



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Fall 2013 Issue

Visioning UMCH Community Input

The Worthington community is invited to help shape the future of the United Methodist Children's Home (UMCH) property by participating in the Visioning UMCH process.

The City of Worthington is inviting residents to share their ideas and offer feedback at a **public meeting on Wednesday, December 4th from 6pm – 8pm at Thomas Worthington High School, 300 W. Dublin Granville Road.** The meeting will take place in the school library. Attendees are asked to park on the north side of the building and enter through door 16 on the north.

During the meeting, the consulting team will provide an overview of the visioning process, demographic and market conditions, economic considerations, and a variety of potential land use scenarios for discussion. Presentation materials will also be made available on the City's project website at www.worthington.org/VisioningUMCH.

The Visioning UMCH website also will include a method to provide feedback and rate possible land use scenarios. Public participation will help the City gather information to update its 2005 Comprehensive Plan that relates to land use and public policy for the UMCH site. Upon City Council approval, the update will be incorporated into the plan and shared with the property owner and potential developers.



The goal of this initiative is to envision and evaluate potential redevelopment scenarios for the UMCH property, which was identified in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan as a key opportunity site for our land-locked city should it be sold and redeveloped in the future. The potential availability of this 41-acre property presents a rare opportunity for Worthington to experience redevelopment on a very visible site near the heart of Worthington.

Individuals are encouraged to sign up to receive email updates to the process at www.worthington.org/VisioningUMCH. If you have questions, please email VisioningUMCH@ci.worthington.oh.us or call the Department of Planning and Building at (614) 431-2424.

City Notes



Sign up for 270-23 Construction Updates

Construction is underway at the I-270/Rt.23 interchange. Visit www.270-23.com and sign up to receive up-to-date email alerts and information.

Leaf Collection

Leaf Collection is taking place in the City of Worthington through the week of December 6th. In order to make sure

your leaves are collected, have them raked to the curb by Monday morning of the final collection week.

Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive

Donate new and unwrapped toys and food for needy families in the Firefighters for Kids Toy Drive. A drop off box is available at the Worthington Fire Department now through Christmas Eve. The drive-thru collection toy and food drop off day is **Saturday, December 14th from 8am-3pm.** Gifts for boys & girls ages 8-12 are most critically needed. Cash and gift card donations are also welcomed.

CODE RED[®]

Seconds can make a big difference when emergency strikes. That's why the City of Worthington is making a new emergency notification system available to all residents and businesses. Signing up is free, takes just minutes and allows the City to quickly deliver emergency messages to our citizens. The Emergency Communications Network CodeRED high-speed notification solution quickly delivers messages via phone, text or email to targeted areas or the entire city. One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers or emails directly into the system's database. The initial database for the City contains only published numbers. All individuals and businesses should take the time to add contact information to include cellular phones and other non-traditional phones as well as email and text addresses. You can register your information online at worthington.org. Those without Internet access may call the Worthington Division of Police 24 hours a day at (614) 885-4463 to provide contact information. Required information includes a street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes) for location purposes and a primary phone number. Additional phone numbers, email and text addresses may also be entered. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes. For more information contact the Worthington Division of Police at (614) 885-4463.



Drug Drop Box Available

Worthington Police Chief James Mosaic (left) and Drug Safe Worthington's Sandy Byers unveil a new tool designed to combat the growing epidemic of prescription drug abuse. The permanent prescription drug drop box is located inside the lobby of the Worthington Division of Police headquarters at 6555 Worthington Galena Road. The drop box is one of only a few permanent locations in central Ohio where community members may drop off unwanted prescription medications 24 hours a day. This permanent drug drop box is designed to help people clean out their cabinets of old and unwanted medications, cutting back on the risk of overdose and misuse.

Business News

Linworth Crossing

The first steps are in place for a new development in the Linworth area. The more than five-acre property at the southwest corner of Dublin Granville and Linworth Roads had straddled the City of Worthington and Perry Township. After annexation action was requested by the

developer and action was taken by the Franklin County Commissioners, Worthington City Council voted to accept the annexed parcels, clearing the way for the new development on the former Segna Motors site. The Linworth Crossing development is expected to create space for service-oriented retail users such as restaurants, banks or other service industries. The property plans are still in development.

OSU's Harding Hospital Sale to Step-by-Step

The former Harding Hospital site on East Dublin Granville Road is changing hands. State legislators have approved the sale of the 45 acre Ohio State University property to Step-by-Step Academy. Step-by-Step provides autism treatment services for children and their families. It is one of Worthington's largest employers with a current staff of 190. The purchase allows Step-by-Step to expand its services and will bring more than 90 new jobs to the City.



