Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Sept 23 to Thursday, Sept 29

- Busiest Day of Week: Friday — 83 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 2:00 PM — 43 events
- Total # of Events: 525
- Average Events/Day: 75
- Average Events/Hour: 3.14
- Average Traffic Stops: .76 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 1

Crisis Intervention Training

Owatonna Police Officers attended a full day training course on Wednesday, September 28th, that included a basic overview of mental illness. Lecture, discussion and activities involved were:

⇒ Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders, mood disorders, cognitive disorders, personality and substance disorders
⇒ Causes and nature of the illness—typical patterns of behaviors, common medications, and guidelines for officer response
⇒ Meet and hear from a panel of people living with mental illness.

Vehicle Pursuit—In the evening of Saturday, September 24th, an OPD officer observed a white Pontiac G6 traveling northbound on Cedar Avenue near 11th Street NE who was traveling 41 mph in a 30 mph area. The officer activated his lights and siren, but the vehicle continued on without stopping. The vehicle turned westbound onto 22nd Street NW and then turned into a driveway on the 100 block. The officer observed only one person in the vehicle—identified as Arietha Powell and ordered her out. Powell admitted to seeing the officer’s lights and siren, but said she didn’t stop because she didn’t have a license and also has a warrant out of Anoka County. Arietha Joyce Powell—age 24, was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and was later charged with fleeing in Motor Vehicle—a Felony and Speeding—Petty Misdemeanor.

Officer Assults in the 4th Degree—In the afternoon of September 24th, information was obtained that a wanted fugitive, Sergio Vargas, well known by our officers, was at the residence of Erica Rodriguez in the Skyline Gardens trailer park. Two officers went to the front door and one to the emergency back door that didn’t have any steps. The officer at this door heard people talking. The back door sprung open and the officer then saw Sergio Vargas. Vargas quickly pulled the door shut and the officer attempted to go after him. Vargas sprung the door open and attempted to leap over the top of the officer. The officer tried to tackle him in mid-air, carrying them both to the ground. Vargas’ kicks struck the officer in the chest, face and head and he was able to squirm himself free to run and scale a nearby fence. Officers discontinued the search for the time being, but later in the day info was received that Erica Rodriguez was picking up Vargas in a Chevrolet Acadia to go to the Mall of America. Officers saw the Acadia headed northbound on I35 and initiated a high risk traffic stop near the Owatonna Airport. Vargas was arrested and charged with 4th Degree Assault to a Peace Officer—a Misdemeanor.

In the morning of September 24th, information was obtained that a wanted fugitive, Sergio Vargas, well known by our officers, was at the residence of Erica Rodriguez in the Skyline Gardens trailer park. Two officers went to the front door and one to the emergency back door that didn’t have any steps. The officer at this door heard people talking. The back door sprung open and the officer then saw Sergio Vargas. Vargas quickly pulled the door shut and the officer attempted to go after him. Vargas sprung the door open and attempted to leap over the top of the officer. The officer tried to tackle him in mid-air, carrying them both to the ground. Vargas’ kicks struck the officer in the chest, face and head and he was able to squirm himself free to run and scale a nearby fence. Officers discontinued the search for the time being, but later in the day info was received that Erica Rodriguez was picking up Vargas in a Chevrolet Acadia to go to the Mall of America. Officers saw the Acadia headed northbound on I35 and initiated a high risk traffic stop near the Owatonna Airport. Vargas was arrested and charged with 4th Degree Assault to a Peace Officer—a Misdemeanor.

Promoting Peace Conference—On Thursday, September 29th, OPD officers attended this conference to gain useful information about what happens when a child is exposed to violence. Adverse Childhood Experiences: From Understanding to Action

Topics Included:

- Serving Rural Communities
- Interviewing Children about Domestic Violence
- Child Protection
- Recognizing Abuse in Children
- Resiliency and Trauma-informed Care

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