



## The Arts are Alive at the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center



Construction of the new Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center of Worthington is complete. The ribbon has been cut and, if the opening events are any indication, the MAC will

be a big success. A partnership between the City of Worthington, Worthington Schools and the Worthington Arts Council, the project over 10 years in the making is now a reality. Located at the corner of Dublin Granville Road and Evening Street, the former Worthington High School and old Packard Annex has been transformed into a multi-disciplinary venue for performing, visual and literary arts. Residents and visitors will enjoy performing arts in the 213 seat



*Cutting the Ribbon at the Grand Opening:*

*(l to r) Jon Cook, MAC Executive Director; Cathy Lyttle, MAC Board President; John H. McConnell II, grandson of the late John H. McConnell; Worthington Mayor Harvey Minton; Nancy Goorey, Capital Campaign Chair.*

theatre, visual arts in the galleries and enroll in ceramics, drawing, painting or dance classes in fully equipt studios. The Grand Opening Celebration and Ribbon Cutting took place on November 8th, with kids, families, former Worthington High School students, donors and City officials coming together to celebrate the opening. The opening exhibit has also been drawing crowds. *Dorothy Gill Barnes: Generations, Marks in Time* runs through December 27th. Other upcoming events include: Handel's Messiah Community Sing-Along on November 28th & 29th, Worthington

Chorus "A Hero's Song - Home of the Free Because of the Brave," on December 6th, and a Worthington Area Art League Exhibition. For more information and a complete schedule visit [www.mcconnellarts.org](http://www.mcconnellarts.org) or call (614) 431-0329

## 2010 Budget and Financial Updates Available Online ~

[www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)

As part of the City of Worthington's commitment to transparency and open government, the City is making the 2010 proposed budget available online for public review. By reviewing the 2010 Budget, residents can more fully understand the financial health of the city, as well as the key objectives and goals behind the City's budget decisions. In addition to the budget document, departmental presentations are also available to view, which outline the specifics for each department's area of the budget. We welcome your input and/or questions as we consider the financial future for our community. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) and click on the budget link on the home page. Follow the links to review the Budget document, view budget presentations and to submit questions or comments.

In addition, monthly income tax collection updates are posted online detailing the current situation of City finances.

## CITY NOTES

### Follow Worthington on Facebook and Twitter

The City of Worthington is now a part of the conversation with community members through social networking tools Twitter and Facebook. Now you can get the latest information and news about the City of Worthington by becoming a fan on Facebook and following the City's tweets on Twitter. Visit [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) to sign up.

### Leaf Pick up Continues through December 4th

New technologies and equipment are allowing crews to collect leaves citywide each week. Please rake leaves to the curb by Monday morning each week. Please remove vehicles from the street and do not place leaves near any signs, trees or other obstructions as the leaf equipment will not be able to reach the leaves around any obstructions.



*Artist Jim Glover gives a demonstration during the Grand Opening Celebration*

## Worthington Development News

### Kilbourne Memorial Library Improvements

The exterior of the Kilbourne Memorial Library building at 752 High Street has a brighter look these days. Work has begun on upgrades to the former library and School Board office, now owned by the City of Worthington. The building is getting a facelift with many exterior improvements. The project includes new landscaping, repair and repainting of exterior wood trim and windows, brick repairs, installing new rain gutters and a new metal roof. The work on the building is expected to take 60 to 90 days, weather permitting. New landscaping will be installed in the spring of 2010.



City Council recently rezoned the property on the northeast quadrant of Worthington's Village Green, with plans of opening up that site for more flexible commercial uses. The Community Improvement Corporation is developing a marketing strategy to attract a suitable tenant for the historic site. For more information, contact the City of Worthington at (614) 436-3100.

### East Wilson Bridge Road Redevelopment Study

The City of Worthington is beginning a planning study into rezoning and redevelopment of land on the south side of East Wilson Bridge Road, which is currently zoned primarily residential. Worthington is a fully developed community with few opportunities for redevelopment which will increase the tax base. The 2005 Comprehensive Plan identified this area for high quality commercial development and the Community Improvement Corporation has recommended the City develop an overlay district or other effective planning tools to ensure coordinated development at this location in conjunction with rezoning the property for commercial use.

