Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force** by texting **372DTF** and their tip to 847411. Anonymous tips can also be called in on the Crime Anonymous line **507-376-8477**.

For any questions regarding the **BRDTF Tips** app contact the Task Force at 507-295-5400.

## Worthington Police

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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

We're on the Web!

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

## Dumb Criminal of the Month

The Dumb Criminal of the Month for May started out with a call to dispatch reporting a theft.

As our dispatcher was gathering the basic information about the call, including the name of the caller and their address, the dispatcher paused for a minute when it came to the items stolen.

As it turned out, the caller was reporting that someone had stolen tree branches and other debris left behind after the storm and the caller wanted them back.

After a brief investigation into the matter, it was

determined that the city had come by and cleaned up the branches and disposed of them.

While most people would have been happy that someone came by and picked up their branches, this caller was upset. Like the saying goes, you can't please everyone.



## Mission Statement

Serving Worthington with honor and integrity by providing community oriented law enforcement and emergency services to all people.

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**1530 AIRPORT ROAD**  
**SUITE 300**  
**WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**