

1803 **2003**
WORTHINGTON
"Building the Future with Pioneering Spirit"

Worthington Bicentennial

Homecoming Weekend Parade

July 5, 2003



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Worthington's history comes to life through today's parade, which along with the events at Thomas Worthington High School has been made possible only through the generous support of so many members of our community, particularly official sponsor Guernsey Bank. Bank President Robert Patrella follows the American Legion color guard, riding in a snappy '53 Corvette. Governor Bob Taft and First Lady Hope Taft celebrate with us, as they ride along on the lead wagon of the Bicentennial Wagon Train.

Bicentennial Parade Entries

Color Guard ~ Leasure-Blackston Post 239 of the American Legion

The American Legion Color Guard presents the National Colors to honor America, the land that nurtures even today the pioneering spirit which motivated Worthington's founders. The Post, headquartered on Morning Street just south of Rt. 161, was founded in 1919 and for over 50 years has organized, produced and directed the Memorial Day Parade in Worthington. All rise, gentlemen remove any headgear, and all please place your hand over your heart or, if in uniform, render a hand salute -- the appropriate responses any time a flag is presented or passes by in a parade. The National Anthem will be played by the Central Ohio Youth Band of the Salvation Army from their concert position on the Northwest Village Green.

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8:

The Ohio Bicentennial Wagon Train

An official State of Ohio Bicentennial project – first conceived in planning for the Worthington Bicentennial – replicates the trip made from Granby, Connecticut to land of the Scioto Company on the banks of what is now the Olentangy River – a land of new opportunity. Riders in today's thirteen wagons are gaining a partial insight into what was involved in making such a trip in 1803. The Bicentennial Wagon Train is on a cross-state journey, traveling more than 275 miles from Ohio's east to west borders. To get a closer look at what was then modern transportation, visit Thomas Worthington High School after the parade. The wagons will be on display in front of the main entrance of the school – and adjacent to the Ox Roast site (in case you didn't bring "provisions" with you to the parade!

Catholic War Veterans Post 1936

Post 1936 is composed of Worthington and Columbus area veterans who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other conflicts. Today a representative number of members of the Post are serving as color guard as they march and ride down High Street.

9. Descendants' Float ~ Worthington Historical Society

Descendants of the first settlers of Worthington have returned to celebrate the Bicentennial. From high atop this horse-drawn wagon they can view the modern-day city that their forbearers came from Connecticut to create.

10. New England Lodge #4, F. & A.M.

James Kilbourne carried the charter for the Worthington Lodge from Granby, Connecticut to Worthington in 1803. In the group's early years meetings were held in members' homes until the temple was completed in the 1820's. The float, furnished with antiques from the New England Lodge's original meeting room, features a one-of-a-kind stainless steel square and compass nearly 6 feet tall, revolving once per minute. Early lodge leaders James Kilbourne, John Snow and Ezra Griswold are represented by riders in period costume and are accompanied by 50 – 100 lodge members marching alongside.

11. Worthington Public Libraries

In August of 1803, before the pioneers left Connecticut, they assessed themselves two dollars each to buy books for Worthington's first library, which was established by the Scioto Company and opened in December. Today's patrons may take their library for granted, but these settlers were unique and their insistence on founding a library marked them as distinct from almost all other settlements on the American frontier. Many larger and older communities east of the Appalachians did not have such services. Library services were that important to Worthington's original settlers and they remain so today. Today, Worthington Libraries continue to provide services to area residents and promote two of the city's founding principles: lifelong learning and education. In 2002, the library circulated over two million items to its patrons in the Worthington School District and surrounding area. The Library's float represents the route taken by the Scioto Company, from Connecticut to Ohio. Each of the four books on the float represents 50 years of service in the community. The open book contains a pop-up covered wagon depicting the long journey from Granby, Connecticut, to Worthington.

12. Teays Valley High School Marching Band

When the settlers arrived the Scioto Valley was already home to many Native Americans. The Teays Valley was rich hunting and agricultural territory then and continues to own the latter distinction today. We're pleased to have this fine high school band, directed by Stephanie Smith, with us today.

