**Weekly Highlights**

**Friday, Sept 8 to Thursday, Sept 14**

- **Busiest Day of Week:** Tuesday — 138 events
- **Busiest Hour of Day:** 2:00 PM — 53 events
- **Total # of Events:** 833
- **Average Events/Day:** 119
- **Average Events/Hour:** 4.96
- **Average Traffic Stops:** .64 per hour
- **DWIs for the week:** 3

**New Officer Joins the OPD**

This coming Tuesday, September 19th, we will welcome a new employee into the ranks of the Owatonna Police Department when Joey Kelly starts his career as an Owatonna Police Officer. Joey comes to us from the south metro area and this will be his first job in law enforcement. Please help us in welcoming Joey to the City of Owatonna.

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**Innocent Injured**

On Wednesday afternoon a vehicle driven by Andres J. Vargas, 36 of Owatonna, was going east on 26th Street NW and went out of control, crossed the center line, rolled and struck a vehicle waiting to exit the hospital—injuring the driver. Evidence collected and Vargas’ own admission revealed that he was drinking and driving before the crash and was using Dust Off, which is compressed gas in an aerosol can that contains Difluorothane—a colorless, odorless gas classified as a hazardous substance. When inhaled, the gas gives users an immediate high and causes lightheadedness and passing out. The officer investigating arrested Vargas and obtained a search warrant for a blood sample. Vargas faces five charges with the most serious being Criminal Vehicular Operation - Under the Influence resulting in bodily harm, a Gross Misdemeanor DWI, and a Gross Misdemeanor DWI of a Hazardous Substance. Vargas has one prior DWI from 2008 in Texas.

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**Use of Force Instructor**—Officer Travis Ardolf is the newest member of our Use of Force Training Unit. As part of this appointment, Travis recently attended two courses to become a department trainer in the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Aerosol or chemical irritant agents and less lethal impact munitions. The department recently purchased 40MM less lethal launchers and together the Use of Force Unit will develop a training plan so that our officers have a less lethal option to diffuse a potential deadly force situation.

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**LE Appreciation – 9/11**

Staff from Profinium bank delivered bagels to the staff at the Owatonna-Steele County Law Enforcement Center on America’s landmark day of September 11, 2001 to show their appreciation to those serving as first responders. The men and women at OPD wish to say Thank You for all those who support their service members.