



City of Worthington Financial Report

As Worthington residents, businesses and partners, you may be wondering how today's difficult economic times are affecting your community. Like many businesses and individuals, the City of Worthington is dealing with declines in revenue and having to make adjustments to remain financially stable during this economic downturn. The City of Worthington is committed to providing current information to the community about our financial condition and our plans for addressing revenue losses. This update contains information shared with City Council in June. Regular updates will continue to be posted on the Finance Department page of the Worthington website at www.worthington.org. As we close out each month's income tax collections we will update the City Council and post the information to our website.

Year-to-Date Shortfall

Through May 2009, the City's income tax revenues were down 13.4%. This

represents a shortfall of \$773,971 in the General Fund Operating accounts, \$61,918 in Reserve accounts, and \$131,575 in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) account. June revenues were up slightly and the City will continue to monitor the revenue trends for future updates of the financial forecast. The June update has been posted online at www.worthington.org.

Forecast for the Remainder of 2009

In recent weeks, the City has conducted an extensive review of the withholding, corporate net profit, and individual income tax collections to date. We believe income tax collections, which account for over 60% of general fund revenues, will be down 9.3% at the end of Fiscal Year 2009 or \$1,561,499. This represents a year-end shortfall of \$1,249,199 in the General Fund Operating accounts, \$99,936 in Reserve accounts, and \$212,364 in the Capital Improvement Program account. The basis for this forecast and how it impacts the 5-year financial forecast for both the General

and the CIP Funds can be found online at www.worthington.org.

This drop in revenue necessitates mid-year adjustments to the budget. We have approached these adjustments/reductions with several goals:

- To maintain service levels and minimize negative impacts on our citizenry
- To avoid layoffs of City employees
- To not exhaust our Carryover and Reserve accounts
- To avoid additional deferred maintenance of City facilities.

Proposed Reductions

Proposed reductions in the CIP total \$1,518,000. Most equipment that has not already been purchased or ordered has been cut. Capital projects have been reduced to those that are legally mandated, address existing deferred maintenance of City facilities, or where we have committed to accomplishing a project within a certain time frame. All others are proposed to be delayed.

In the General Fund Operating budget, the proposed mid-year reductions total \$654,544 and include adjustments in every department that range from not filling open/vacant positions, to reducing training allocations, and adjusting budget estimates to reflect lower recessionary costs. There are no proposed layoffs. Personnel savings identified for reduction are from salary and benefit savings from not filling vacant positions and reductions in overtime accounts.

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CITY NOTES

Garage Sales & Block Parties

If you're planning a garage sale this summer, a permit must be obtained from the Worthington City Clerk's office, 6550 N. High Street. There is a \$2 fee and the permit is valid for up to three consecutive days or two consecutive weekends.

Block Party permits can be obtained with a \$25 deposit, which is fully refundable. Permit forms may also be downloaded online at www.worthington.org. Call 436-3100 for more information.

Police Officer and Firefighter of the Year

Congratulations to Worthington Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Craig and Police Officer Ryan Waring for being named Firefighter and Police Officer of the Year by the American Legion Post 239 in Worthington. Firefighter Craig was honored for his hard work and knowledge on disaster and pandemic flu preparedness and Officer Waring for his due diligence and dedication to serving the Worthington Community.

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City Council has approved the use of one-time revenues (carry-over fund balance or Reserves) to cover the projected shortfall through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2009. Our projections indicate that we will have to again use one-time revenues to prop-up the Operating Budget in FY 2010.

Forecast for 2010

We will continue to evaluate additional cost saving measures as we develop the 2010 budget later this summer and fall. With no increase in revenues anticipated in 2010, we will need to prepare a budget that limits expenditures.

Residents will have a chance to provide input into the budget and financial planning process. The City is planning to gather information from residents about their priorities for City services and hope that residents take this opportunity to get involved. We will post more information on these opportunities as it becomes available. If you have any questions please call the City of Worthington at 436-3100.

