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Worthington Police Department (507) 295-5400

Halloween Safety and COVID-19

Trick or Treating in the time of COVID-19 doesn't have to be a terrifying ordeal.

According to Dr. Eugene Shapiro, a pediatric infectious disease specialist and epidemiologist at Yale Medicine, Halloween doesn't need to be banished this year.

Trick-or-Treating

Dr Shapiro recommends that for younger children, they can trick-or-trick inside the home similar to an Easter egg hunt.

Older kids should only go out with their siblings rather than friends.

If your children do go out with their friends, limit the number of friends they go out with and encourage social distancing.

Distributing Candy

When handing out candy, Dr. Shapiro also recommends social distancing.



To do this, you can start with keeping the candy outside of the house.

Instead of placing the candy in a single bowl where kids could contaminate the contents, consider using grab bags or laying out the candy on a table where they can't contaminate all the candy.

Handing out the candy doesn't have to be boring either. You can make candy slides like the one pictured above to help social distance while handing out candy.

Directions for the candy slide shown above can be found on the Wicked Makers YouTube channel.

Creative Thinking

Be creative! Some families are having Halloween parades where each family will decorate a wagon with a theme, like pirates, and will decorate their wagon like a pirate ship and play music.

Spectators will be asked, via flyer to place candy on tables easily reachable from the sidewalk.

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Animal Control

Community Service
Myra Onnen

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Barb Hussong

Records
Shari Droll
Julie Jeppesen

TAC/IT
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Dispatch Supervisor
Nancy Veen

Dispatch
Tonya Aanenson
Stephanie Evers
Jodi Mulder
Zach Ramerth
Joe Reith

K-9 Officers
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Mack
Winston

Political Signs

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) would like to remind everyone that the placement of campaign and other advertising signage on highway right of ways is illegal under state law.

Every state, county, city and township road and highway is covered by this same law.

The highway right of way includes driving lanes, inside and outside shoulders, ditches, and sight corners at intersections.

MNDOT crews are required to remove unlawfully placed signs and every effort will be made to temporarily store the sign at one of the local MNDOT maintenance truck stations until the owner can retrieve it.

As political campaigns increase their efforts toward the November 3rd election, it is important to know and follow the state

laws regarding the placement of signs off of state property.

Please remember that landowner consent is also needed before signs can be placed on private property outside of the right of way.

Violations of the law, 160.27 Particular Uses of Right-of-Way, is a misdemeanor.

The Minnesota Outdoor Advertising Control Act (Minnesota State Statute 173.15) also makes it illegal to place advertising materials on public utility poles, trees, shrubs or to paint or draw on rocks or natural features.

For more information



about the proper placement of campaign signs or where to retrieve the signs, you can contact the local MNDOT office at 507-831-8000 or visit the MNDOT website at www.dot.state.mn.us.

When you place a sign, the best way to avoid an emergency or unintentionally striking an underground facility is to call Gopher State One Call (811) before digging.

Not only is this a free service, it is required by the law!



Password Security

Almost everything we do online requires us to make an account and set up a password.

In order to keep your data safe, you need to make a strong password.

So what is a strong password?

A strong password is a password that is easy for you to remember but difficult for others to guess.

Password Tips

When you create your password, avoid using personal information such as your name, date of birth, or email address. Most of this information is publicly available online.

Use a longer password. Passwords should be at least 9 characters or longer.

Don't reuse passwords across multiple accounts. If your password is exposed in a data breach, all of your accounts will

be vulnerable.

Use a mixture of numbers, symbols, upper case and lower-case letters.

Avoid using words that can be found in the dictionary. Password cracking software can check every word in the dictionary in a matter of seconds.

Random passwords are the strongest. If you have trouble creating one, use a password



generator instead.

Instead of writing down all of your passwords, use a password manager to help store them securely.

Covid-19 Halloween (Continued)

Halloween this year falls on a Saturday with a full moon, so it will be extra special!

Safe Alternatives

Consider safe alternatives to Trick-or-Treating.

Some communities are setting up alternatives such as drive-in horror movies.

Miramar, Florida is taking the haunted house concept and transformed it to a drive-through haunted Horrorland complete with performers and scary scenes for the cars as they drive by.

Parties

This is definitely not the best year to have a big Halloween party. If you do have a party this year, consider

only having a few close friends over and have it outside.

Incorporating Masks into Costumes

The standard masks that come with most Halloween costumes don't offer protection from COVID-19.

If your child does use the Halloween mask, consider using a protective mask either under or above the costume mask.

Another option is to purchase a protective mask with a Halloween theme. There are a number of companies making these masks on the internet.

Consider the Local Virus Situation

Consider the local virus situation as Halloween nears so you can make an

informed decision about sending your children out for the night. Monitor the number of new COVID-19 cases in the community and make your decision based on your personal risk level.

Older people and people with underlying conditions, like diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and obesity are more likely to become seriously ill and require hospitalization if they catch the coronavirus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

If getting the disease is more likely to kill you or a family member, err on the side of caution so this Halloween doesn't become a real-life horror story!

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Animal Control
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Community Service Officer
(507) 372-8189

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.ci.worthington.mn.us



1-800-222-TIPS

www.crimestoppersmn.org

Crime Doesn't Pay...We Do!

Halloween Horror Story

In the spirit of Halloween, we will cover a scary police story this month.

Late one evening in West Virginia, a local sheriff's department received a 911 call from an elderly female who stated she was having difficulty breathing.

The dispatcher recognized the woman's voice and sent an ambulance.

Due to the nature of the woman's distress, the dispatcher kept her on the line until the paramedics arrived at the house.

Once the paramedics

arrived, the dispatcher told the woman to answer the door and she said ok.

The paramedics however, found the doors to the house locked and no one was answering the door.

A deputy sheriff responded and eventually forced entry into the house.

Upon entry into the house, they found the woman inside had been dead for several days.

Concerned there may be another medical emergency, the dispatcher's supervisor listened to the call.



The dispatch supervisor also recognized the woman's voice and confirmed the deputy was at the correct address.

After a moment of stunned disbelief, all the dispatcher could say was "So...I took a call from a ghost!"

Mission Statement

**Serving Worthington with honor and integrity
by working WITH the community
to provide exceptional public safety.**

**WORTHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
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SUITE 300
WORTHINGTON, MN 56187**