The City of Worthington has contracted with planning consultants Bird Houk Collaborative to assist with the evaluation of alternatives and planning tools. The goal is to develop a plan which maximizes the economic potential of the land while being sensitive to surrounding residential areas. In addition to specific aesthetic concerns for the site, bike and pedestrian access and traffic concerns will be considered as part of the plan. The City is working with a steering committee made up of neighborhood residents, City officials, business leaders and planners. There will be several opportunities for public input. Complete information about the project is available online at [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org).



The City of Worthington, Worthington Schools and Worthington Libraries are working together to plan for the long term stability of our community by collaboratively taking steps to identify goals and priorities for the future. The planning process is guided by a steering committee made up of community members and has been dubbed "Worthington Area 360°... *Shaping our Future Together.*"

The goal of the partnership is to use the information gathered through community research and input to support each organization's strategic planning and to identify potential opportunities for future partnership among the organizations to effectively address community needs. Research has already included a number of focus groups and a statistically valid telephone survey of randomly selected residents living either within the City or School District boundaries. In January 2010, a group of community members has been invited to participate in a community visioning conference which will further identify priorities for the future. Resident will have more chances to provide input through additional public meetings which will be announced. For more information, please call Anne Brown at 854-7173.



The City of Worthington continues to work with our health agency, Columbus Public Health, to monitor the H1N1 Pandemic and provide updated and accurate information to the public. Immunization clinics continue to take place and the vaccination is becoming more readily available. For a complete schedule of immunization locations and important tips to prevent the spread of H1N1, please visit [ColumbusPandemicFlu.org](http://ColumbusPandemicFlu.org).

## Nomination Deadline Extended for the Good Neighborhood Award

The nomination deadline has been extended to November 30<sup>th</sup> for Worthington citizens to nominate their neighbors for the Good Neighbor Award. The previous deadline had been October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Do you have a neighbor who volunteers when no one else will, lends a helping hand without being asked, whose efforts both large and small make Worthington a better place to live? Please take time to nominate them for the 2009 Good Neighbor Award. Individuals who make our neighborhoods

and our community such a special place to live often go about their good deeds without any special recognition. Nomination forms are available online at [www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org) by following the link on the home page, or paper copies may be picked up at the Worthington Municipal Building, the Griswold Center or by calling 436-3100. The Community Relations Commission presents the Good Neighbor Award each year to thank members of the community who promote cooperation and goodwill throughout their neighborhood.



With the holiday season approaching, there is a new resource available to families or individuals who are in need of food basics or other resources to help them get back on their feet. The Worthington Food Pantry and Resource Center is a volunteer community based initiative organized by the Healthy Worthington Coalition and its Food for Families program. The Pantry is open to anyone who lives or works in the Worthington School District and offers a friendly and confidential place to assist people in need. With the current economic conditions, food pantries are experiencing a sharp increase in the number of people being served. A First Link referral is necessary for individuals seeking the Pantry's services. First Link can be contacted by calling 2-

1-1 or 341-2282. The Worthington Pantry provides a three day supply of staple items such as spaghetti, peanut butter, crackers, bread, soups, canned fruit, cereal, etc.. They also have a selection of personal items such as general toiletries and baby care items available. Donations of food, toiletries and money are needed to help keep the Pantry's shelves stocked. The Pantry is open every Wednesday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., except on major holidays. It is currently located on the grounds of the United Methodist Children's Home, but is looking for a more permanent home. For more information, please call 885-5020 x519 or visit the Pantry online at [www.WorthingtonFoodPantry.org](http://www.WorthingtonFoodPantry.org).

## Village Green Walking Tour

Stroll the beautiful Village Green and enjoy the trees that breathe life into our historic central park. The Worthington Arbor Advisory Committee created a guide that maps and identifies all the trees located on the Village Green. The common and scientific names are given, followed by a brief overview of the species. Walking tour brochures can be picked up at the Griswold Center, Library and other downtown locations.



