

May 2014

Volume 3, Issue 5

Worthington Police News

Chief

Michael Cumiskey

Captain

Chris Dybeck

Sergeants

Kevin Flynn

Tim Gaul

Brett Wiltrout

Patrol Officers

Bill Bolt

Dan Brouillet

Chris Hillesheim

Kirk Honius

Joe Joswiak

Randy Liepold

Tyler Olson

Josh McCuen

Colby Palmersheim

Brandon Peil

Mark Riley

Kirk Schelhaas

Investigators

Troy Appel

Shawn Elsing

Nate Grimmus

Dave Hoffman

School Resource

Jacki Bomgaars

Individual Highlights:

In Memory	2
Law Review	2
Scam Alert	3
Ask an Officer	3
Criminal of Month	4
Mission Statement	4

Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

OFFICER RETIREMENT: KIRK SCHELHAAS

After 27 years of working with the Worthington Police Department, Officer Kirk Schelhaas has announced his retirement in May.

Officer Schelhaas started his career with the Kasson Police Department and was hired by the Worthington Police Department in May 1987.

Officer Schelhaas has held several positions and assignments with the Worthington Police Department, including patrol officer, investigator, crime prevention officer and sniper with the Emergency Response Unit.

As a frequent guest on KUSQ radio show "The Highway Patrol", Officer Schelhaas often talked about law enforcement topics affecting the Worthington area. He was also responsible for organizing the annual National Night Out event.



Just days into his retirement, Officer Schelhaas has already been spotted fishing on several local lakes.

We wish Officer Schelhaas a happy retirement and best of luck with his fishing endeavors.

Animal Control
Virgil Veen

Community Service
Andrea Barrios
Myra Onnen

Reception
Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
Gary Gerdes

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Culham
Hannah Huls
Jodi Mulder
Larry Rogers
Nancy Veen

K-9 Officers
Mack
Thor

In Memory – James Rotschafer

It's with great sadness that we announce the passing of retired Worthington Police Officer, James Rotschafer.

Officer Rotschafer passed away at his home on May 2, 2014 at the age of 79.

Officer Rotschafer entered the field of law enforcement right out of high school and worked for both the Nobles County Sheriff's Office and the Worthington Police Department for a total of 57 years.

Officer Rotschafer always had interesting stories about what law enforcement was like in the 1950's and 1960's.

One of my favorite stories that Officer Rotschafer told was how the police received calls before police radios became common.

There used to be a red light in the downtown area that the police dispatcher would turn on when they needed to notify an officer about a call.

The police cars had to drive past that light at least once every half hour and if the light was on, they would drive to the police department to find out what the call was and where it was at before they could respond to it.



When you compare that to the modern system of radios where officers can respond to calls in just minutes, it's amazing to think of all the changes that Jim had seen throughout his career.

Thank you Officer Rotschafer for your dedication and service to the citizens of Worthington and Nobles County. You will be missed!

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

Law Review: Driving Through Property to Avoid Signal

Worthington City Ordinance 71.02 states: It is unlawful for any person to avoid obedience to any traffic-control device, by driving upon or through any private property. Examples of this would be driving through Walgreens or Bob & Steve's parking lots to avoid stopping for the traffic light.

Scam Alert: IT Computer Scam

The latest scam to hit Worthington is the IT Computer Scam.

This scam started when the victim received a call from a party claiming to be from the company, IT Solutions.

The victim was tricked into giving the caller remote access to her computer.

Once the remote access was granted, the caller was able to have complete access to all

information on her computer, including banking information.

When our victim checked her bank account the next day, she was shocked to find a charge for a Western Union money order for nearly \$500 that was sent to the Philippines.

In this case, the scammer appears to be a former employee of the IT Solutions who stole the victim's information in order to trick her into

granting remote access to her computer.

The best way to prevent this type of scam is to never give anyone remote access to your computer unless you know them personally and would trust them with the information on your computer.



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.

Ask an Officer: Reasonable Suspicion vs. Probable Cause

Recently on a traffic stop, a young adult had some questions for one of our officers about what constitutes reasonable suspicion and probable cause.

Probable cause is best described as reasonable reliable information to suspect there is a fair probability that a person has committed a crime or that a search will reveal contraband or evidence (policemag.com 2014).

Reasonable suspicion is a strong suspicion, even if based on information of a less-reliable nature that a person is involved in criminal activity or may be armed and dangerous (policemag.com 2014).

There are no exact definitions for each of these terms since they are based on the officer's training, observations, experience, and the individual factors surrounding an incident.

In order for the police to stop a car, they only need reasonable suspicion to do so; they do not have to witness a violation of law.

A classic example of this would be someone who is stopped at 2:00 a.m. for weaving within their lane of traffic, varying the speed of the car as they are driving and making a wide turn.

While none of the driving offences is a violation of a traffic law,

combined they give an officer reasonable suspicion for a DWI investigation.

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

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

Criminal of the Month

The Criminal of the Month call started out innocently enough with a simple noise complaint at a local apartment building.

As the officer was investigating the noise complaint, he heard several people in one apartment talking. He heard one person ask a second person if they had money. The second person replied "I ain't got any money, but I got weed"!

The officer knocked on the door and heard someone nervously ask who was there. After identifying himself as a police officer and hearing some commotion in the apartment, the door was finally opened.

The officer went inside and talked to the group about their conversation. The group repeatedly denied having any marijuana and the officer was not able to determine if there was any.

The officer then left the apartment, but not before noting the window of the apartment was open, even though it was a very cold night.

Fast forward two hours later to the hospital where officers were called to investigate a suspicious injury.

Long story short, one of the people at the apartment had tossed the bag of marijuana out the window. After the police left and enough time had passed, he went out the window to retrieve the



marijuana. Instead of retrieving the marijuana, he promptly fell off the second story roof of the apartment building!

He traded a couple hundred dollar ticket for a couple thousand dollar hospital bill.

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