13. *Following the Dusty Trail ~ Sunrise Senior Living of Worthington*

Many Sunrise residents have been Worthington citizens for many, many years and first hand witnesses to a wealth of community history. The Sunrise wagon depicts the journey that brought the early settlers to Worthington.

14. *Sunrise Senior Living of Worthington*

Please join us all in saluting those folks who helped guide the growth of the values upon which our community was formed in 1803 and which have been tested by social and economic challenges over the years.

15. *The Ezra Griswold House ~ Owens Construction, Partners for Citizenship and Character, and Worthington Schools*

This float depicts the Griswold House, a historic home associated in folklore with one of our first settlers and being renovated by Bill Owens Construction. Proceeds from the sale of this home will be donated back to the community through Partners for Citizenship and Character. The playhouse on this float will be donated to the All Children's Playground.

16. *Early Dwellings ~ Worthington Historical Society*

Log cabins and Native American dwellings dotted the landscape of Worthington in the 1800s. This float depicts the early settlers and their homes and is sponsored by the Worthington Historical Society, formed in 1955. Three classes of fifth graders at Wilson Hills Elementary School have constructed a model of downtown Worthington including working models of the interurban railroad which once bisected the community from north to south. You may want to check out the model in the lobby of the Old Worthington Library, 820 High Street.

17. *Westward, Ho! ~ Bluffsvew Elementary School*

School children and their parents dressed in period clothes are featured in this float depicting a covered wagon and early settlers. In fact, they are providing the "horse power" for this float, which was built by Bluffsvew parent Richard Martinski for the school's elaborate Bicentennial events.

18. *The First Episcopal Church in Ohio ~ St. John's Church*

St. John's history dates to February 1804, when the articles of agreement were executed to form what became the first Episcopal society in Ohio. In August of the same year, the Scioto Company divided 8000 acres into farm lots and 164 town lots, reserving two for the church on the public square where it stands today. This entry, a horse-drawn antique wagon, is reminiscent of that time when the church was formed and horse power brought Worthington citizens to prayer.

19. *Look out, Squirrels! ~ Worthington Estates Elementary*

This float, developed by parents and students of Worthington Estates Elementary School, depicts the Squirrel Tax of 1808. Imposed by city leaders in Worthington to address an overabundance of the furry critters, a reported 1,257 squirrels met their demise as a result. No doubt some of their descendants are watching today's parade from the relative safety of the treetops of the Village Green!

20. *Carey High School Marching Band*

Carey is located in Wyandot County, the final home in Ohio of the Wyandot "Indians." It was from around the missionary church in Wyandot County that the descendants of some of the Native Americans who welcomed the Granby settlers to Ohio were assembled and sent to the Oklahoma reservations. The history of Worthington mentions a venerated "chief" of the Wyandots who lived here among the early settlers for many years as the community grew. Please welcome their Director Philip Miller and the *Pride of Carey Blue Devil Marching Band*.

21. *Vintage Horse-drawn Hearse; Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Service*

When the first Schoedinger chapel in Worthington opened in 1994, they already had been a Central Ohio family owned business since the 1850s. Early Worthington residents might have glimpsed a horse-drawn hearse such as the one presented today as their loved ones were laid to rest after years of toil in building our city.

22. *Follow the North Star - for the Underground Railroad, St. Johns' AME Church*

Worthington was a long-ago stop on the underground railroad, as depicted by this float, which moves down the streets of this city of cultural diversity. African Americans have been an integral part of Worthington since its earliest days. On April 3, 1856, Henry and Dolly Turk became the first African Americans in the village to own their own home. Their purchase followed the platting of the Morris Addition, Worthington's first subdivision with financing provided by Methodists to encourage homeownership for retired ministers and African Americans. St. John's A.M.E. Church is a central part of Worthington religious life today and traces its heritage back to the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church organized in 1897.