## Mark your Calendar for these Special Dates and Events

### Indoor Winter Farmers Market:

The popular indoor Winter Farmers Market returns, 10am - 1pm :

- ◆ November 21, December 12
- ◆ Saturdays January 2nd - April 24th

Griswold Center ~ 777 High Street

### Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 29th

**Noon - 5:30 p.m.** - Stroll Old Worthington's sidewalks and enjoy musical entertainment, shopping, holiday cheer and an old fashioned carriage ride.  
**5:30 p.m.** - Watch as hundreds of lights illuminate the sky for Worthington's annual tree lighting ceremony on the southeast corner of the historic Village Green. Call 436-2743 for information.

### Illuminating Shopping Event:

Thursday, December 3rd, 6pm - 9pm  
A special evening of holiday shopping among the lights of beautiful downtown Worthington. Refreshment and ride in Cinderella's carriage await you!  
Visit [www.owba.net](http://www.owba.net)

### Municipal Offices Holiday Hours

City of Worthington municipal offices will be closed the following dates:

- ◆ November 26th and 27th in recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- ◆ Municipal offices will close at Noon on Thursday, December 24th and remain closed on Friday, December 25th.
- ◆ Municipal offices will close at Noon on Thursday, December 31st and remain closed on Friday, January 1st.

### Community Center Holiday Hours

- ◆ Thanksgiving, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ Christmas Eve, 6:00 a.m. to Noon
- ◆ Christmas Day, CLOSED
- ◆ New Years Eve, 6:00 a.m. to Noon
- ◆ New Years Day, Noon to 6:00 p.m.

### Holiday Trash Pick up

- ◆ Trash Collection is being shifted to Saturday during the holiday weeks of Thanksgiving (11/28); Christmas (12/26); and New Years (1/2).

### 2010 Events

- ◆ January 18th - Martin Luther King Day Community Celebration
- ◆ February 5th - Worthington International Friendship Association International Dinner

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

## How to Reach Us

### Municipal Administration Building

436-3100 -- 6550 N. High St.  
*City Manager's office, Development, Planning & Zoning, City Clerk, 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*

### Division of Police

885-4463 -- 6555 Worthington Galena Rd.

### Division of Fire and EMS

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

Visit us online at

[www.worthington.org](http://www.worthington.org)



PRSRST STD  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 WORTHINGTON OH  
 PERMIT NO 155-W

## City of Worthington Firefighters Community Park

Generous donations are bringing the Worthington Firefighters Community Park closer to reality. Worthington firefighters have been drawing up designs and raising funds and donations for the past few years to develop a community park to honor all past, present and future firefighters of Sharon Township and the City of Worthington. Anonymous donations from a local business and individuals have brought in nearly \$30,000 to build the project. The donations were given to the Fund by donors wishing to recognize and show thanks to the Worthington firefighters who have made a difference by aiding friends and family members during emergency situations. The largest donation, \$27,785, is funding the creation of an original bronze sculpture, "Missing but not Forgotten," by artist Ron Dewey. Two other donations are funding benches in honor of family members. In addition to the sculpture, the park will include a dedication wall



honoring fallen firefighters and those who have served the Division for five or more years, flag poles for the U.S., Ohio and Worthington flags, benches and landscaping. Groundbreaking is expected to take place in the spring of 2010. The Firefighters Community Park Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) tax deductible foundation, is continuing its fundraising efforts by hosting a raffle. Tickets are \$10 each or 2 for \$15. The deadline for purchasing tickets is December 1, 2009. The grand prize package includes a \$3,000 shopping spree, a 3day/2 night stay at the Hilton Easton and dinner for two at Smith & Wollensky. Engraved bricks are also available for purchase at \$50 each. To purchase raffle tickets or for more information, contact Firefighter Ted Heineman at [theineman@ci.worthington.oh.us](mailto:theineman@ci.worthington.oh.us) or by calling the Division of Fire at 885-7640.