



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Spring 2019 Issue

Know the facts about the Recommendation to join the Northwest Center for 911 Services

Worthington City Council is considering a recommendation to join the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center for the City's emergency 911 dispatching services. The Northwest Center is operated by the City of Dublin, and serves Dublin, Upper Arlington, Hilliard, Washington Township and Norwich Township.

An extensive analysis was conducted by a team of City staff, including Police Chief Jerry Strait, Fire Chief John Bailot, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Zambito, Assistant City Manager Robyn Stewart, Finance Director Scott Bartter, and Personnel Director Lori Trego, who are jointly making the recommendation.

The committee determined that joining the Northwest Center would enhance the City's emergency response, by providing a higher level of training and technology, as well as reduced response times for the growing number of people calling 911 from their cell phones. Fire Chief John Bailot said, "I support our recommendation because it gives our residents a higher level of service, quicker call processing time with cell-phone



911 calls, and it gives our first responders advanced technology and capabilities to do their jobs." Although call taking and dispatching will take place from the Northwest Center, your Worthington firefighters, medics and police officers would still respond to your emergencies. The move is being considered now because of low staffing levels in the Worthington



Communications Center. This is a national issue, impacting dispatch centers across the country, as it is difficult to train and retain highly qualified personnel. The City has been challenged with keeping up with the demands of providing a high level of service in this area. Maintaining the service would require extensive investment in personnel and technology. "This recommendation is not a reflection on the current Worthington dispatchers," said Police Chief Jerry Strait. "It came about because a variety of circumstances which caused us to take a hard look at the communications center by conducting a deep analysis of how we can provide the best services to our citizens." In the Northwest Center, the costs are shared by all participating jurisdictions, and greater resources allow for more investment in technology and advanced training.

The in-depth analysis shows that joining the Northwest Center brings significant benefits, which include:

- Reducing the time it takes for emergency help to arrive for people who call 911 from their cell phones.
- Communication technicians will have enhanced medical training and will stay on the line with the caller while a separate technician dispatches emergency help.

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- Provides resources for Worthington to stay current with advances in 911 technology and operations.
- Worthington firefighters, medics and police will still respond to your calls for help.
- A greater capacity to manage large-scale emergency events.
- More exposure and training for low frequency, but high risk events, such as large structure fires.
- The Northwest Center is a highly trained, certified, professional center that provides a high level of service and support for callers as well as public safety personnel.

The City is providing several opportunities for people to learn more about the recommendation. We encourage all residents to become informed about this important public safety service.

Public Meetings:

April 29 - 7:30am – Coffee with the Chiefs
Worthington Fire Department, 6500 N. High Street

May 1 – 7:00pm - Public Forum
Griswold Center, 777 High Street

May 6 – 5:30pm - Public Forum
Linworth Alternative Program, 2075 W Dublin Granville Rd

May 8 – Noon - Coffee with the Chiefs
Old Worthington Library, 820 High Street

More information, including the detailed analysis report, is available online at worthington.org/911.

Electric Aggregation Program Underway

Letters coming to Eligible Residents Soon

Worthington voters gave the City of Worthington the go-ahead to pool the community's electricity buying power by approving an issue to establish the City as an electric aggregator. The goals of the City's electric aggregation program are to lower household electric bills and increase renewable (green) energy usage.

The City program has been approved by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and is about to get underway. After receiving a number of proposals from energy suppliers, City Council has entered into an agreement with AEP Energy that will reduce the electric bills of participants and include the use of green energy certificates.

Residents and small businesses who are eligible to participate will receive a letter in the mail describing the program. The letter will outline two easy options in the event the customer would like to opt-out of the program. There will be a 1-800 number included to call and opt-out, or a short form they can fill out and return by mail. Customers who receive the letter and do not opt-out will be enrolled in the program.

People who have already chosen their own electricity supplier will not receive a letter, but will be able to opt-in to the program at a later date.

Implementation Timeline:

- Thursday, April 25th: opt-out window opens
- Saturday, May 25th: opt-out window closes
- Program begins with June or July meter read date
- If your meter is read AFTER June 13th you will start in June
- If your meter is read BEFORE June 13th you will start in July
- Participants should see the new aggregation rate in their July or August bill
- If your meter is read AFTER June 13th you will see it on your July bill
- If your meter is read BEFORE June 13th you will see it on your August bill



Under the program, residents would experience no change in their electric service. AEP Ohio ("the utility") would continue to carry, service, and bill for the electricity service. The only change would be in the generation source of the electricity which would be identified on the AEP Ohio bill.

If you have additional questions, please contact the City of Worthington Finance Department at 614-786-7353.

Imagine what the Future Holds

Share your Vision of Worthington

Worthington City Council is engaging the community in a citizen-led comprehensive visioning process in 2019. City leadership recognizes that this is a moment in our history where it is important to consider the community's vision for the years and generations to come. The City aspires to make decisions with the long-term interests and desires of residents in mind by engaging all stakeholders. The goal is to gain a thorough understanding of a broad cross-section of the community representing the will of the people.

City Council is appointing a Community Visioning Committee to oversee and guide the process, with the help of a visioning consultant. City Council drafted the following Committee Mission Statement, reflecting the dual purpose:

The Visioning Committee's administrative purpose is to manage the Visioning Process in close consultation with the City Council and the community. Its product purpose is to inform, engage and listen to community members to enable a well-grounded articulation of the community's aspirations for the future of Worthington.

City Council recognizes that conducting a visioning process to capture and reflect the full breadth and depth of our community is of the highest priority. With the last visioning process occurring more than 10 years ago, the high number of new residents, and a range of community-defining choices present, the need to strategically look forward to the future is upon us.

There will be many opportunities for people to participate throughout the process. You can learn much more and be kept informed of the steps along the way by visiting worthington.org/visioning.

We encourage you to sign up to receive updates on the webpage, so that you'll be alerted of every step in the process and opportunities for you to provide your feedback and vision for how Worthington should be for future generations.



Get the Facts

Stay up to Date

With so much going on right now, we've created some specific resources where you can get in-depth information and stay up to date as the projects move forward.

For consideration of joining the Northwest Center 911 dispatching, visit:

worthington.org/911

For additional information on the electric aggregation, visit:

worthington.org/electric

And to participate in the visioning process, visit:

worthington.org/visioning

We encourage every resident to connect with us on social media and via the home page of the website to track day-to-day activities and updates from the city.

worthington.org

facebook.com/WorthingtonOH

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

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

LAW DEPARTMENT

614-436-7429 – 374 Highland Ave.

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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instagram.com/worthingtonohio



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Upcoming Summer Events

May 4 - Farmers Market moves outdoors downtown

May 4 - Leadership Worthington Service Day

May 4 - Green on the Green

May 17 - Touch a Truck at the Community Center

May 19 to August 11 - Concerts on the Green every Sunday

May 27 - Memorial Day Parade

June 5 - Worthington Partnership First Wednesdays

June 9 - Gary Smith Classic Race

June 15 & 16 - Worthington Arts Festival at the MAC

June 22 - Picnic with the Partnership

June 28 - Taste of Worthington

July 3 - Worthington Partnership First Wednesdays



July 4 - Rotary Family Picnic and Fireworks

July 21 - Trifit Triathlon

August 6 - National Night Out

August 7 - Worthington Partnership First Wednesdays

August 10 - Summer in the 614 Festival

August 11 - Precycle Day

September 28 - Worthington Market Day Festival - Sept 15

Details at worthington.org