



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Winter 2020 Issue

Share your Vision of Worthington

visionworthington.org

The Worthington Visioning process is in full swing, with a number of opportunities now ongoing and on the horizon for you to share your vision of our community and look toward the future. The Worthington Visioning Committee, made up of 13 of your Worthington neighbors, has been working hard to plan the process and the most effective way to hear from all Worthington citizens.

The committee has launched an interactive, online website to engage the community in a year-long visioning process that will result in a resident-driven and community-endorsed Vision for the future of Worthington. The site is located at visionworthington.org. Tools and information include:

- Interactive polls and surveys
- Open discussion forums
- Map your location
- Tell YOUR Worthington story
- Q&A opportunities
- Public event/meeting information
- Fast facts and FAQs about Worthington and visioning
- Committee updates and information

Residents will be prompted to register on the site to participate in most interactive tools. This will ensure each Worthington resident has an equal voice online.

It will also allow the Visioning Committee to send information directly to those who request it and allow the Committee to filter feedback by select demographics as needed. Residents can participate through an anonymous user name once registered.



WWW.VISIONWORTHINGTON.ORG



“The visioning process is a learning experience for the community where residents can identify distinct attributes to celebrate and specific challenges to solve together,” commented Joe Sherman, Vision Worthington chair. “This community engagement platform will be an important component of this process, so we encourage residents to regularly visit and

participate at the site.”

In addition to the online community engagement site, several community events will also be held through 2020 to gain resident input and perspectives. These events will be promoted on the engagement site as well as through City of Worthington news and social media channels. Visioning will help residents collectively describe a future Worthington where people want to

live, work, visit and invest. The resulting Vision will be a well-grounded, written articulation of the community’s aspirations that community leaders will use for strategic planning and long-term decision making.

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Visioning Committee invites you to share your dreams and aspirations for Worthington’s future at a Visioning Workshop, Monday, March 30th from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Worthington Education Center, 200 E. Wilson Bridge Road. This is the first big brainstorming session, where everyone is encouraged to dig deep and share your ideas. A SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) Analysis will be

VISIONING WORKSHOP
Monday, March 30
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Worthington Education Center
200 E. Wilson Bridge Road

conducted to identify Worthington’s key strengths and opportunities and how those relate to our aspirations and desired results.

This strategic visioning tool encourages listening to all different perspectives in the room, looking at both the present and future to help our community move forward. Please let us know if you can attend by emailing visioning@worthington.org no later than March 23rd. Walk-ins also welcome!

Business and Financial News

There are a number of significant development projects that have recently been approved, or are moving through the process with the Architectural Review Board (ARB), Municipal Planning Commission (MPC), and City Council.

Stafford Village

On February 18th, City Council approved a recommendation of the MPC to rezone the Stafford Village property at the corner of Hartford Street and East Stafford Avenue as a Planned Unit Development (PUD.) With PUD zoning, the details of the development are negotiated as part of the rezoning. National Church Residences is redeveloping the property to construct a new senior housing development with 85 new dwelling units, of which 34 would be affordable units. The proposal will go back to the ARB/MPC for final PUD and Architectural Review approval.



Worthington Gateway

The ARB/MPC approved the revised design for a proposed Tru by Hilton hotel on the site where the Holiday Inn used to stand. Designs were also approved for a new multi-tenant building along High Street at Caren Avenue. Four multi-tenant buildings on West Wilson Bridge Road were previously approved. All retail, restaurant, and office buildings, as well as intersection improvements at Caren and High and the Wilson Bridge Road aligned entrance to the Gateway and the Shops at Worthington Place, are expected to take up to one year. The new Tru by Hilton is expected to open in late 2021.



Ohio Health

Ohio Health is moving forward with plans to build a 60,000 square foot state-of-the-art medical facility to house medical services, including an emergency department, primary care, imaging and a host of specialty services. The project, proposed for the southwest corner of High Street and Larrimer Avenue, is expected to generate more than 100 new jobs. A rezoning application has been filed for a small portion of the site. Approximately 85 percent of the site is currently zoned C-3 (commercial.) The remaining portion is zoned either S-1 (special) or R-10 (residential.) City Council heard the request at its March 2nd meeting and referred it to the MPC for review and further discussion. Ohio Health has indicated they will submit a proposed development plan and Architectural Review application at a later date.

