



*Village Talks*

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

## New Business and Redevelopment Brings Good Economic News to Worthington

A number of new businesses are opening their doors in Worthington bringing renewed vibrancy to downtown Worthington and the Wilson Bridge Road business corridor.

**Bruegger's** is now open for business in Old Worthington at the old Friendly's/Starbucks location at 530 High Street.



Authentic kettle-boiled bagels are their specialty. The menu also includes a variety of baked goods, sandwiches, soups, salads and coffee.

**Little Tree Studios** is now open and taking appointments at its new studio at 650 High Street. They are available for wedding, engagement, family, newborn or senior portraits by appointment at their studio or on-location. You can find them online at [www.littletreestudios.com](http://www.littletreestudios.com).

**Blue Frost Cupcake** is putting the icing on their new location in Old Worthington with plans to open in time for the holidays.



The gourmet cupcake company provides catering for parties, weddings and corporate events. They will locate in the former Fine Lines location at 657 High Street. The café/bakery will offer a daily selection of up to 12 different cupcakes including seasonal offerings, as well as a few gourmet coffees and teas.

Visit Downtown Worthington on Facebook- [www.facebook.com/DowntownWorthington](http://www.facebook.com/DowntownWorthington)

In the Wilson Bridge Road corridor, the **Worthington Square** mall has a bright future with new owners on the horizon. Worthington resident and local retail real estate developer Tom Carter has joined with Walter Floyd and Bill Morris, both principals of Morris Capital Partners from Texas, to purchase the 168,000 square foot Worthington Square mall from GE Equities. "We look forward to working with the city and the community to maximize our efforts in renovating Worthington Square," noted Tom Carter. Plans include a major renovation of the shopping center including a return to the center's roots by removing a portion of the roof for an open-air feel. "The City of Worthington is pleased Worthington Square is in the hands of a local developer who understands the market, has experience developing large mixed-used projects and is committed to collaborating with the City," said Matt Greeson, Worthington City Manager.

Also along Wilson Bridge Road, law firm **Browning, Meyer & Ball**, in partnership with **C.P.A. Dawn Hill**, were recipients of a Venture Grant from the City of Worthington, which allowed them



to locate their business at 300 W. Wilson Bridge Road. The Venture Grant program provides grants to new and expanding Worthington businesses that meet minimum employment and payroll thresholds.

The entire **Wilson Bridge Road corridor** is being studied as part of a planning process involving City and business leaders, neighbors and planners. A vision is being developed for East and West Wilson Bridge Road to ensure the future viability of the entire corridor. Through a series of stakeholder meetings and market studies, a concept plan is being developed that would guide future development of the area. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for updates.

## CITY NOTES

### Beggars Night is October 31<sup>st</sup> in the City of Worthington

Trick or Treat night in the City of Worthington is scheduled for Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm - 8pm.

In 2009, Worthington City Council approved a policy that schedules Beggars Night in Worthington on Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup> each year, no matter what day Halloween falls on. Many communities in central Ohio, including



Columbus, follow a different schedule with Beggars Night taking place on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> in 2010.

The City of Worthington is advising people who live in the Worthington School District areas that are located within the City of Columbus to trick or treat following the Columbus schedule of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Community Dialogues Address Concerns about United Methodist Children's Home

The Worthington Community Relations Commission (CRC) is facilitating the community dialogue about issues at the United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) and how they have impacted the Worthington community. At the request of the Worthington City Council, the CRC is offering the opportunity for residents to meet in small group settings to further the conversation. Citizens are invited to express their opinions and ideas concerning the recent incidents involving UMCH residents and discuss future relationships or opportunities for involvement between residents, the City and UMCH. The CRC is prepared to:

listen and record citizens concerns and ideas; convey known facts as requested by citizens and available to members that have been distributed by the city and UMCH to date; forward the concerns and ideas to City Council and UMCH; respond to questions via e-mail or telephone; and post questions and answers via city and UMCH web sites. Current information about actions taking place to resolve issues of safety are being posted on the City's website at [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org). To schedule a meeting with the CRC, please contact Lori Trego at 854-7171 or [trego@ci.worthington.oh.us](mailto:trego@ci.worthington.oh.us).

## Welcome to the City of Worthington

The City of Worthington is pleased to welcome two new people to the organization.



*Robert Schmidt*

**Robert Schmidt** was appointed as the newest member of the Worthington City Council and began serving the City in September. Schmidt has lived in the City of Worthington since 2005. He served as

the City's representative on the Swimming Board and is a graduate of Leadership Worthington. Schmidt is an attorney with Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, LLP in Columbus. He specializes in regulatory, litigation and business matters with an emphasis on environmental law, real estate transactions and public utilities. Schmidt was chosen from a field of applicants to fill the seat left vacant with the departure of David Foust when he moved outside of the City. Schmidt's appointment is until the general election in November 2011.

