**Weekly Highlights**

**Friday, May 3 to Thursday, May 9**

- **Busiest Day of Week:** Friday—148 events
- **Busiest Hour of Day:** 2:00 PM—56 events
- **Total # of Events:** 797
- **Average Events/Day:** 113.86
- **Average Events/Hour:** 4.74
- **Average Traffic Stops:** .79 per hour
- **DWIs for the week:** 2

**Winter Storm Debris Clean-up**

Only fallen trees and branches from public property and right-of-ways will be picked up by the City of Owatonna and only trees and branches that fell from the May 2nd storm are eligible for this debris program. Residents are responsible to remove downed trees and branches from their own property—the City of Owatonna will not be conducting debris removal of fallen trees and branches from private property. Residents have the option of cutting and removing trees and branches themselves and hauling them to the compost site located in the City of Owatonna. The compost site is located at 400 32nd Avenue N.W. and will have a reduced rate for brush and branches through May 18th.

**Driver Charged with Criminal Vehicular Operation—**

On May 1st, an Owatonna officer was on patrol and came across a three vehicle crash near the intersection of North Street and Hoffman Drive. The officer approached one of the vehicles involved and identified the driver; as the officer was doing this, the officer noted the driver was showing signs of intoxication. The officer then checked with the other involved drivers to see if anyone was injured. While speaking with one of the other drivers, the officer was advised that the intoxicated driver appeared to have thrown a bottle of alcohol into the river. The officer returned to the intoxicated driver and had him perform roadside sobriety tests which he failed. The driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. The driver later provided a urine test to determine his alcohol level. The intoxicated driver also made statements admitting to driving drunk. Taylor T. Smith, age 20, was formally charged in District Court with Criminal Vehicular Operation-Operating under the Influence of Alcohol—a felony, 4th Degree DWI and Underage Drinking and Driving—both misdemeanors. Investigation into the crash revealed that two vehicles were stopped on North Street at a red light at the intersection with Hoffman Drive. Smith’s vehicle came westbound from behind, striking the rear end of a second vehicle. The force of the collision pushed the second vehicle into the rear end of a third vehicle. The drivers of the other two involved vehicles reported back and neck pain as a result of the crash.

**Stolen vehicle Leads to Arrest—**

On Monday, May 3rd, Owatonna officers were called to 233 East Vine Street for the report of a stolen vehicle. Officers learned that the victim’s 1993 Ford Tempo had been stolen sometime during the late morning/afternoon hours. The victim reported that the vehicle was left unlocked and a spare set of keys was left in the vehicle. On May 4th at approximately 1:30 AM, the officer who took the report of the stolen vehicle observed the vehicle traveling southbound on North Elm Avenue. The officer radioed his findings and additional officers responded to assist. A high risk traffic stop was conducted with the vehicle—a lone male individual was taken into custody without incident and was transported to the Steele County Jail. Powch C. Gilo, age 18, was charged in District Court with Motor Vehicle Theft—a felony.

**Owatonna Officer Awarded—**

On Wednesday, Owatonna Police Officer Tony Heaser was awarded a commendation from Rochester Police Chief Roger Peterson for his part in a potentially life threatening incident that occurred in Rochester on August 21st, 2012. Tony became directly involved in an incident in Rochester with a suicidal male with whom Tony had served with in the Army. Tony’s involvement in the incident brought a safe and swift resolution to a situation that could have resulted in grave consequences.

**Welcome Chris—**

Christopher Lee has been added to our Community Service Officer (CSO) ranks, taking over for former CSO Josh Federly who moved on to the Minneapolis Police Department. Chris is an Owatonna native, graduating from the Owatonna High School in 1998. Chris worked in the Information Technology industry before returning to school to pursue a career in law enforcement. Chris has previous law enforcement experience as a reserve officer with the Maplewood Police Department and as a private security officer. Chis is currently a reserve officer with the Owatonna Police Department. Please join us in welcoming Chris to the Owatonna Police Department.

**Cops in the Community—**

On Monday morning, Detective Joel Hunt appeared on the Owatonna Today Show to talk about the Steele County Safety Camp. Detective Hunt has served as the chairperson on Safety Camp Board of Directors since 2006. The 2013 edition of Safety Camp will be held on June 13th and 14th. To view the episode and learn more about Safety Camp, click on the Safety Camp logo to the right.

**Just the Facts**

**May 10, 2013**

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