Project information and updates are posted regularly on the City's website at worthington.org/development. You can sign up to receive email alerts when new information is available at worthington.org/list.aspx

Excellence Award Financial Reporting

The City of Worthington has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal Year 2018. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. "The receipt of this award is indicative of the high degree of dedication and leadership on the part of the City's finance team, along with City management and the City's elected officials," said Worthington Finance Director Scott Bartter. This is the first year the City of Worthington has received this award.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate community members and other users to read the CAFR. Visit Worthington.org/budget online to view the CAFR and other City finance documents and reports.

Plug In and Go!

EV Chargers Available

Both of the City's electric vehicle fast charging stations have been activated and are ready for use. Electric vehicle charging stations are up and running in Old Worthington in the large parking lot to the west of High Street and at the Worthington Community Center. To encourage use, the City has dropped the initial pricing down to .10-cents per minute for the first 30 minutes, with prices increasing to .20-cents per minute after the initial half hour. Pricing will be variable and adjusted as monthly usage data and costs become available. The stations are designed to provide 100-200 mile range in 30-40 minutes for many vehicles. How long it takes to charge your vehicle depends on your battery size, among other factors.



The City of Worthington received funding through the AEP Ohio rebate program to install the new ChargePoint Express 250 direct current (DC) fast chargers. Both chargers are equipped with CHAdeMO and CCS1 cables and are available to residents, employers, and visitors. While most vehicle models are compatible with the City's charging stations, some may require an additional adapter.

Electric Aggregation

Thousands of Dollars Saved

The numbers are in for the first five months of the City of Worthington Electric Aggregation program and participants are saving big. Voters approved the City as an electric aggregator back in 2018 and the program went into effect last July 2019. Since then, about 4,000 households and small businesses are participating in the bulk buying program and together they have saved over \$46,000. Participants are also supporting green energy, off-setting their electric usage 100-percent through the program's use of renewable energy credits.

Residents and small businesses who were not eligible at the beginning of the program, but who would like to opt-in now, can call AEP Energy at 1-888-549-9008 or check their eligibility and sign up online. Visit worthington.org/electric to learn more about the program and follow the link to AEP Energy to check your eligibility.



Mark your Calendar for these 2020 Special Events

- Saturdays through April - Farmers Market at the Shops at Worthington Place
- First Wednesdays of Every Month in Old Worthington, 5-8pm
- March 18 - About our Sister City, Sayama, Japan
- March 24 - Slice of Worthington
- March 25 - Statewide Tornado Drill
- March 30 - Visioning Workshop
- April 3 - Egg Scramble at the Community Center
- April 24 - Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony
- April 25 - Moses Wright Park Clean-up
- April 25 & August 8 - Precycle Days
- April 25 - Prescription Drug Drop-off
- May 2 - Farmers Market moves outdoors downtown
- May 2 - Leadership Worthington Service Day
- May 2 - Green on the Green
- May 15 - Touch-a-Truck at the Community Center
- May 17 - Gary Smith Classic race
- May 17 to August 9 - Concerts on the Green every Sunday
- May 25 - Memorial Day Parade
- June 5 - Children's Concert on the Village Green
- June 20 & 21 - Worthington Arts Festival at the MAC
- June 27 - Picnic with the Partnership
- July 4 - Rotary Family Picnic and Fireworks
- July 17 - Taste of Worthington
- July 25 - Christmas in July on the Village Green
- July 26 - Trifit Triathlon
- August 4 - National Night Out
- August 30 - International Picnic
- September 11 - Patriot Day Remembrance
- September 12 - Worthington Market Day Festival

Find Complete Event Details online
at Worthington.org

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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Neighborhood Grants Apply today!

The City of Worthington Community Relations Commission (CRC) invites residents and groups to apply for a Neighborhood and Community Development Seed Grant. The purpose of this grant program is to encourage strong neighborhoods and to encourage community activities that align with the mission of the CRC – to promote tolerance, diversity and inclusiveness in Worthington. Each year, the CRC also picks an additional priority to encourage positive community engagement and change on a specific topic. In 2020, this topic is Make Worthington Age Friendly.

Grant projects should focus on one or more of these categories:

- Neighborhood Association Infrastructure Grant
- Diversity Awareness Grant
- Make Worthington Age Friendly Grant

Please visit the Community Relations Commission online at Worthington.org/CRC to view and download the 2020 Neighborhood and Community Development Seed Grant application form and for additional information.



The Application Deadline is April 17, 2020.

For questions, or more information, email Lori Trego at lori.trego@worthington.org or call 614-854-7171.