Weekly Highlights

Friday, June 28 to Thursday, July 4

• Busiest Day of Week: Wed. — 149 events
• Busiest Hour of Day: 10:00 AM — 48 events
• Total # of Events: 860
• Average Events/Day: 122.86
• Average Events/Hour: 5.12
• Average Traffic Stops: .90 per hour
• DWIs for the week: 4

2012 Crash Facts—
The state’s preliminary 2012 fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled is less than one person, 0.69 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled. The U.S. fatality rate is 1.09. In 2011, (most recent national data), Minnesota was second behind Massachusetts for the lowest fatality rate in the in the U.S. Officials say despite the increase in deaths in 2012, the fatality rate will remain among the lowest in the nation once 2012 national data is complete. There were 57.0 billion vehicle miles traveled in Minnesota last year, less than 1 percent higher than in the 56.7 billion in 2011.

Suspicious Person Leads to DWI/Drug Arrest—
During the early morning hours on July 1st, Owatonna officers were called to Kwik Trip on 46th Avenue N.W. for the report of a suspicious person; the reporting person indicated a female who was possibly impaired had just left the store and gotten into her vehicle. Arriving officers located the suspect vehicle occupied by a lone female driver. When they made contact with her she was showing signs indicative of being impaired and observed a needle lying in the front passenger seat. Officers also conducted a search inside the store in the female restroom where the suspect was first observed by store personnel. There, they found a small silver foil that contained a white powdery substance and a plastic bag with a green substance in it; the suspect later admitted the substances belonged to her and were heroin. She also admitted that the needles in the car contain heroin. A field test of the green substance was presumptive positive for heroin. The suspect, Adelin M. Schmidt, age 21, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Schmidt faces formal charges of 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, 4th Degree DWI—Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

OPD Welcomes Three New Officers—
We recently completed a hiring process to fill three police officer positions created due to resignations; two of the officers began their field training this past week and the third will begin next week. The first of the new hires is not a stranger to the Owatonna, in fact, he brings over 20 years of law enforcement experience to the department. In 2011, Corporal Detective John Petterson left the department to explore a new opportunity in the private sector. Fortunately for us, John missed law enforcement and public service and sought to return to the law enforcement field. After successfully navigating his way through the multi-phase hiring process, John is re-joining us as a patrol officer. Andrew Van Osdale, another familiar name with our department, is our second police officer hire. Andrew has been with the department since November of 2011, working as a community service officer. Lastly, but certainly not least, Melissa Michael is our third new officer. Melissa comes to us from the Bloomington Police Department where she was working as a community service officer and has previous experience as a security officer. Melissa is also an active member of the Army National Guard. Melissa comes from a law enforcement family as her father was a Bloomington police officer. Please help us in welcoming these officers to the city of Owatonna and the Owatonna Police Department.

Emergency Preparedness—
Representatives from the Police Department, Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance attended an emergency preparedness and critical incident “Table Top” exercise with Monsanto on Friday, June 28th. Monsanto is local research group and global provider of agricultural products. Each year, Monsanto hires seasonal field workers and the Table Top exercise was used as an opportunity for Monsanto staff to test their Emergency Action Plan and work with local responders and incident commanders to identify weaknesses and develop strategies to improve their response and recovery in the chance of an actual incident.

Safe School Initiative—
A White House coordinated federal initiative referred to as “The Safe School Initiative (SSI)” is leading a nationwide school assessment for 105 school districts throughout the United States. The initiative is leveraging resources from the Owatonna School District, Owatonna Police Department, the Department of Education, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Secret Service. This progressive research and planning will identify vulnerabilities and common gaps within our operations and infrastructure. Another 300-500 schools nationwide will participate in a 155-page infrastructure survey with that aggregated data being sent to Washington DC to be viewed in a “tailored dashboard” comparing the other schools throughout the nation.

* Reprinted from the MN Department of Public Safety

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