Weekend Highlights

Friday, April 6 to Thursday, April 12

- Busiest Day of Week: Wednesday: 132 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 10:00 PM: 52 events
- Total # of Events: 833
- Average Events/Day: 119
- Average Events/ Hour: 4.96
- Average Traffic Stops: .89 per hour
- DWI for the week: 7

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week 2012 is April 16-20, with two statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 19 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. This annual public event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools, and institutions that it’s essential to plan ahead for Minnesota’s severe spring and summer weather. An informed, involved community is more resilient to disaster, and being prepared helps reduce the risks and costs of hazardous weather events. An easy way to get prepared is by participating in Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW). The statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 19 provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to prepare their homes, families, neighborhoods, and communities!

Suspected Drunk Driver Strikes Police Vehicle—

On Monday, April 9th a plain clothes officer observed a vehicle driving erratically in the area of Truman Avenue and East Main Street. The officer first noticed the vehicle driving through the grass on the boulevard next to Tri-M Graphics. The vehicle then entered the roadway and struck a curb near the intersection of Truman and Academy Street. The vehicle then proceeded to back up, almost striking the officer’s vehicle. The unpredictable driving behavior continued as the officer activated his emergency lights and siren. The vehicle continued on, driving through three stop signs without stopping until it finally stopped near the intersection of Hillcrest and School Street. The officer exited his vehicle and attempted to meet with the driver; however, the driver put her vehicle in reverse and stuck the officer’s vehicle. The officer was able to disable the suspect’s vehicle and discovered the driver appeared intoxicated. After failing roadside sobriety tests, the driver was placed under arrest. Patricia A. Davis, age 66, was arrested and transported the Steele County Detention Center. She was charged by citation with 4th degree DWI, Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle and Failure to Stop for a Stop Sign and released to a sober person. When interviewed, Ms. Davis admitted to drinking vodka to take the edge off before going to the dentist. Unfortunately, she didn’t take into consideration how she was going to get to the dentist.

Extra Park Patrols Produce Arrests—

The warm weather has allowed people to get out and enjoy our parks sooner than expected. Unfortunately, that also means we’ve notice an uptick in the number of reports we’ve taken regarding damaged park property. To combat the damage, this past weekend we began assigning undercover officers in our parks which netted immediate results. On Friday, April 6th, two undercover officers in Mineral Springs Park near the disc park course came along three young adults, who appeared underage, smoking cigarettes. The officers met with the youth to verify their ages and learned they were 17, 18 and 23. All three had been drinking and one was in possession of a small amount of marijuana. All three were charged by citation or by formal complaint with charges ranging from minor in possession of tobacco, possessing drug paraphernalia, underage consumption, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and furnishing tobacco to a minor. The juvenile was released to his parents. Also on Friday, in Jaycee Park, undercover officers responded to the complaint from a citizen of a car load of juveniles smoking marijuana. Undercover officers met with the reporting party who directed them to the car in question. Shortly thereafter, a marked squad car arrived in the area and the suspect vehicle attempted to elude the uniformed officers by driving out of the parking lot with the vehicle’s headlights off; officers stopped the vehicle a short distance away. The vehicle contained four juveniles and evidence of illegal drug use. Three of the juveniles received a citation for charges including, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving without headlights and violating an instructor’s permit. All four juveniles were turned over to the custody of a parent or guardian.

From our “Not So Smart” Offender Files—

Early on Thursday morning, an Owatonna officer was patrolling the south end of Owatonna when a vehicle drove past him with without a front tire; as the vehicle passed, the officer could hear a rumbling, scraping noise coming from the vehicle. The officer stopped the vehicle and upon meeting with the driver, observed he appeared intoxicated; the driver was also seated with a bottle of Miller High Life beer in his lap. After failing roadside sobriety tests, the driver was placed under arrest and transported to the Steele County Detention Center for further DWI processing. The driver, a 19-year old male, was released pending the results of a urine test and formal charges. When interviewed, the driver was not sure why he was being pulled over, nor was he aware that his vehicle was missing a front tire!