The City of Worthington also welcomes new Parks and Recreation Director **Darren Hurley** to the community.

Hurley comes to Worthington from the City of Delaware, where he served as the Director of Parks and Recreation. He also previously served as a Recreation Supervisor for the City of Dublin, overseeing program development for the City's Recreation Center. Hurley has been involved in the National Parks and Recreation Association and served on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. Hurley replaces former Director Lynda Chambers who retired in July.



*Darren Hurley*

## Rotary Partnership brings Improvements to Olentangy Parklands

A team of volunteers from Worthington's two Rotary clubs came together with staff from Worthington Parks and Recreation to create a new seating and fountain area at the Olentangy Parklands. The Dublin Worthington Rotary and the A.M. Rotary donated the funds to purchase a new drinking fountain and two benches to be placed along the path between the tennis courts and athletic fields. In addition to the \$2,800 donation, Rotary volunteers also performed all of the labor to complete the



project. Parks and Recreation did some of the prep-work to replace and repair a water line to the fountain and provided assistance with pavers and landscaping. The project was designed with the help of A.M. Rotary member and architect student Karla McRae. It includes a brick area for seating with two benches. In the middle is a handicap-accessible drinking fountain which includes a dog bowl and a hose hook-up for use by larger athletic events. Framing the area behind the benches is a stone wall that will soon include the Rotarian seal.

The Rotaries contacted Worthington Parks and Recreation looking for ways to partner with the City on a project. They are hoping to make it an annual partnership to provide improvements and amenities throughout Worthington's park facilities.



*Rotarians Melissa Conrath (front), Darnell Perkins (left), and Jerry Katz (right) install pavers for the new seating area at Olentangy Parklands.*

## Leaf Collection Guidelines

New equipment allows crews to collect leaves citywide each week as staffing and weather allow. Collection takes place through **December 3, 2010**. In order to make sure your leaves are collected, have them raked to the curb by Monday morning of each collection week. We will not guarantee nor schedule collection of leaves raked out later in the week. Please follow these guidelines:

- All leaves must be raked to the curb - **DO NOT PLACE LEAVES IN STREET**. Leaves in streets causes storm sewers to clog and creates traffic hazards.
- Do not include foreign materials, such as brush, twigs, or grass clippings. Such material damages the leaf vacuum machine.
- Remove vehicles from the street during collection weeks. The leaf vacuum truck will not be able to pick up any leaves blocked by a parked vehicle.
- Place leaves well away from obstructions such as trees, signs and fire hydrants since the pick-up hose cannot reach past these obstructions. Leaves near these obstructions will not be picked up.



## Protecting our Natural Resources

Steve Tennant and his crew in the Sewers and Utilities Division of the Worthington Department of Public Service have one of those jobs that could be profiled on the television show *Dirty Jobs*. Among their other responsibilities, they inspect storm sewer outfalls to local streams and rivers and collect samples when tell-tale

symptoms of polluted water appear. The storm sewer system of storm drains on streets and in parking lots, roadside ditches, and miles of pipes is designed to prevent flooded yards and

streets. These systems convey rainwater and snow melt (called storm water) directly to streams with no filtering or cleaning. The flow, or *discharge*, from these pipes is considered *illicit* when it is not composed entirely of storm water (with some exceptions, like water from fire fighting and irrigation.) Steve and his crew detect and map these *illicit discharges* in the City of Worthington. It could be paint, thinner, or auto fluids purposely dumped down curb inlets; soapy water from washing machines draining to basement sumps instead of to sanitary sewer lines; or even discharges from poorly functioning household sewage treatment systems. Dust left

behind after concrete work or lawn chemicals left behind on the sidewalk or driveway can also drain into storm sewers. All driveway spills should be absorbed with a commercial absorbent or kitty-litter, double bagged, and put in the trash. Remember, if it is not clean rainwater, it should not be going down the storm sewer inlet.

As an engaged resident of Worthington, you can do more than just refrain from illicit discharges. You can be the eyes and ears (and nose) of your community. On one occasion, an alert

resident noticed a carpet cleaning company van emptying stored cleaning water into a retention basin. The resident reported the illicit discharge, and the dumper was caught in the act.

If you witness someone dumping illicit items, call the Worthington Public Service Department at 431-2425 during regular business hours. At other times, call the Worthington Police at 885-4463. The Worthington Police Department has an officer trained in environmental crime and will be happy to take your call at this non-emergency number. If you have any other questions contact the City's Stormwater Coordinator at 431-2425.



## Mark your Calendar for these Special Dates and Events

### Indoor Winter Farmers Market:

The popular indoor Winter Farmers Market returns, 10am - 1pm :

- ◆ November 20, December 11
- ◆ Saturdays January 8th - April 23rd  
Griswold Center ~ 777 High Street

### Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 28th

**Noon - 5:30 p.m.** - Stroll Old Worthington's sidewalks, enjoy musical entertainment, shopping, holiday cheer and an old fashioned carriage ride.

