



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Winter 2017 Issue

New Pedestrian Signals mean Safer Crossing Downtown



A new pedestrian safety tool is making crossing the street in Old Worthington safer. Pedestrian crossing improvements are coming to the High Street crossings at Stafford Avenue, Village Green Drive South and Short Street with the installation of three Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB.) New pole arms have been installed at the corners of High and Stafford and existing signal arms will be used at the two other crossing locations. The signals are expected to be activated in early March.

What are Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons?

A PHB signal is a type of traffic signal which creates a safer and more efficient environment for pedestrians to cross busy streets at uncontrolled marked crosswalk locations. A PHB is different from pre-timed traffic signals and constant flash warning beacons because it is only activated by pedestrians when needed. Because PHBs remain dark until activated, they can help increase driver attention to pedestrians crossing the roadway, and can reduce rear-end collisions. The PHBs red signal indication requires a complete stop to allow pedestrians to cross the street.

How do they work?

Pedestrians will use the PHB signal the same as a regular crosswalk signal. After pushing the button, pedestrians will see the solid orange hand to wait and the “walk” symbol when it is safe to cross. A countdown timer will flash to signal how much time is left to cross.

Drivers will see a dark signal until a pedestrian pushes the button. The signal will change from flashing to solid yellow, to solid red, to stop. When the red lights begin flashing, drivers can proceed if the crosswalk is clear.

Consultants DLZ conducted the Old Worthington Mobility Study and as a result recommended PHBs to improve pedestrian safety. The recommendation was reviewed and supported by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board and approved by Worthington City Council. For more information scan the QR code below or visit worthington.org/phb.

Drivers	Pedestrians
Proceed with Caution	Push the Button to Cross
Slow Down (Pedestrian has activated the push button)	Wait
Prepare to Stop	Continue to Wait
STOP! (Pedestrian in Crosswalk)	Start Crossing
STOP! Proceed with Caution if Clear	Continue Crossing (Countdown Signal)
Proceed if Clear	Push the Button to Cross



Solar Panel Moratorium

On February 6th, Worthington City Council passed a 90 day moratorium on consideration of new applications for solar panels in the Architectural Review District (ARD). The moratorium will be in place until May 31st or earlier if amendments are made to the Design Guidelines or until Council revokes the moratorium.

The purpose of the moratorium is to provide time to strike a balance between the inherent values of preserving the character of the ARD and promoting sustainable practices. During this time, staff will research, evaluate and discuss options to address concerns and differing opinions about the visual impact of solar panels on the character of the ARD. The goal is to provide clarity to residents and businesses prior to initiating the application process.

There are opportunities for residents to be informed and provide input. In addition to meetings with interested parties, the public will have the opportunity to provide comment and input at the March 20th City Council meeting. City Council will discuss research findings and information collected through public input at the April 10th meeting. If changes to the Design Guidelines or Ordinances are warranted, draft legislation will be introduced at a future meeting.

More information, links to the Design Guidelines and ARD maps and background information can be found online at worthington.org/solar. Comments and questions can be directed to planning@ci.worthington.oh.us or Planning and Building Director Lee Brown at 614-431-2424.



Architectural Review District

Enlarged maps can be viewed online at worthington.org/solar

Public Notices now Posted Online

Worthington's website, worthington.org, is the new go-to location for notices about public meetings and hearings for City Council and Boards and Commissions. Worthington citizens approved a Charter amendment to no longer require notices about public hearings be published in the newspaper. Moving from newspaper to online publication is expected to save thousands of dollars each year. Council expanded the number of places where printed meeting notices will be posted to include the Worthington Municipal Building, the Griswold Center, Community Center and the Old Worthington Library.

For notices relating to the Planning & Zoning code, in addition to the website, existing methods of notification such as placard signs and mailings to nearby properties will continue. The only change is that these notices will not be placed in the newspaper. In addition, notices about employment opportunities and water conservation emergencies will also be posted on the website and not the newspaper.

On the website, notices can be found "In the News" with public notice categories for City Council and different Boards & Commissions. You can sign up for notifications by clicking on "e-news sign-up" on the home page. Meeting agendas, minutes, ordinances and resolutions can be found in the "Agendas and Minutes" section of the website available through a link on the home page at worthington.org.