Join the Neighborhood Network

Stay informed about what's going on in the Worthington community and help spread the news to your neighbors by joining the Worthington Neighborhood Network community building and information sharing program. Neighborhood Network members receive information from the City through e-mail or regular mail and pass it along to their neighbors through e-mail, a neighborhood newsletter, flyers or word of mouth. They will also be a contact for their neighbors to get information to the City about happenings in their neighborhood. To sign up for the Neighborhood Network, please send an email to Anne Brown at brown@ci.worthington.oh.us. Call 854-7173 for more information.

Proposed COTA Route Changes Affect Worthington Riders

The Central Ohio Transit Authority is proposing changes to its Worthington routes, which would significantly reduce bus service to residents and businesses in the City of Worthington. If implemented, the changes would eliminate a number of local stops on the #2 route in the Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington Estates, and Colonial Hills areas. The #31 express route through Worthington Estates would remain unchanged. Maps of the proposed route eliminations are available to view



online at www.worthington.org. Follow the link directly from the home page. Residents and businesses may provide input into the proposal either online or over the phone. If you would like to submit a comment about these proposed changes, or have questions concerning information in the Commuter Bulletin, please contact COTA's Customer Service Center at 228-1776. Comments or questions may also be submitted via the COTA website at www.cota.com.

Business Briefs

City of Worthington Welcomes Value Recovery Group to Business Community

The City of Worthington is pleased to welcome a new company to the Worthington business community. Value Recovery Holding, a subsidiary of Value Recovery Group, a provider of financial recovery services to public and private organizations, is expanding its national presence with a third location at 1018 Proprietors Road in Worthington. The company's other locations are in Columbus, Ohio; Herndon, Virginia; and Washington, D.C. Value Recovery Group will bring up to 45 new jobs within the first year and may staff up to 90 people within 5 years. "The City of Worthington is happy to support the growth of Value Recovery Group," said Worthington City Manager Matt Greeson. "We are seeing reinvestment along Proprietors Road and we are pleased to see Value Recovery Group expanding on that trend. We look forward to welcoming their new employees to the Worthington community." Value Recovery Group was the recipient of a Venture Grant from the City of Worthington, assisting in the company's efforts to expand in Worthington. The Venture Grant program provides grants to new and expanding Worthington businesses that meet minimum employment

and payroll thresholds. The amount of the grant is related to the company's projected payroll over the next five or more years. Value Recovery Group resolves financial obligations for debtors and creditors by providing creative solutions for its clients. It performs asset management, advisory and asset recovery services for commercial banks, thrifts, private investors and financial agencies including FDIC, US Dept. of Education as well as state and local government agencies.

Website Improvements Good for Business

A new property search feature has been added to the Worthington website, www.worthington.org, to assist businesses looking to locate in Worthington. The new feature can be accessed directly from the home page. The search database is generated by Xceligent and lists available properties for sale or lease in the City of Worthington. Businesses enter their search criteria for space, location and lease rates and instantly receive a list of available properties in Worthington. The listings include photos, maps and other pertinent information. Visit www.worthington.org to check out this new feature, as well as some other updates to our homepage.

Summer in the City

The City of Worthington invites you to join us for these fun family events taking place in Worthington this summer.

Saturdays through October - FARMERS MARKET - 9 a.m. - noon

Vendors line the downtown streets for the summertime tradition selling fresh produce, plants, meats and other homemade goodies.

Sundays through August 9 - CONCERTS ON THE GREEN - 7:00 p.m.

Bring the family and enjoy this Worthington summertime tradition every Sunday evening on the northwest corner of the beautiful and historic Village Green. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. For a complete schedule visit www.worthington.org/events.

July 4 - WORTHINGTON ROTARY FAMILY PICNIC - 5:00 p.m.

A pre-fireworks family tradition! Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy a family picnic on the lawn of Thomas Worthington High School. Entertainment, food and SuperGames will be on site for kids of all ages to enjoy. Stay for the Fireworks!

July 4 - FIREWORKS - 10 p.m.

The holiday fireworks will be presented at Thomas Worthington High School Stadium.

July 5 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 6:30 p.m.

This family event is sponsored by the Worthington Historical Society. Enjoy delicious homemade desserts with ice cream on the northwest corner of the Village Green.

July 10 - A TASTE OF WORTHINGTON - 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Local restaurants feature their most popular dishes. Family activities include face painting and games for kids. OfficeScape Corporate Center, West Wilson Bridge Rd. \$1 at the gate. Sponsored by the Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, 888-3040.

