



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Fall 2021 Issue

Co-existing with Suburban Deer

Worthington residents appreciate our community's natural and peaceful surroundings. The deer you see in our neighborhoods value the same qualities we do. Deer are a hot topic of conversation in Worthington. People either love seeing them or hate them because they destroy their plants and gardens. Regardless of your view, there are some very important facts to know about deer and how we can safely co-exist in our community.

One sure sign of the changing season is that deer are more active and moving about. Fall is rutting, or mating season. Deer are most active at dusk and dawn, with bucks actively tracking nearby does. You may see them in the woods or fields, or even in your yards and on City streets. While deer are usually cautious, they can be less so during the rut. It is important to know how to avoid negative interactions.

What can you do? Rule number one is to never feed the deer. Feeding deer can cause them to lose their fear of humans and normalize roaming in human environments. Some food can make deer sick, possibly leading to death. Be sure to remove all food sources that may attract deer, such as pet food or garden plants and vegetables. Consider using deer deterrent products on your gardens.

It is also important to keep your distance, especially during the rut or during the spring fawning season. Always keep dogs on a leash and under close control. When deer are more active, you should also take down any unneeded nets, hammocks, or other yard equipment that a deer could get tangled in. If you see a deer that has been tangled up in something, it is best to leave them alone if they are exhibiting natural and healthy behaviors such as feeding and they can easily move around. We can co-exist peacefully by admiring them from afar.

If you notice unusual behavior and believe a deer to be sick or in distress, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-WILDLIFE or visit wildohio.gov. Find more information about co-existing with wildlife at worthington.org/wildlife.



Five Steps For Co-Existing With Suburban Deer

Worthington residents value our community's natural and peaceful landscape. Deer also value the same qualities which can lead to conflict. These tips may be helpful to prevent negative encounters with deer in our community.

- 1 DO NOT INTENTIONALLY FEED DEER**
Fed deer can lose their fear of humans, leading to behavior that may become aggressive. Deer are natural foragers and can get sick from eating food such as corn or bread.
- 2 REMOVE FOOD SOURCES**
Food sources may include unsecured waste or recycling receptacles, pet food, pet waste, or any fall tree fruit or garden vegetables. Easy access to food can lead deer to congregate in areas.
- 3 BE AWARE OF THE RUT**
Deer are more active during the rutting (mating) season which occurs between October and November. Make sure to take down any unneeded nets, hammocks, or other yard equipment that a deer could get tangled in.
- 4 FAWNING SEASON**
Does are most defensive between April and July when their fawns are born. Make sure to keep space between yourself and any deer you encounter and keep your pets on a leash to avoid any confrontations.
- 5 ON THE ROAD**
Be vigilant during the dusk and dawn hours when deer are the most active. If you see a single deer crossing the road, there is a good chance that more will follow.

Learn More: Worthington.org/Wildlife

Recycle Right, Worthington!

It's time to throw away your bad recycling habits

We take recycling and sustainability very seriously here in Worthington. Our community has been focusing on ways to save energy and create a cleaner, greener environment for many years. You would think we would be experts by now. Unfortunately, many people unknowingly toss items in their recycling carts that don't belong and can actually contaminate the entire batch of materials or cause problems with processing other recyclables.

That's why we are working with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) to educate our residents on ways to recycle household waste more effectively, so it truly makes a difference and keeps recyclables out of the landfill. The amount of waste generated by Franklin County is staggering. In fact, in 2020 alone, 2.5 million tons of waste were generated by residents and businesses – enough to fill Ohio Stadium four times. About half of that makes its way to the landfill.

There are a number of items, like carry-out cups from restaurants or coffee shops, plastic and foam food containers, clamshell fruit or vegetable containers, plastic bags and wire hangers that many people think can be placed in their curbside recycling cart but cannot. Improper items can tangle up and shut down equipment, cause serious delays, contaminate valid recyclables and bring added time and expense to the recycling process.

Here are some basic facts to help you recycle right. In Worthington and all of Franklin County, five types of materials are accepted for recycling. Everything else should be reused, donated, composted or disposed of safely.

The infographic is divided into two main sections: 'Recycle' (blue background) and 'Not Accepted' (orange background). The 'Recycle' section lists five categories of items accepted for recycling:

- Paper & Cardboard**: Please flatten.
- Plastic Bottles, Jugs & Tubs**: Lids and labels accepted.
- Glass Bottles & Jars**: All colors accepted.
- Metal Cans**: Remove personal tops.
- Cartons**: Rinse and remove lids.

The 'Not Accepted' section lists five categories of items that are not accepted:

- No Plastic or Foam Food Containers**
- No Tangles**: Ropes, wires, chains, clothing, or electronics.
- No Plastic Bags**: Return to retailer.
- No Cups**: Coffee or Party.

At the bottom of the infographic, it says: 'For questions, resources, and info on how and where to recycle, donate, or dispose of items, visit RecycleRight.org.' The SWACO logo is in the bottom right corner.