23. *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? ~ Civil War ReEnactors*

This unit represents soldiers from the 46th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which was formed in Worthington in 1861. Thomas Worthington was the regiment's first colonel. The 46th

sent 975 men to fight for the Union, and was engaged at Shiloh, laid siege to Vicksburg and entered Georgia with fellow Ohioan William T. Sherman. The 46th was with Sherman on his march to the sea and helped him present President Lincoln with a Christmas gift in 1864 – the City of Savannah. From there the Worthington regiment followed the line of battle all the way to the South's final surrender east of the Mississippi at Bentonville. At the conclusion of the war, the 46th Ohio Volunteer Infantry participated in the Grand March of the army of the republic on May 24 1865 in Washington, D.C. The regiment lost 20 men captured, and 705 men were killed, wounded, or died of disease.

24. Horse Drawn Hearse –Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home.

Families of Civil War soldiers like those in the 46th often had to travel to the battlefields themselves to claim their son or husband's bodies. If they were lucky, the dead were treated to a formal funeral and carried in a handsome hearse like this one to a final resting place close to home, perhaps in a cemetery like Walnut Grove. More likely, they were buried where they fell, often in unmarked shallow graves.

25. Off to school! ~ First Worthington Kindergarten at Ohio Normal ~ Regina Weilbacher Rosier, Ph.D.

Education has always been important in Worthington — the original settlers valued learning. Witness the fact that a farm lot and town lot were set aside for the schools in the original platting of the town. Thomas Worthington High School is on that original farm lot today! Worthington also was home to one of the earliest kindergartens and kindergarten teacher training schools in the country, as this Mini-Cooper proudly boasts. Professor Rosier and Worthington resident Dr. Margaret Kostel sport period clothing as they drive this four-wheeled salute to Anna Ogden, who along with her husband John spent from 1871-1881 in Worthington, launching this early childhood education innovation.

26. Not on the Green, You Don't! ~ Wilson Hill Elementary School

Some things never change! The Village Green has always been sacred. Wilson Hill Elementary School PTO's float chronicles the changes to laws concerning the use of the Village Green for sports and leisure activities. Did you know, for instance, that in 1885, playing ball of any type on the Village Green was illegal...in fact, you could be jailed for 20 days! This float features the Village Green with the different ordinances posted. Five groups of adults and school children march wearing shirts in different colors depending on the year they are depicting .

27. *Get me to the Depot on Time! ~ Lou Griffith, The Griffith Company, Landscaping and Design*

This vintage vehicle, a 1927 Ford Model T, was built as a "Depot Hack" or taxi. It was used by hotels and railroads to transport passengers to and from train stations and hotels. It was used either in its original configuration (open sides) or with soft sides added to provide cover from the elements. Chances are pretty good that a vehicle like this took weary travelers from the train station east of town to the Worthington Inn – which around 1927 was probably called the Central House, the name given to it by George Van Loon who purchased it in 1893 and renamed it (it was the Bishop House). The oldest portion of the Worthington Inn was constructed as a residence for the Cowles family in 1835.

28. *All Aboard! ~ Ohio Railway Museum*

This unit is sponsored by the Ohio Railway Museum and features an antique baggage cart loaded with period luggage from the 1930s and '40s, along with a railroad conductor, engineer, and passenger car "hostess" in uniforms of the day. The Ohio Railway Museum is operated by volunteers who present this entry as a reminder of a mode of transportation which was so important to Worthington in the "old days."

29. *Capital City Pipes and Drums*

The Scots have always been well represented in the wave of settlers coming into the Ohio Territory. However, their route to Ohio was more likely through the Cumberland Gap and passages to the south as opposed to the route taken by the Kilbourne party from Connecticut. Please welcome the Capital City Pipes and Drums.