Linworth Crossing

Mark your Calendar



Indoor Winter Farmers Market

Every Saturday, November through April, from 9am-Noon at the Shops at Worthington Place. Note: There will be no Farmers Market on November 30th, the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 1st

Noon - 5:30 p.m. Old Worthington Open House
5:30 p.m. - Tree lighting ceremony begins on the southeast corner of the Village Green. Parks & Recreation sponsored activities begin at 5:00 p.m. Call 436-2743 for information.

Municipal Offices Holiday Hours

City of Worthington municipal offices will be closed:

- November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Beginning at Noon on Tuesday, December 24th through Wednesday, December 25th.
- Beginning at Noon on Tuesday, December 31st through Wednesday, January 1st.

Community Center Holiday Hours

- Thanksgiving, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve, 5:30 a.m. to Noon
- Christmas Day, CLOSED
- New Years Eve, 5:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- New Years Day, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Trash Pick up

- Trash Collection is being shifted to Saturday during the holiday week of Thanksgiving (11/30)
- Trash collection shifts to Saturday during the weeks of Christmas (12/28) and New Years (1/4/2014)

Visit www.worthington.org for complete information.

Healthways SilverSneakers® and PRIME® Fitness Programs Now Available

Proper nutrition and physical activity play a critical role in keeping adults healthy as they age—it keeps muscles strong and prevents many health problems such as heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer and high blood pressure.



The Worthington Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to now offer the SilverSneakers and PRIME fitness programs. Providing a comprehensive yet easy-to-use fitness program is proving to be a viable solution for health plans, their members and participating locations. SilverSneakers and PRIME members of a sponsoring health plan receive a no-cost basic membership.

SilverSneakers is primarily designed for older adults ages 65+, while PRIME is a benefit of some insurance plans for people ages 18–64. Another benefit of a SilverSneakers membership is FREE participation in SilverSneakers Classic fitness classes, which both the Community Center and Griswold Center will begin offering in January.

If you are Medicare-eligible, or if your insurance plan has partnered with Healthways, please stop by the Customer Service Desk to find out if you qualify! Call (614) 436-2743 for more information.

Honoring 40+ Years of Service

Louis J.R. Goorey Retirement Reception

Monday, December 16th, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Worthington Municipal Building. Special recognition at the 7:30 City Council Meeting.



Louis J. R. Goorey, M.D.
Worthington City Council President

The community is invited to come together to honor and thank Dr. Louis J.R. Goorey for his more than 40 years of service to the Worthington community. Dr. Goorey is retiring this year after serving as a member of City Council since 1973 and as Council President since 1995. Prior to serving on City Council he was a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Dr. Goorey, a retired pediatrician, has been a dedicated leader to a number of community groups including the Worthington Jaycees; Worthington

Sertoma; Dublin Worthington Rotary and more. He was co-chair of the Worthington Bicentennial Celebration and a leader in the efforts to bring the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center to Worthington. His dedication and care for children can be seen widely throughout central Ohio, where he was heavily involved in the medical community and at Children's Hospital. We hope you can join us on December 16th to wish Dr. Goorey well in his retirement and thank him for his service.

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

SERVICE & ENGINEERING

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

PLANNING & BUILDING

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

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

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All Children's Playground Community Build

Thanks to a partnership between the City of Worthington and the Dublin Worthington Rotary, the All Children's Playground at the Worthington Community Center is nearing completion and expected to reopen by Thanksgiving. The original playground, installed in 1992, was also cooperative project with the Rotary. The City's Capital Improvements Program funded the new playground with additional financial support and volunteer labor from the Rotary. This playground is one of the City's most popular because of its location, shade and fully accessible design. It serves thousands of camp and program participants every year, in addition to neighborhood children and families. The

2013 replacement project includes connector ramps, plenty of slides, a rock climber and a modern merry-go-round component. The City is grateful to the Rotary volunteers who helped make this important community improvement a reality.



Dublin Worthington Rotary volunteers work to assemble the new All Children's Playground during a work day on October 12, 2013.

MLK Celebration January 20, 2014

The annual Martin Luther King Day Community Celebration will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 20, 2014 at the Worthington Methodist Church, 600 High Street. Business leader, and former Nationwide Insurance executive Donna James will be the featured speaker for the program.

Performances will include the Capriccio Vocal Ensemble and a dance performance from the St. John A.M.E. Church Praise Dance Ministry. A free community lunch follows the program. The Martin Luther King Day Community Celebration is a partnership between the City of Worthington Community Relations Commission, the Worthington Libraries and Worthington Schools. For more information call the City of Worthington at 436-3100.