Local Income Tax Filing Deadline April 18th

Because the traditional tax day of April 15th falls on the weekend, and Emancipation Day — a legal holiday in the District of Columbia — is observed on Monday, April 17th, the deadline for 2016 income tax filing is Tuesday, April 18th. The City of Worthington has a mandatory income tax filing requirement for all individuals over the age of 18. As a result of changes made by the State of Ohio to the municipal income tax code, the City of Worthington now imposes a late filing penalty for returns filed after the deadline. For forms, answers to frequently asked questions and online services visit www.ritaohio.com, or call 1-800-860-7482.

Business News

Linworth Crossing



The first tenants of the Linworth Crossing redevelopment at the intersection of Linworth and Dublin Granville Roads cut the ribbon and opened their doors. The City welcomes Worthington Urgent Care and Linworths Pharmacy. Future tenants will begin occupying additional spaces over the next several months.

350 W. Wilson Bridge Road



The newly-renovated 'Class A' office building located at 350 W. Wilson Bridge Road will soon house its first tenants. Central Ohio Urology Group and Wheels Up Partners will be the first to occupy the 53,000 square foot building since the space was vacated more than a decade ago. The new businesses are anticipating moving into their new spaces in the coming weeks.

Additional tenants have also agreed to lease space and are expected to move in later this year.

(continued right)



Special Events

Indoor Winter Farmers Market

Every Saturday through April
9am-Noon
The Shops at Worthington Place



Family Fun Nights - Fridays at the Community Center

March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 - 6:30-9:00pm
345 E. Wilson Bridge Road
Free weekly features include arts and crafts, one gymnasium for little tykes and the other for athletes of all ages. All children must be accompanied by an adult and vice versa.

PreCycle Day

Saturday, April 22
Free exchange of reusable items throughout Worthington neighborhoods.

Arbor Day Tree Planting

Friday, April 28, Noon
Celebrate the beauty of trees during this annual tree planting ceremony on the Village Green.

Visit worthington.org for complete information.

Kudos!

Congratulations to the Worthington Parks and Recreation Department! Its "Story time in the Park" partnership with Worthington Libraries earned an Ohio Parks and Recreation Association first place award and was selected as one of the top three award submissions in the state. The program was recognized for providing an outlet for parents and children to enjoy the benefits of reading while experiencing nature.

Also, thanks to the hard work of the City's Finance Department, Worthington was recognized recently with the Auditor of State award for exemplary financial reporting.

Kilbourne Memorial Building

The Kilbourne Memorial Building, located on the northeast Village Green in historic downtown Worthington, is now fully rented. Sew to Speak has a beautifully-renovated space in the City-owned building that is now open for business. In addition, COhatch Worthington, future home to co-working and a creative makerspace, is taking reservations now for a late summer/early fall opening. This will be COhatch's second co-working space in Worthington.

Contact Us

LOUIS J.R. GOOREY MUNICIPAL BUILDING
(614) 436-3100 – 6550 N. High St.
City Manager's office, City Clerk, Economic
Development, Mayor's Court, Finance,
Personnel, Public Information

LAW DEPARTMENT

(614) 436-7429 – 370 Highland Ave.

PARKS & RECREATION

(614) 436-2743 – 345 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.
Community Center, recreation programs,
park maintenance, street tree program

GRISWOLD CENTER

(614) 842-6320 – 777 High St.
Recreation Programs for 55 and older

SERVICE & ENGINEERING

(614) 431-2425 – 380 Highland Ave.
Trash collection, recycling, yard waste, sewers,
maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects

PLANNING & BUILDING

(614) 431-2424 – 374 Highland Ave.
Land use planning, zoning and building
regulation

DIVISION OF POLICE

(614) 885-4463–6555 Worthington Galena Rd.

DIVISION OF FIRE & EMS

(614) 885-7640 – 6500 N. High St.
CPR classes, public education, fire inspection

worthington.org
businessworthington.org
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City Launches Redesigned Website

Visit worthington.org

Visitors to the City's website at worthington.org will find a fresh new look online. The City recently launched a redesign to the site, which was last updated in 2011. The new home page features a number of improvements and visual links to news, events and community spotlights. The top navigation includes new easy-to-navigate menus to help visitors find what they're looking for. The City's social media feeds are also available on the home page, for a quick look at what people are talking about. Residents also have the ability to register for recreation programs, sign up for notifications about City meetings and initiatives under "eNews Sign-Up" and submit requests through the "Service Request" tab. Please check it out at worthington.org.