30. *To Market, To Market ~ Olde Worthington Business Association (OWBA)*

This float commemorates the historic business district of downtown Worthington which very early in its settlement became the village's bustling commercial center. Early buildings still standing today are occupied by the Worthington Inn and the Curio Cabinet. James Kilbourne's building at 679-681 High Street was erected in 1808 as a newspaper office, store and survey office. It is the oldest commercial building in continuous use in Ohio. Participants on the float are decked out as long-ago shopkeepers and recall the days of the barter economy at the farmers' market. OBWA is a supporter of the Bicentennial through its sale of Bicentennial items, advertising, and pursuit of a memorial gift to be displayed downtown.

31. *Worthington Time Line ~ The Laurels of Norworth*

This parade entry commemorates the time when Victory Gardens were planted by Worthington residents in response to a national

war effort. It also salutes the brave men and women who served in the armed forces in World War II, particularly those who are now residents of the Laurels, some of whom are aboard this bus.

32. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Flight ~ Don Scott Airport

This unit features “Orville and Wilbur Wright” along with a one-third scale version of the Wright Flyer. The advent of flight opened up whole new horizons to Worthington residents as the skies offered up faster, more direct routes to far-away places. Flight changed everything including warfare and Worthington residents – many of them women – found jobs in the war effort at Curtis-Wright building aircraft for the U.S. Navy

33. A Celebration of Children, Family and Community ~ United Methodist Children’s Home

Founded in 1911 when a site “north of Worthington” was selected by the Methodist Children’s Home Society for its new orphanage. One hundred and forty one acres were purchased for the purpose. UMCH began in 1935 to also serve the needs of neglected or dependent children. Their float today celebrates a rich mingling of children, family and community, as youthful marchers wear clothing representative of the Home’s history over the past 90+ years.

34. Worthington Christian High School Band

The original settlers’ concerns for religious observance and education came together for one congregation with the creation of Worthington Christian School. Their instrumental music program is well represented by this entry – please celebrate their musical skills.

35. Don’t Forget to Vote! ~ Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts sporting vintage uniforms from the 1960s honor the suffragettes of the 1920s who paved the way for women to gain the right to vote. These Scouts are also announcing the **youth voting opportunity** at the Family Fun Zone, which is located where the parade terminates at Thomas Worthington High School. The Family Fun Zone provides entertainment and education for the whole family and begins shortly after the parade ends.

36. City of Worthington Division of Fire and EMS

In 1836, the first fire wardens were appointed by Worthington Village Council. In 1916 the Worthington Fire Department was officially organized and in 1931 the Sharon Township Fire Department purchased its first pumper truck and assumed protection of the village as well as the township. The township purchased its first emergency squad vehicle in 1953.

Responsibility of fire and emergency medical services was transferred back to the City of Worthington in 1993.

37. Keeping Worthington Green ~ Worthington Garden Club

For nearly three quarters of a century, the Worthington Garden Club has played a part in the beautification of Worthington. Today, club members in gardening attire ride atop a vehicle furnished by Nature's Hand Mowing and Landscaping, commemorating years of keeping Worthington green and gorgeous.

38. Promoting Worthington's History ~ Worthington Women's Club (WWC)

Founded in 1932, this organization has always promoted an interest in Worthington and its history. In 1942 the Club commissioned four wrought iron markers that stand at the boundaries of the original village. This float, pulled by an antique tractor, commemorates the first Colonial Worthington – Washington Ball given by the Club in 1938. Members on the float are dressed in Colonial costumes and are dancing the Virginia Reel.

39. A Time Past Vintage Dancers – Worthington Women's Club

Dancers in colonial costumes march alongside and behind the Worthington Women's Club float as a drummer boy marks the cadence. This semi-professional dance troupe has participated in Ohio Bicentennial events throughout the year.

40. Buckeye Tailgaitors ~ Dixieland Quartet

The Worthington Bicentennial July 4-5th Homecoming Celebration was announced to the community with a backdrop of Dixieland music in the 2002 Memorial Day Parade. Dixieland music – in the form of the Buckeye Tailgaitors – complete the circle for us. The Homecoming Celebration Committee hopes you are enjoying this celebration of our community's unique history.

