Just the Facts

Friday, August 23 to Thursday, August 29

- Busiest Day of Week: Wednesday — 153 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 2:00 PM — 56 events
- Total # of Events: 885
- Average Events/Day: 126.43
- Average Events/Hour: 5.27
- Average Traffic Stops: 1.15 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 0

School Bus Safety—
As the first school bell rings, motorists are reminded to be ready to stop for school buses and be watchful for children exiting school buses and crossing streets. Be ready to anticipate children, especially in a school bus “danger zone” — the area around a bus where children are at greatest risk. Parents should also discuss and demonstrate pedestrian safety with their children and reinforce safe crossing after exiting a bus. In Minnesota, motorists must stop for red flashing lights and when stop arms are extended — both when driving behind a bus and when coming toward a bus on undivided roads.

SET-UP LEADS TO ROBBERY CHARGES—

On Sunday, August 25th at approximately 11:00 PM, Owatonna officers were called to the 500 block of Allen Avenue for a reported assault. Arriving officers located a 19-year-old female victim who had blood around her mouth and dried blood around her face. Our victim reported she met with a 19-year-old male individual to talk about their relationship. Together, they went for a walk along the Kaplan’s Woods Parkway. The victim and the male had stopped along the walkway and were sitting down when they were approached by a female suspect and a 16-year-old juvenile female. The suspect confronted the victim, took her cell phone and punched the victim in the face. The male, the female suspect and the juvenile female then all fled on foot from the scene to an awaiting vehicle. Investigation later revealed the suspect was upset with the victim texting her boyfriend. A plan was devised for the 19-year-old male to lure the victim to the location on the parkway where she was going to be confronted about texting the suspects' boyfriend. Officers arrested the female suspect, Tessa A. Watkins, age 19, and she was later formally charged with Simple Robbery—a felony, 5th Degree Assault and Theft—both misdemeanors. In addition, two accomplices in the scheme were also arrested and may face formal charges.

COPS IN THE COMMUNITY—

On Saturday, August 24th, officers and reserve officers with the Owatonna Police Department partnered with the Salvation Army and Target in the “Shop with a Cop” program. Striving to develop positive relationships with youth, shopping with a cop aims at developing a connection between law enforcement and kids so that our youth are more likely to seek help from the police when they need it rather than getting into trouble. Each year, the area Salvation Army Office generates funds through public donations from the Red Kettle Fund to support the program and organizes the event. Each student shopping with local law enforcement is given a budget to shop for school clothing and school supplies. This year, 22 students were paired up with volunteering officers, including, Owatonna Sergeant Andy DeVinny (and daughter Peyton), Officers Kyle Parr, Zack Schumaker, Ben Johnson and Reserve Officers Michael Haglund, Clifford Bentley, Sean Robbins, Dan Peach and Steve Wrede.

TERRORISTIC THREATS LEAD TO FELONY CHARGES—

On August 24th, an Owatonna officer investigated a complaint made by a resident that his neighbor had threatened to shoot him. The officer learned the victim in this case had served a tenant a notice for eviction which led to several arguments and the tenant threatening to “kick his (backside)”. The officer also learned from a witness that the suspect had made threats to skip town due to some upcoming court cases, but was planning on “shooting up” the victim before leaving town. Officers arrested Kevin L. Savoie, age 54, and transported him to the Steele County Detention Center. Savoie was later formally charged with Terroristic Threats—a felony.