



# Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Fall 2011 Issue

## Riverlea Annexation on the November 8th Ballot

Voters in the City of Worthington and the Village of Riverlea will decide at the November 8th election whether the Village of Riverlea will be annexed by and into the City of Worthington. A six person commission made up of three City of Worthington representatives and three Village of Riverlea representatives



negotiated the terms of the annexation and impacts on each jurisdiction. The Commission evaluated a number of issues and made determinations as to how they will be handled should the annexation be approved by the voters. Here is a summary of their negotiations:

### Architectural Review

The properties fronting High Street will be included in Worthington's Architectural Review District.

### Assets & Liabilities

Worthington will acquire all Riverlea assets including the General Fund balance, currently estimated to be approximately \$355,000, and assume all liabilities of the Village including the purchase of "tail coverage" insurance to cover the City for potential liabilities that could arise after annexation.

### Entrance Signs

The Village of Riverlea entrance signs will be treated the same as existing signs in Worthington that identify neighborhoods/subdivisions and will be maintained by the residents.

### Land Reserve, Easements, Rights-of-way

The Village of Riverlea's ownership and easement rights in property will be transferred to the City of Worthington. Worthington City Council will pass a resolution expressing the intent to maintain the current "footprint" of streets in Riverlea, without changes.

### Representation/Governance

Riverlea residents will be treated the same as any other new residents of Worthington. They can vote in the next municipal election and can run for office after two years as registered voters and residents in Worthington.

*(Riverlea, continued Page 2)*

## City Notes ~ Leaf Collection Information

Leaf Collection is taking place in the City of Worthington through December 2nd. The goal of the Worthington Public Service Department is to provide efficient and effective leaf collection that is convenient for residents. Each street will receive collection once a week. Limited staffing and weather restricts us from being able to schedule particular streets on particular days. 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. Call (614) 431-2425 for more information.

- All leaves must be raked to the curb - do not place leaves in the street. Leaves in streets cause storm sewers to clog and create traffic hazards.
- Do not include foreign materials (brush, twigs or grass clippings.)
- Place leaves well away from obstructions (trees, signs and fire hydrants) Leaves near these obstructions will not be picked up.
- 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.

# Riverlea, Cont...

## Sanitary Sewers

Riverlea, like Worthington, is required to perform sanitary sewer upgrades in order to comply with orders from the Ohio EPA. Riverlea has paid for the evaluation of its sewers and the findings have been made available to the City of Worthington. The identified improvements in Riverlea will be implemented in conjunction with the projects in nearby parts of Worthington. These upgrades will be funded in the same manner as similar work in other parts of Worthington, which is currently funded from the City's funds dedicated to capital projects.

In order to reduce the reliance on mechanical systems, Worthington will construct a gravity sewer to eliminate the need for the Riverlea lift station. The Riverlea General Fund balance (currently estimated at approximately \$355,000) will be used to pay for the removal of the lift station. Any additional funds remaining after the work is completed will be dedicated to other Riverlea projects. Costs in excess of the amount of the Riverlea fund balance will be the responsibility of Worthington. If the costs exceed the Riverlea General Fund balance, Worthington may choose to leave the lift station in place.

## Streetlights & Sidewalks

Worthington's current policy for new streetlights and sidewalks will apply in Riverlea. This policy provides for a petition process to request new sidewalks (51% of property owners on a given block) and streetlights (60% of owners of abutting property). Residents would pay a portion of the cost for sidewalks and for any upgrades to the streetlights beyond a simple wood pole design.

## Streets, Curbs and Gutters

In a few years, the curbs and gutters in Riverlea will be replaced and the streets will be milled and overlaid. Riverlea residents will be assessed for the cost of this work. Worthington will be responsible for the minimum financial participation required under state law for special assessment projects. The City will initiate the special assessment process by January 1, 2018.

Once this project is completed, future work will be funded in the same manner as similar work in other parts of Worthington, which is currently funded from the City's capital funds.

The Commission noted that Riverlea has recently completed the milling and overlay of its streets and did not want to charge the residents of the Village to redo this work as part of this agreement. However, since the streets will need to be redone when the curbs and gutters are repaired, the Commission recommends that Riverlea residents bear the cost of the street milling and overlay as part of a complete street, curb and gutter project. To reflect the fact that the

cost of the milling and overlay are in addition to what it would cost to bring the curbs and gutters up to Worthington service levels, the cost of sewer repairs, which are much harder to allocate through the existing legal methods of assessment and roughly the same as the milling and overlay, will be paid by Worthington when needed.

## Water Distribution

Water line replacements that need to occur due to failure within 5 years after annexation will be paid through an assessment on Riverlea residents. Beyond that time period, projects will be funded in the same manner as similar work in other parts of Worthington, which is currently funded from the City's capital funds. Fire hydrants will be replaced with Worthington standard hydrants as repairs are required.