1. Paper and cardboard
2. Plastic bottles, jugs and tubs (this includes all yogurt containers)
3. Glass bottles and jars
4. Metal cans
5. Cartons

It is also important that recyclable items are prepared correctly before putting them in your cart. Cardboard boxes should be broken down and flattened and recyclables should be kept loose in the cart. Never bag your recyclables. Visit recycleright.org and use the "Recycle and Reuse Search Tool" to search for what and how certain items should be recycled.

Worthington and SWACO want to make recycling right as easy as possible for you. We're working together to get information and helpful recycling reminders in your hands. Watch for more information to come in the mail soon. You will receive a cling sticker for your home with a comprehensive list of what can and cannot be recycled. Information will also be included in a mailing from Local Waste. Also watch for helpful tips to be shared on the City's social media pages. All good reminders to help you recycle right at home and work. There is also an opportunity to tune in for a Worthington – SWACO Recycle Right Webinar, scheduled for December 8th at 6:30p.m. The webinar is 100% virtual, free to attend, will cover what you need to know about recycling in Worthington and provide a chance for you to ask all your recycling questions. **Register online at worthington.org/RecycleWebinar.**

You can find more information and stay updated at worthington.org/recycling. Together, we can recycle right, make a difference, and help improve our environment and community for years to come.

The graphic features the 'Recycle Right, Make a Difference' logo at the top. Below it, the text reads: 'WEBINAR December 8 - 6:30 pm Register: worthington.org/RecycleWebinar'.

Shop Small and Local

The holiday season is in full swing and, although we are still dealing with the challenges of the global pandemic, this year more activities are taking place and the season seems brighter.

One way you can help spread more cheer here in Worthington is to shop local. Thinking small and local can go a long way in helping others in our community. You can check items off your holiday shopping list right here in Worthington. By keeping your dollars local, you are helping Worthington's small business owners and supporting the local economy.

Looking for the perfect and easy gift that supports Worthington businesses? Buy Worthington Dollars! This e-gift card is accepted at 37 of your favorite Worthington shops and restaurants. Buy \$100 worth of cards and get a \$25 bonus card from FC Bank. Purchase Worthington Dollars at Experienceworthington.com.



Development News



Buildings are going up at the Worthington Gateway, on the site of the former Holiday Inn. Four buildings under construction along West Wilson Bridge Road will include a mix of retail, restaurants and other services. The site will also be home to a building on High Street and a 4-story mixed-use building that will include first floor retail/restaurants/office, second and third-floor office, and a hotel on the fourth floor.

Work is also beginning across the street at High North, where the Shops at Worthington Place mall is located. High North will transform into a mixed-used space with outdoor walkways and public gathering spaces. The proposal involves two phases and includes Class A office space, retail, and restaurants. A new aligned intersection is nearly complete that will connect High North and the Worthington Gateway, making it easier to access the businesses along this corridor.

Stay Informed about Development Proposals

There are a number of significant development proposals going through the review process with City Council, as well as the Architectural Review Board and Municipal Planning Commission. All proposals have opportunities for public input. Details and updates are posted at worthington.org/development, where you can sign up to receive project updates by text or email.

City Notes:

Firefighters for Kids & Food Drive - December 11

Help families in need this holiday season by donating toys and gifts to the Firefighters for Kids drive. Worthington Police are also collecting food to benefit the Worthington Food Pantry. The drive-thru drop-off for toys, gifts and food is Saturday, December 11 from 8am to 3pm at the Worthington Fire Department, 6500 N. High Street. Donated toys should be new and unwrapped.

Download the WorthingtonOhio Mobile App

Keep the City of Worthington at your fingertips with the new WorthingtonOhio mobile app. Search Worthington Ohio in the Apple or Google app stores and download the app to stay up to date on news, events, projects and opportunities. You can also submit service requests directly from your phone, receive alert notifications, search job openings, and much more. If you had the old version of the app installed on your phone, it will automatically update for Android users. iPhone users can delete the old "CivicMobile" app and install the new WorthingtonOhio app for full updated functionality.



Online Garage Sale and Block Party Permit Applications

The City of Worthington has streamlined its permit process for obtaining garage sale and block party permits. The fee has been eliminated and both can be submitted directly online. Visit worthington.org/permitapplications.

COVID-19 Updates Online

Find the latest updates and information about vaccines, mask requirements and the current COVID-19 situation at worthington.org/coronavirus.

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

614-431-2424 – 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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Help make Worthington Age-Friendly

The Worthington community is committed to being a place that promotes successful aging and improves the quality of life for people of all ages. Community partners are working together on the Age-Friendly Initiative to create and showcase community features and programs that impact the well-being of older adults and help make communities more livable for everyone.

We invite you to share your feedback and ideas for how Age-Friendly Worthington could further impact and improve the quality of life for people of all ages.

A survey is currently online and there are a series of focus groups being scheduled for December. Focus groups are intended to dive into deeper conversations with small groups of people who can elaborate on thoughts around aging in Worthington beyond the questions of a survey. These conversations will help us gain more insight into aging in our community and how to best plan a course of action as we become an age-friendly and livable community.



Visit worthington.org/agefriendly to learn more about the Age-Friendly initiative, take the survey or for more information about how to sign up for the focus groups.

You can also request a paper copy of the survey. Email colleen.light@worthington.org or call 614-781-3527.