Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, August 10 to Thursday, August 16

- Busiest Day of Week: Tuesday—149 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 PM—68 events
- Total # of Events: 843
- Average Events/Day: 120.43
- Average Events/Hour: 5.01
- Average Traffic Stops: 1.39 per hour
- DWI for the week: 4

Be Notified!!

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up for our Emergency Notification System. This notification system enables Steele and Rice Counties to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of our buildings or neighborhoods. You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home, cell, business phone, email, text messages, hearing impaired receiving device, and more. You pick where, you pick how. Click below to enroll:

Citizen Alert Notification Sign Up

Park Vandalism Leads to Charges—

On Sunday, August 12th, Owatonna officers were called to Manthey Park for the reports of damage to the park. Arriving officers found several rolls of toilet paper were burning in and around the pavilion. Officers also discovered the toilet paper dispensers in each restroom, the women’s restroom stall door and a picnic table had been damaged. A concerned citizen reported to the officers the he observed three or four juveniles standing around the burning toilet paper and when he yelled to them they ran away. One of the responding officers later located four subjects near the intersection of 24th Street and N. Cedar Avenue. After speaking with the subjects, three of them admitted to causing the damage and lighting the fires. As a result, two juveniles, a 15-year-old male and a 15-year-old female and a 19-year-old adult female were charged by citations with 4th Degree Criminal Damage to Property and city ordinance burning violations. Owatonna has been called the “Jewel of the Prairie” and our parks system adds significantly to that reputation. We encourage all citizens to report any type of suspicious activity in our park system to the police so that we can all work together to keep our city a great place to live and visit.

Crash Send Three to the Hospital—

On Tuesday, August 14th, Owatonna officers, the Owatonna Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to a motor vehicle crash involving two vehicles at the intersection of 14th St. N.E. and St. Paul Road N.E. A passenger vehicle that was traveling westbound on 14th St. N.E. failed to stop at the controlled intersection and collided into the passenger side of a northbound passenger van. Both vehicles came to rest inside the 14th Street N.E. construction zone. Non-life threatening injuries were sustained by occupants of both vehicles and minor extrication efforts to free occupants were performed to both vehicles by the Owatonna Fire Rescue squad. Preliminary investigation indicates that one of the drivers may have been impaired by a controlled substance and a contributing factor in the crash. The case remains under investigation by the Owatonna Police Department; an Accident Reconstructionist from the MN State Patrol is assisting with the investigation.

Two Separate Drug Incidents Send Two to Jail—

Wednesday night was a busy one for our patrol officers; here are two highlights. At about 11:53, two Owatonna officers were working an undercover detail near the fairgrounds. They were in the Hy-Vee parking lot when they observed two males in the backseat of a vehicle who appeared to be smoking marijuana. As they approached, they could smell the odor of burned marijuana and observed a pipe sitting between the males. The officers searched the vehicle and located several plastic bags and jars packaged with presumed marijuana. As a result, the vehicle owner, Jacob A. Wick, age 25, was arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Possession of Marijuana in a Motor Vehicle and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. About two hours later, a uniformed officer conducted a traffic stop with a vehicle near the fairgrounds that failed to signal correctly. As the officer was pulling the vehicle over, an occupant threw a blue container from the vehicle. The officer located the container and it contained presumptive methamphetamines. A search of that vehicle located additional presumptive methamphetamines concealed in the door frame. Justin M. Delaria, age 25, was arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and lesser traffic violations. In both cases, the vehicles were seized by the department and are subject to forfeiture proceedings.