**Weekly Highlights**

**Friday, March 27 to Thursday, April 2**

- **Busiest Day of Week:** Friday — 93 events
- **Busiest Hour of Day:** 6:00 PM, 9:00 PM & 10:00 PM — 33 events
- **Total # of Events:** 532
- **Average Events/Day:** 76
- **Average Events/Hour:** 3.17
- **Average Traffic Stops:** .85 per hour
- **DWIs for the week:** 1

**Department News**

While our youth have been away from school on Spring Break, many of our officers have been in class these past couple weeks. Our SWAT officers attended the annual Special Operations Training Conference (SOTA) in Duluth. To learn more of the SOTA conference, click [here](#). Captain Jeff Mundale and Sergeants Josh Sorensen and Tracy DuChene were also in Duluth for an internal affairs investigations conference. Officers Melissa Michael, Emily Ammentorp and Alex Mieritz were in St. Paul for a defensive tactics course designed for female officers. Zachary Shumaker was in Maplewood where he attended a field training officer certification course. Our civilian staffers, Kim Dub, Pam Roberts and Wendy Bentley were in St. Paul for a data practices course and finally, Captain Eric Rethemeier was in Mankato for a threat liaison officer course—a course designed to instruct officers to recognize and report suspected terrorist activity.

**Suspected Drug Offense Lands Two in Jail**

Late Thursday afternoon, our officers were called to the south end of Owatonna for a vehicle at a residence that may be involved in drug activity. As an officer arrived in the area, he observed the vehicle driving and identified the driver from previous contact as having a revoked driver’s license. The vehicle was stopped in the Casey’s parking lot on 18th St. SE. The officers found the vehicle occupied by the known driver, an adult female and a small child who was not in a car seat. When we tried identifying the female, officers learned she provided her sister’s name, knowing she had outstanding warrants for her arrest. She was placed under arrest and when searched, was found to be in possession of a hypodermic needle that contained presumptive methamphetamine. Kaylynn A. Smart, age 27, was arrested and charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Providing a False Name to Police—a gross misdemeanor or possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The driver, Corey J. Tollefson, age 45, was charged by citation with Driving after Revocation and a child seat violation—he was booked at the Steele County Jail and released. If going to jail once in a day was not enough, approximately five hours later, Tollefson was seen driving the same vehicle. He was stopped again and placed under arrest and jailed a second time. He was formally charged with this second offense with Driving after Revocation and Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance.

**Car Prowler Activity**

As the weather warms, one thing can be certain... car prowlers. This past week we’ve fielded six reports from different areas of town of cars being broken into and all share a common theme—a vehicle containing valuables left unlocked. Theft is a crime of opportunity—don’t allow yourself the opportunity to be victimized. Consider the following steps to protect yourself and your property—

- Lock your vehicle!!
- Please be alert to suspicious activity and don’t hesitate to call 911 to report it. This includes strangers walking or loitering about your neighborhoods, apparent juveniles out after curfew, vehicles you don’t recognize circling your neighborhood, or sounds such as glass breaking or loud banging.
- Make note of suspicious people and/or vehicle(s) and obtain license plate numbers when possible.
- Don’t leave valuables unsecured or in plain view within the vehicle.
- Consider parking your vehicle in the garage.

**Cops in the Community**

On the April 1st Edition of the Owatonna Today Show, Chief Keith Hiller was joined by Steele County Sheriff Lon Thiele and Dallas Ketchum of the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity to talk about April being child abuse prevention month. The group talked about some key points in detecting potential child abuse and some of the factors that go into investigating allegations with the main focus on keeping our children safe. On Wednesday evening, Chief Hiller and Sheriff Thiele teamed up again when they helped raise a child abuse awareness flag at the Law Enforcement Center that will fly over the center during this awareness month. To view the Owatonna Today Show episode, please click [here](#).