July 18 - TREASURES ON THE GREEN (formerly Haggler's Day) - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

18th annual community antique, collectibles and flea market on the Worthington Village Green. Sponsored by the Olde Worthington Business Association, www.owba.net.

July 31 & August 7 - FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES - 9:00 p.m.

Outdoor under the stars at the Hartford Street baseball diamonds at the corner of Stafford and Hartford. July 31st - *Wizard of Oz*; August 7 - *An American Tail*. Bring a blanket, lawn chair and a wagon full of kids! Sponsored through a partnership with the Worthington Libraries and Worthington Parks and Recreation.

August 9 - ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Worthington Presbyterian Church on their front lawn at the Worthington Village Green. Nominal cost per person.

August 15 & 16 - Howard Alan Arts Festival

Browse the fine art at the annual Worthington Square arts festival held in the south parking lot of the mall. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on August 15th and 16th.

September 19 - OLD WORTHINGTON MARKET DAY – 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Handmade arts and crafts, food and entertainment. On High Street from Rt. 161 to South St. and all Village Green quadrants. Sponsored by Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, 888-3040.

Renovation Continues on the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center:

The plastic is still on the windows at the Packard Annex, but both construction and programming continues to progress on the soul of the Peggy R. McConnell Arts Center, located at the corner of Evening Street and West Dublin Granville Rd. Projected to open early this fall, the Center will serve as a gathering place where the community and arts intersect. Residents and visitors will be able to experience the performing arts on an intimate level in the 219 seat theatre, or enroll in a ceramics, drawing, painting or dance class in fully equipped studios. Strolling through the galleries, viewers will be inspired by the greatness of what both local and national artists have to offer.



Current exhibitions and activities:

We Are So Lightly Here: an exhibit by artist Kathleen Pepicello. Worthington Community Center, 345 E. Wilson Bridge Rd, though July 27, 2009.

Imagination Visualized: by Mark Enyart. Worthington Municipal Building, 6550 North High St., 2nd Floor, June 29 – August 24, 2009.

Camp Creativity, art camp for kids ages 6-12, July 13- 17 and *ARTventure*, ages 6-13, July 27- July 31.

For additional information, please contact the McConnell Arts Center at (614) 431-0329 or visit worthingtonarts.org.

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 Senior Center

842-6320 -- 777 High St.
Senior Recreation Programs

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



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Olentangy Parklands Revitalization Project

Residents and visitors may have already noticed the changes underway at the Olentangy Parklands in the City of Worthington. The enhancements are designed to improve the natural setting of the bikeway and park along the river and benefit users. This will be achieved through tree restoration and reforestation, woodchip paths for walkers and low maintenance meadow areas that promote bird and other wildlife habitat. The following projects are underway:

- American Elm Restoration - Tree planting in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service to repopulate disease resistant American Elm trees.
- Olentangy Reforestation Plan - The planting of native hardwood seedlings from the Worthington Tree Nursery in areas where honeysuckle and dead pioneer species trees have been removed, as well as establishing fields of prairie and other native grasses mixed with groves of trees. This will reduce mowing but also will

provide habitat for birds and wildlife. Areas will be mowed once a year to control succession of woody plants. The work will also be promoted with signage.

- Wood Chip Paths – This new walking trail will run from the skate park to the bridge at Tucker drive entrance. The woodchips used for the path were generated from the trees downed during the Hurricane Ike windstorm



The new woodchip paths offer a scenic walking or running path without bicycle traffic.

and during regular park maintenance.

- Donated Benches – Thanks to the generosity of a Worthington resident, two benches were recently installed after an old bench was broken by a fallen tree during the hurricane.
 - New Bikeway Signage - In conjunction with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, new signage on our section of the bike trail will be installed that will be uniform with all of central Ohio.
 - Visibility Improvements – Removal of overgrown honeysuckle and introduction of plant material that will stay low and choke out the honeysuckle.
 - Playground Renovations - Both the Highgate and Whitney playgrounds are in the design phase of renovation.
 - Tennis Court Resurfacing
- A number of other initiatives are also being considered. Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Olentangy Parklands in Worthington to experience all the improvements first hand.