Just the Facts

Friday, Dec. 28 to Thursday, Jan. 3

- Busiest Day of Week: Monday—127 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 AM—55 events
- Total # of Events: 710
- Average Events/Day: 101.43
- Average Events/Hour: 4.23
- Average Traffic Stops: .97 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 1

2012 Statistics

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday—6,419 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 5:00 PM—2,686 events
- Total # of Events: 41,380
- Average Events/Day: 113.06
- Average Events/Hour: 4.71
- Average Traffic Stops: .94 per hour
- DWIs for the year: 181

Duo Arrested for Motor Vehicle Theft—

Two men were arrested for motor vehicle theft after admitting to stealing a vehicle from the St Paul Road area, driving it to Waseca, and then returning to Owatonna on December 27th. Jeffrey Neil Gamble, 27, and Justin Lee Johnson, 23, were both charged with theft of a motor vehicle. On December 27th, officers took a stolen vehicle report from a man who stated he left the car running while he ran back inside his apartment. When the man came back outside, the vehicle was gone. Owatonna officers notified area agencies of the stolen vehicle and were given information from Waseca that the vehicle had been stopped by a Waseca officer earlier in the evening. The two occupants of the vehicle were given a ride to the Waseca Kwik Trip after Gamble was cited for driving after revocation. The men admitted they returned to the vehicle and drove it back to Owatonna, ultimately leaving the vehicle at a local motel.

Swearing In Ceremony—

A ceremony will be held at the January 8th, 2013 City Council Meeting to formally swear in our newest police officers—Zack Schumaker, Adam Hennen, Brianne Lesnau, Benjamin Johnson and Christopher Kowalzek. During this time, OPD will also formally recognize officers who were awarded meritorious service awards during 2012. The ceremony will be during the first portion of the Council Meeting which is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM. We encourage everyone who is able to attend this ceremony as a show of support for our new officers as we formally welcome them to the City of Owatonna and the Owatonna Police Department. Following the ceremony, a coffee and cake reception will be held in the Arts Center; friends and family of the honorees are welcome to attend.

2012 DWI Arrests—

One DWI arrest by the Owatonna Police Department on New Year’s Eve brings the number of DWI arrests in 2012 to 181.

2012 saw an increase in the number of drunk driving arrests in Owatonna. OPD would like to remind drivers of the following information:

A DWI offense can result in loss of license for up to a year, thousands in costs and possible jail time. Repeat DWI offenders, as well as first-time offenders arrested at 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level, must use ignition interlock in order to regain legal driving privileges, or face at least one year without a driver’s license. Offenders with three or more offenses are required to use interlock for three to six years, or they will never regain driving privileges.

*Reprinted in part from the Minnesota Chief’s of Police Association.

Be alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for our Notification System. This notification system enables the Rice and Steele Counties to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuation of buildings or neighborhoods.