**Just the Facts**

**September 14, 2012**

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**Weekly Highlights**

**Friday, Sept. 7 to Thursday, Sept. 13**

- **Busiest Day of Week:** Friday—141 events
- **Busiest Hour of Day:** 2:00 PM—53 events
- **Total # of Events:** 677
- **Average Events/Day:** 96.71
- **Average Events/Hour:** 4.03
- **Average Traffic Stops:** .71 per hour
- **DWIs for the week:** 4

**Hiring News**

The police officer testing and interviewing phases have been completed to replace the two police officer positions created by a retirement and resignation. The Police Civil Service Commission interviewed nine potential candidates on Wednesday and have selected four candidates to meet with Chief Hiller for a final interview. Chief Hiller will select two of those candidates who will be receiving a conditional job offer to be our new officers, pending the successful completion of a comprehensive background investigation. The Police Civil Service Commission is comprised of David Effertz, Paul Schneider and Beverly Seykora.

**Operation Harmony Park**

In correlation to Shangri-La or an event also known as Wookiefoot’s Annual Blowout Bash, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) headed a multi-agency enforcement saturation operation near Harmony Park in rural Freeborn County on September 6th and 7th. Shangri-La is an event held in Harmony Park and known for illegal drug usage. As a partnering agency to the SCDIU, the Owatonna Police Department dedicated several officers to this operation. The statistics associated with this operation are astounding, including: five arrests for felony level controlled substance crimes, four arrests made for outstanding arrest warrants—including felony level, 16 citations issued for marijuana possession, 17 citations issued for drug paraphernalia possession, two vehicle forfeitures and the seizure of a significant amount of cash associated with the distribution of controlled substances. Many other citations were issued for speeding, driving after withdrawal and open bottle. During this two day saturation event, officers from the Owatonna Police Department, Albert Lea Police Department, Waseca Police Department, Faribault County Sheriff’s Office, Freeborn County Sheriff’s Office and the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office made over 200 traffic related contacts in the area of Harmony Park—Owatonna officers alone accounted for over 80 contacts. In addition to the dedicated patrol staff we provided for this operation, the Owatonna Police Department contributes the SCDIU commander, a full-time SCDIU case agent and an administrative assistant. Many of the costs incurred in this operation were covered through state grant funding designed for enforcement initiatives such as this operation.

**Dartt’s Park Drug Arrest**

On Monday night, two of our officers were working a foot patrol detail in Dartt’s Park. As they patrolled the park, they observed a vehicle enter the park, park near the east side of the baseball field and extinguish it’s lights. As the officers approached the vehicle, they observed the driver lighting a glass pipe commonly associated with smoking controlled substances. The officers approached the vehicle and directed the occupants to place their hands on the dash board. The female passenger complied; however, the driver opened the driver’s door and began to run from the officers. As the driver was running from the officers, he stopped and threw the glass pipe previously observed by the officers at one of the officers, striking him on the abdomen. The officer directed the driver to get on the ground—he complied and was placed under arrest. The pipe thrown by the suspect broke into pieces on contact; however, officers were able to get a presumptive test on white residue contained in the pipe as methamphetamine. A search of the vehicle subsequent to the arrest revealed an Altoids tin which contained marijuana. Chris A. Hondl, age 41, was formally charged in District Court with several counts including: 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled substance—a felony, Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot—a misdemeanor and Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana & Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—both petty misdemeanors.

**Stolen Vehicle Arrest**

During the early morning hours on Thursday, a good Samaritan offered to give a ride to two individuals from the Kwik Trip store on Mineral Springs Rd to another location in town. Before giving the ride, our victim went into the store, but left her vehicle running. When she stepped outside, one of the individuals was going to give a ride to her vehicle and informed her that the other had just stolen her car. An attempt to locate was broadcasted for the stolen car and it was later stopped on the interstate near Clinton Falls by an Owatonna officer and a Steele County deputy. The alleged thief was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. A search of the stolen vehicle discovered drug paraphernalia that contained residue that tested presumptive positive for methamphetamines. Allen A. Beyer, age 25, was formally charged with 5th degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Motor Vehicle Theft—both felonies.