41. Saluting Our Neighbors! ~ Village of Riverlea and Oakland Nursery

In 1924 the Van De Boe-Hager Company bought land south of the village of Worthington, which was once the Artz family farm. In 1939 this area was incorporated as the Village of Riverlea, and is known for its verdant landscape, stately trees, and riverfront homes. The float design was inspired from the village logo, created in 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. It represents the past, present and future of our land. The marchers in the parade and the residents of Riverlea salute Worthington, our friendly neighbor, and congratulate you on your Bicentennial!

42. Home Sweet Home ~ Colonial Hills Civic Association & Jubilee Foods

Established in 1942, Colonial Hills has a rich history. The ox and cart on the float represent the agrarian use of the land before it was known as Colonial Hills. The airplane is symbolic of the Curtis-Wright airplane factory where many early Colonial Hills residents worked. The houses represent the cohesiveness of the community and love of Worthington.

43. The Local Influence of Frank Lloyd Wright ~ Rush Creek Village

The 49 homes of this 39-acre neighborhood were designed and built between 1954 and 1976 based on the principles of world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Founder Martha Wakefield, planner Theodore van Fossen, and builder Richard Wakefield created a community which possesses a high degree of integrity, as architectural elements and interrelationships remain intact and uncompromised. The design, setting, materials and workmanship are significant as an ensemble and are exceptionally valuable for the study of organic architecture during this period in American history. The float is representative of a Rush Creek Village home, surrounded by trees, with neighborhood children rippling long strips of blue cloth depicting the creek.

44. The Fads and Fashions of '55' ~ Colonial Hills Elementary School and Worthington Industries

Roll back hip hop clear to the 50s and what do you have? Doo wop, poodle skirts & bobby socks, leather jackets and plain white t-shirts. Was there ever any time cooler than the 50s? Colonial Hills Elementary students and their parents don't think so! Watch as they celebrate the decade their school was built. Riders and marchers with this float are rockin' and rollin' to the beat of popular music of the times and taking us on a trip down memory lane. It's got a beat *and* you can dance to it!

45. Worthington's Residents Boast Ties Older Than 200 Years ~ Worthington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

DAR is a lineage organization that enables women to serve their God, family, and nation through the preservation of American heritage. The first DAR meeting in Worthington was held in 1968. During America's Bicentennial in 1976, the group planted a Charter Oak and buried a time capsule on the grounds of Worthington High School, to be unearthed in 2003 — in fact *today* near the Ox Roast and Family Fun Zone sites at the High School after the parade. Why not join them?

46. *Who Could Forget the 60's and 70's? ~ Brookside Elementary School 6th Graders*

The 6th graders of Brookside Elementary School commemorate the era with, what else? Tie-dyed t-shirts. Their parents must have told them about a time long, long ago.

47. *With Arms Outstretched ~ Worthington International Friendship Association*

Worthington developed a sister-city relationship with Sayama, Japan in 1992, with the inception of the Worthington International Friendship Association. WIFA coordinates citizen, mayoral and youth exchanges between the two cities and today celebrates their friendship as a significant milestone in Worthington's history. Marchers, members of WIFA, are wearing their Japanese "happy coats" while a Japanese Taiko drumming group in authentic costume performs atop the float.

48. *Worthington High Schools Combined Marching Band*

With the opening of Worthington Kilbourne High School in 1991 and the renaming of Worthington High School to Thomas Worthington, a next phase in our community working to adhere to the value of education cherished by the original settlers was completed. The spirit of friendly rivalry naturally associated with two high schools in the same community has never dulled the sense of commitment to community demonstrated in collaborations like their joint appearance here today.

49. *200 Candles! ~ Dublin-Granville Road – Oxford Street Neighborhood*

Residents of these historic byways in Olde Worthington got together in neighborly fashion to celebrate 200 years of Worthington history by building a *Happy Birthday Worthington* float. Participants are current and former Worthington school district pupils and are joined by friends and neighbors in period clothing.