## Zoning

The properties fronting High Street will be zoned AR-4.5 Low Density Apartment. The properties on the west side of Olentangy Boulevard will be zoned R-16 Very Low Density Residence. The other properties in Riverlea will be zoned R-10 Low Density Residence.

For more information on the annexation issue, please email [annexation@ci.worthington.oh.us](mailto:annexation@ci.worthington.oh.us) or call (614) 436-3100.

# Business News



New store fronts and expansions are welcoming residents, visitors and businesses to the City of Worthington. In the Kilbourne Commercial Building in Downtown Worthington, **Real Living HER** and **Toyville** are now open for business in their

new locations. Right across the street, the renovations and expansion at **Worthington Jewelers** are in full swing with projected completion this fall. The interior work at **The Shops at Worthington Place** continues and will be ready to greet shoppers this holiday shopping season. New tenants already announced include **Panera Bread**; **Johnson's Real Ice Cream**; **Learning Express**; **Bill's Buckeye Stuff** and more. In the former **Dalt's** restaurant site and adjacent office building, **Insight Bank** is renovating to bring its corporate headquarters including up to 50 new jobs to town. Construction also continues at **Primrose School of Worthington** at the old **HER** building site on N. High St. For more information on doing business in Worthington contact Jeffry Harris at (614) 436-4518.



# Mark your Calendar

## Indoor Winter Farmers Market:



Saturday, December 17th  
- 10am - 1pm then every  
Saturday Jan. 7th - April  
28th 2012. Griswold Center,  
777 High St.

## Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 27th  
Noon - 5:30 p.m. Old Worthington Open House

5:30 p.m. - Tree lighting on the southeast corner of the  
Village Green. Call 436-2743 for information.

## Municipal Offices Holiday Hours

City of Worthington municipal offices will be closed:

- November 24th and 25th in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Municipal offices will close at Noon on Friday, December 23rd and remain closed through Monday, December 26th.
- Municipal offices will close at Noon on Friday, December 30th and remain closed through Monday, January 2nd.



## Community Center Holiday Hours

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

## Holiday Trash Pick up

- Trash Collection is being shifted to Saturday during the holiday week of Thanksgiving (11/26)
- Trash collection remains on Friday during the weeks of Christmas and New Years

Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) for complete information.



## City of Worthington Launches New Website at [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)

The City of Worthington has launched a new website at [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org), which brings a new level of interactivity and functionality to residents, businesses and visitors. The City worked on the redesign with Civic Plus, a web design company which specializes in local government websites. In addition to providing complete information about all of the City's departments, programs and services, the site allows people to interact at a whole new level with City staff.

Some of the new features include a citizen response module, where citizens can ask questions or submit service requests; customizable electronic news notification according to interest; an interactive calendar of events where community groups can also submit events; mobile device and social networking integration; emergency alert capabilities, bid and job postings and much more.

The information is organized to make it easy for visitors to find what they are looking for. From the home page, visitors can easily find information about upcoming events, news, submit a request or register for Parks and Recreation programs and activities. A "How do I..." link also provides easy answers about how to find information visitors might be looking for.

The City encourages you to visit the new [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) and explore the site and its new functions.



PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WORTHINGTON OH  
PERMIT NO 155-W

### Contact 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 & EMS

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

[www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)  
[www.facebook.com/worthingtonoh](https://www.facebook.com/worthingtonoh)  
[www.twitter.com/worthingtonohio](https://www.twitter.com/worthingtonohio)

# Biking Destinations



Worthington residents and visitors now have more options to make it easier for them to ride

their bikes to events, stores, restaurants and other destinations in Downtown Worthington and other City facilities. The City has installed several new inverted “U” bike racks around the downtown area this fall. With the help of Sustainable Worthington, ten locations were identified, which include the East New England Avenue, the West New England parking lot and the Griswold Center. More bike racks will be installed into the 2012 spring season.

# Community Surveys Let Your Voice be Heard

### Worthington SALT

With a mission to make Worthington “more livable for a lifetime,” Worthington SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) is a cooperative effort involving community members, Worthington Police and Fire, the City, the Griswold Center and other organizations. While the focus for SALT is on seniors and their safety, the programs developed will benefit all members of the community. Worthington SALT is asking residents to participate in a survey to learn more about the needs of the community and what programs would be beneficial. The survey can be accessed online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPRDSALT](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WPRDSALT). Residents are also invited to attend SALT meetings the 3rd Thursday of each month at 9am at the Griswold Center, 777 High St. For more information call (614) 842-6320

or e-mail Colleen Light at [clight@ci.worthington.oh.us](mailto:clight@ci.worthington.oh.us).

### Community Organization Survey

The Worthington Community Relations Commission (CRC) is asking individuals associated with Worthington community organizations to help enrich resource sharing among organizations and Worthington residents by participating in a survey which will be used to enrich the Community Resource Directory. The CRC is planning to host a community wide event to increase awareness and to promote involvement in the organizations. If you are a leader in a Worthington area community organization, please complete the online survey by November 30, 2011 at <http://tiny.cc/worthingtonorganizations>.