Friday, February 26

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday—101 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 AM — 30 events
- Total # of Events: 448
- Average Events/Day: 64
- Average Events/Hour: 2.67
- Average Traffic Stops: .66 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 0

Things Heat Up—On February 23rd, an officer received a call from an owner of a NAPA store who wished to report missing heaters from his store retailing at $1,819.26. On February 29th, the officer received another call from the store owner with information pertaining to the theft where he said he noticed a large heater just like one stolen from his store posted for sale by a female on an online site. An OPD Detective sent a message to the seller indicating interest and arrangements were made to meet at Burger King to purchase the heater for $300. At approximately 6:28 p.m., an officer observed a vehicle pull into Burger King occupied by a female identified as Heather Olson and a male identified as Travis Troska. Troska exited and removed the heater from the vehicle, helped the officer place it into his truck and waited for the officer to hand him the money. Other detectives were monitoring nearby and pulled up to arrest Troska. They located a small clear baggie containing a white substance in his pocket that field tested positive for methamphetamine in another pocket which also tested positive for the same. After Troska was brought to the Steele County Detention Center, jail staff found a small white pill in his jacket identified as Hydromorphone hydrochloride, classified as a Schedule II controlled substance. Later in the evening, members of the OPD executed a search warrant at 134 W. Rose Street where a Master Heater box, containing the same Model # as the missing heater from the NAPA store, another “sunflower” heater, two digital scales and a multi-colored glass pipe, marijuana pipe, and a plastic container with a green leafy substance was found inside. Travis Troska, age 36, was charged with 5th Degree Possession—a felony and Receiving Stolen Property—a gross misdemeanor.

So Much for the Locks—Saturday, February 27th, at approximately 8:36 a.m., an Owatonna Officer approaching the intersection of North Street and State Avenue noticed a vehicle stopped with a crack in its windshield within the vision of the driver. The suspect vehicle headed westbound and pulled into the Walmart parking lot where the officer initiated a traffic stop. The driver, identified as Robert Williams, appeared nervous when officer questioned where they were headed. His first reply was an admission that he did not have a driver’s license and should not be driving, and that they were coming from a friend’s house. He went on to say that he gave a ride to two of his passengers friends to the courthouse to take care of business. When confronted that the courthouse is not open on Saturday, Williams corrected himself stating that they were there to secure bail for a friend in jail. The officer reiterated the courthouse was not open for any business. Williams stumbled for words eventually ending with a blank stare. Williams agreed to let the officer search the car. The passenger, identified as Brandon Stevermer, puffed vigorously on an E-cigarette which masked the vehicle with a strong strawberry scent and he was holding a backpack that contained several Brinks locks that clasped compartments shut. When the officer spoke to Stevermer, he also said they gave a ride to two of his friends, but said they were dropped off at Central Park. Stevermer did not want a search of the car. The officer observed a knife in a plastic sheath on the passenger floor and at that point asked Stevermer to exit the vehicle. At this time, a state trooper arrived with his K9 partner and the officer filled him in on his findings and his K9 partner provided a positive alert on the vehicle. A subsequent search revealed one digital scale in the center console and one digital scale with residue of a substance that field tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine located in a locked plastic container which was recovered from the locked backpack. Brandon Stevermer, age, 21, was arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Controlled Substance—a felony.

Four “Wheeler” Recovered—At approximately 6:55 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2nd, OPD Officers were called to Loken Excavating on the 3600 block of Hoffman Drive for suspicious persons wearing dark clothing and face masks snooping around machinery on the property. Upon being seen by an employee, a female suspect ducked behind a four-wheeler while the second suspect began to flee on foot. Officers converged on the area and detained the fleeing male suspect identified as William Wheeler, then the female was identified as Kelly Tysdale. The investigation revealed both suspects arrived on a county reported stolen Arctic Cat 4-wheeler. The pair were in possession of two-way radios and burglary tools. William Wheeler, age 28, of Waseca was arrested and charged with a felony level receiving stolen property.