**5:30 p.m.** - Watch as hundreds of lights illuminate the sky for Worthington's annual tree lighting ceremony on the southeast corner of the historic Village Green. Call 436-2743 for information.

### Municipal Offices Holiday Hours

City of Worthington municipal offices will be closed the following dates:

- ◆ November 25th and 26th in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- ◆ Municipal offices will close at Noon on Thursday, December 23rd and remain closed on Friday, December 24th.
- ◆ Municipal offices will close at Noon on Thursday, December 30th and remain closed on Friday, December 31st.

### Community Center Holiday Hours

- ◆ Thanksgiving, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
- ◆ Christmas Eve, 6:00 am to Noon
- ◆ Christmas Day, CLOSED
- ◆ New Years Eve, 6:00 am to Noon
- ◆ New Years Day, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

### Holiday Trash Pick up

- ◆ Trash Collection is being shifted to Saturday during the holiday week of Thanksgiving (11/27)
- ◆ Trash collection remains on Friday during the weeks of Christmas and New Years



[www.facebook.com/worthingtonoh](http://www.facebook.com/worthingtonoh)



[www.twitter.com/worthingtonohio](http://www.twitter.com/worthingtonohio)

Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)  
for details on all upcoming events.

## How to Reach Us

### Municipal Administration Building

436-3100 -- 6550 N. High St.  
 City Manager's office, City Clerk, Economic Development, Mayor's Court, Finance, Personnel, Public Information

### Law Department

436-7429 -- 370 Highland Ave.

### Parks & Recreation

436-2743 -- 345 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.  
 Community Center, recreation programs, park maintenance, street tree program

### Griswold Center

842-6320 -- 777 High St.  
 Recreation Programs for 55 and older

### Public Service Department

431-2425 -- 380 Highland Ave.  
 Trash collection, recycling, yard waste, sewers, maintenance

### Engineering Department

431-2424 -- 374 Highland Ave.  
 Building Permits & Inspection, Development, Planning & Zoning,

### Division of Police

885-4463 -- 6555 Worthington Galena Rd.

### Division of Fire and EMS

885-7640 -- 6500 N. High St.  
 CPR classes, public education, fire inspection

Visit us online at  
[www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)



## Village Talks

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**Worthington Walks on Wednesdays** is a community initiative to encourage residents to walk or bike to school or work (or just for fun). Goals include:

- Promote healthy activity in children and adults
- Promote safer streets by reducing traffic congestion around schools
- Conserve energy and reduce pollution
- Bring neighborhoods together to create a safer community
- Encourage local elementary schools to create safe and supervised walking groups for students.
- Participating schools can start by promoting one walking Wednesday per month. Use the suggested themes at the right, or create your own. The goal is to get students excited about walking to school. For more information, including safety tips, visit [www.morpc.org/walktoschool](http://www.morpc.org/walktoschool).

**Nov. 17 - We Are Thankful Walk & Roll**  
 Bring a donation of food to your school or community drop-off site.

**December 15, 2010 - Jingle Bell Walk**  
 Wear bells on your clothes to ring in the holiday season.

**January 12, 2011 - Polar Bear Walk**  
 Observe your winter environment and learn more about life in the arctic.

**February 16, 2011 - Heart Walk**  
 Show your commitment to a strong heart by wearing red.

**March 16, 2011 - Lucky Walk & Roll**  
 Wear green and be green. Walk or bike to school or work.

**April 13, 2011 - Walk & Roll for the Earth**  
 Show you care for our planet by walking or biking to school today.

**May 18, 2011 - Sneaker Day Walk & Roll**  
 Celebrate Physical Fitness Month!

**June 15, 2011 - Clean Air Walk & Roll**  
 Celebrate the end of school and beginning of summer by walking or biking in your neighborhood.

**Worthington Walks on Wednesdays** is a cooperative project of Sustainable Worthington, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Healthy Worthington, Big Green Head, Worthington Schools, City of Worthington and Worthington Libraries.

## Spotlight on Worthington

The Worthington community is featured in a number of high profile publications this fall. In the November issue of **Columbus Monthly**, a special Worthington section highlights all that the Worthington community has to offer in the areas of economic development, quality of life, neighborhoods and schools. The section is available for pick up at City buildings and the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce. Worthington is also honored to be chosen as one of Ohio's Best Hometowns by **Ohio Magazine**. Worthington will be featured prominently in the November issue as the Best Hometown in the central Ohio region. In the September/October issue of **Midwest Living**, Worthington businesses are featured in an article about Girlfriend Giveaways. Candle Lab, House Wine, Fritzzy Jacobs, Worthington Inn and La Chatelaine were named as great destinations for unique shopping and dining.