50. *City of Worthington Division of Fire and EMS*

As evidenced by the 1921 Chamber of Commerce's purchase of a motorized fire truck for the village replacing a hand pumper, Worthington has always supported its public safety forces. Take a moment to wave at a firefighter on this truck or just say thanks to that police officer helping with today's parade.

51. *City of Worthington Division of Fire and EMS*

Some volunteers who helped make this celebration possible might just be riding on this vehicle – or maybe not, they're pretty busy today!

52. Calliope ~ HER Real Living

Music comes in all forms and it has all been part of our cultural heritage. Maybe your ancestors heard a calliope concert in the opera hall above the hardware store in the '40s. The calliope is an American invention (in 1855), originally using steam to blow the whistles. Since steam presented many dangers, the safer and more portable air calliope was developed in the early 1900's for use by circus sideshows and sometimes with circus bands and carnival midways.

53. Hi, Neighbor! ~ Bowerman Block Party

These folks are celebrating a long tradition of their neighborhood getting together for block parties. We're not going to do another Bicentennial weekend celebration for another 200 years. Why don't you and your neighbors plan to get together on July 4, 2004 and follow their example. Maybe you can talk about all the fun you had here today!

54. City of Worthington

On March 9, 1835, the Village of Worthington was incorporated by the General Assembly of Ohio. By 1956, Worthington's population had grown to 5,000 residents and officially became a city under Ohio law. Today, Worthington is home to over 14,000 people. Throughout the years, each department in the City of Worthington has strived to provide the best quality services possible to the residents of Worthington. All City staff in the Divisions of Fire, Police, Public Service, Parks and Recreation, Engineering and Administration are dedicated to continuing the tradition of quality service, which makes Worthington a great place to live, work and raise a family.

55. I Could Have Danced All Night ~ Heritage Ball

The Worthington Educational Foundation provides grants to teachers and staff members in the Worthington Schools supporting the educational program. The funds for these grants are raised primarily from the Annual Breakfast for Excellence held each April. And now a second opportunity! The Foundation is announcing on their float this morning the date of the second annual Heritage Ball. The Foundation hopes that you will follow the call of Town Crier Bob Horton and attend the Heritage Ball and take part in establishing an endowment that will benefit the students of Worthington.

56. Celebrating the Future

Our Bicentennial celebration has been about our past but it is also about our present and our future. On the float you see that future – brought to you by their parents and the Worthington Public Schools. These are the student leaders of today – class

presidents, club officers, team captains – champions all! It was for the future that the settlers made the long journey from Connecticut to the banks of an obscure stream in what was to become the State of Ohio. Before you, is the legacy of that journey and the beginning of its next phase.

57. Join the Parade – We are all part of Worthington today!

This is the end of the formal portion of the parade. Why don't you fall in behind the student leaders and walk with us along the parade route. If you can, stay with us all the way to Thomas Worthington High School – take a closer look at the wagon train, have some fun with you kids at the **Family Fun Zone** and grab lunch at the **Ox Roast**. And don't forget tonight's **Celebration of the Musical Arts** at the football field starting at 5 p.m. and concluding with Maureen McGovern and a gigantic fireworks show.

Homecoming Celebration Schedule July 5, 2003

Thomas Worthington H.S. Lawn & Stadium

1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Family Fun Zone & Community Ox Roast

SuperGames: climbing wall, slide/obstacle course, giant bounce, creativity zone; colonial games; face painting; story telling; crafts; zoo animals and much more! There's fun for the entire family plus the Bicentennial edition of an old Worthington tradition, the Community Ox Roast (nominal fee for Ox Roast.)

