Another Tool in the Toolbox—

Last week we reported on the opioid epidemic and the Take Back Day initiative. Related to the opioid epidemic, our officers are often the first responders to medical emergencies that may involve an overdose of an opioid drug or be on the receiving end of an accidental exposure when we come into contact with unknown substances on the street. To combat overdoses or accidental exposures, our officers are now equipped and trained on the use of Naloxone. Naloxone is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and has proven to save lives when administered by first responders. OPD has received a supply of Naloxone through a grant offered by the SE Minnesota EMS. The grant provided our department with a free supply of Naloxone kits and a train-the-trainer session. According to information received from the Minnesota Department of Health, Opioid overdose deaths continue to rise and resulted in 395 deaths in 2016. Opioids include prescription pain pills, heroin, fentanyl, and fentanyl analogs. Naloxone is used to block the effects of opioids during an overdose and is effective only with an opioid overdose.

I See a Pattern Developing—

On March 13th, a Monte Carlo was reported stolen from 455 State Ave. On March 17th, an officer spotted the same car stopped at a stop sign on Florence Ave. As the officer drove past the car, he observed the driver put his hand up over his face, appearing to conceal his identity. The stolen car was stopped and our officers conducted a high-risk stop. The driver, Corey Gilbertson, age 18 of Medford, was arrested and placed in custody. During the booking process, Gilbertson was discovered to be in possession of a Schedule II controlled substance. Gilbertson was charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Driving after Revocation.

National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial—

This year on May 13th, the names of 360 fallen officers will be added to the National Memorial in Washington DC, 129 of which are the names of officers who died in the line of duty last year. The Memorial, dedicated on 1991, preserves the names of more than 21,000 officers who have been killed in the line of duty dating back to the first known death in 1791.