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Nathan Grimmus

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Josh McCuen
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Randy Liepold
Colin Meinders
Tyler Olson
Jacob Refsland
Mark Riley
Lucky Sayveo
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Dave Hoffman
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Jake Walker

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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Winter Driving Safety

With the start of another winter driving season, there were no shortage of traffic crashes across the region as people are learning to drive in the snow and slush-covered roads again.

Car Tips

To help prevent crashes this winter, here are a few tips to make your travels a little bit safer:

- To prevent dangerous breakdowns, have your car serviced and have your mechanic look for leaks, badly worn hoses, and other needed repairs. Don't forget to check your wiper blades and headlights!
- Your tires are the only connection between your vehicle and the roadway. Make sure your tires are in good shape with plenty of tread. Consider all-weather or snow tires for the winter months.
- Make sure your car has at least a half tank of gas or that your electric vehicle is fully charged before venturing out into the cold.



- Keep a winter survival kit in your car. Your kits should have supplies such as wool blankets, food and water, phone chargers, and a shovel.

Accidents

- If you are involved in a traffic accident, stay in the vehicle with your seatbelt on if it is safe to do so. Slippery roads can cause others to crash and put you at risk for being struck by other cars.
- Finally, don't crowd the plow! Last year there were 72 crashes involving vehicles that hit snowplows. Most of these accidents were caused by inattentive drivers and motorists that were driving too fast for the road conditions.

Animal Control
Laura Miesen

Community Service
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Reception
Barb Hussong

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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
Winston

Carbon Monoxide Safety

With winter here, it is a good time to think about Carbon Monoxide safety.

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas produced by incomplete combustion in the burning process.

If you have a gas or fuel oil heater, you are potentially at risk for Carbon Monoxide poisoning.

In 2019, 11 Minnesotans died from Carbon Monoxide poisoning with the ages of the victims ranging from 15 years old to over 65.

As you fire up your furnace for the winter, now would be a good time to check your Carbon Monoxide detector.

Most Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors have a lifespan of 5-7 years. If your CO detector is older than that or if you don't know how old your detector is, simply replace it with a new one.



One often overlooked source of potential CO gas is automobiles. If you have an attached garage, don't leave your car warming up inside the garage. It can fill the house with dangerous levels of CO gas.



Bentley's Law

A proposed law in Missouri known as Bentley's Law is gaining nationwide attention in the fight against Impaired Driving.

Named after a child orphaned by a drunk driver, the proposed law would require drunk drivers who cause the death of a parent(s) to pay child support to the surviving spouse or the relatives raising the victims' children, until the children turn 18 years old.

Supporters of this law state it would make an offender think twice before drinking and driving. Lawmakers in Tennessee have agreed to introduce the bill next year.

What do you think about this bill? Do you think this bill would reduce drunk driving?

CRIME STOPPERS
of Minnesota

1-800-222-TIPS
www.crimestoppersmn.org
Crime Doesn't Pay...We Do!

Call Crime Stoppers above to report a Tip or download the P3 Tip APP below.

Scam Alert: Zelle Scams

Zelle is a new money transfer application that is being adopted by many banks and credit unions across the United States.

Because Zelle is new and being adopted by banks and credit unions, scammers have found new ways to victimize users of this app.

The biggest scam going around with Zelle is a phone call to the user that appears to be from their bank stating there were thousands of dollars in fraudulent transactions withdrawn from the victim's account.

The caller will direct the person to log into their account while they send the

victim a code to enter for the transaction.

When the victim logs in, they will see their information in both the "to" and "from" section. The caller will tell the victim to Zelle themselves the money to get the money back to their account.

As soon as the victim does this, the "to" and "from" section will change to some unknown bank and they will be out of the money. The scammer just hid the identity of the true person receiving the money.

Since most of these scams are based in other countries, the chance of getting the money back is slim to none.



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: Burning Leaves, Snow Emergencies, and Dash Cams

Is it legal to burn leaves in my backyard?

It is not legal to burn leaves in Worthington. Minnesota State Statute 116.082 allows each city to determine if burning leaves is allowed or not and the City of Worthington has decided not to authorize the burning of leaves under Worthington City Ordinance 91.01 (F).

If you have leaves and don't know what to do with them, you can take them to Schaap Sanitation located at 27008 US Highway 59, which is on the south edge of town. They have a special drop off location for lawn and yard waste.

What should I do with my car in a snow emergency?

When a snow emergency is declared in Worthington, you need to remove the vehicle from

city streets and alleys.

Under a snow emergency, it is unlawful to park on any street or alley, which would interfere with the removal of snow or would impede the free movement of fire, health, police, snow removal equipment, emergency or other vehicular traffic, when the emergency has been declared.

Vehicles parked in violation of this ordinance can be ticketed and towed.

Where can I mount a dash cam in my car?

I have been seeing dash cams advertised everywhere and I would like to get one.

Where can I mount one in my car?

Under Minnesota State Statute 169.71, you can mount driver feedback and safety monitoring equipment, such as a dash cam, immediately behind, slightly above, or slightly below the rearview mirror.

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

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ci.worthington.mn.us

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Crime Doesn't Pay... We Do!

Humor in Law Enforcement

Selling items on Facebook is a good way to make a few extra dollars.

Stone County (MO) Sheriff's Department received a call shortly after James Kertz posted an ad on Facebook to sell a catalytic converter over Facebook.

There was just one problem. In the photograph of the catalytic converter was a bag of meth and a syringe.

The Stone County Sheriff's Department made a house call to Kertz residence and found 48 grams of meth and a handgun.

Kertz was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and was taken to jail.

Stone County Sheriff Doug Rader wants to remind everyone, "Take note, if you are selling items on social media, make sure your drugs are not in the background!"



Unfortunately, if you are looking for a catalytic converter, this one is not currently for sale.

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**