5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Musical Entertainment

5:30 - Colonial Hills Elementary Cloggers
and Folk Group

6:30 - Dave Powers & Powerhouse

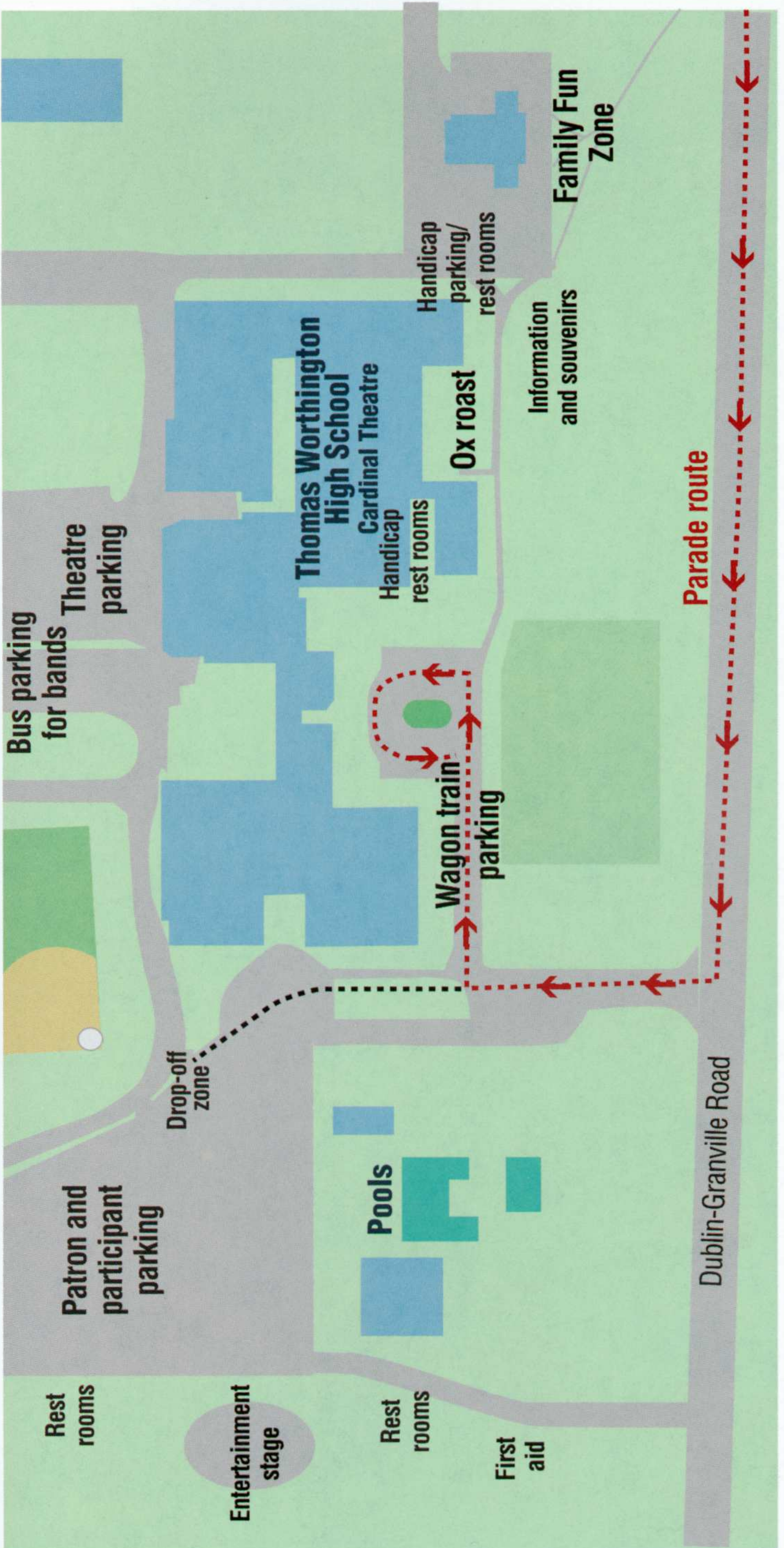
7:30 - Columbus Jazz Orchestra

8:10 - Eric Gnezda & the official Bicentennial songs

8:30 - Maureen McGovern

10:03* p.m. - Fireworks

**Worthington's settlers arrived in October 1803 -- or 10/03*



Map courtesy of Erin Holl/ThisWeek Newspapers

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