Friday, July 31 to Thursday, Aug. 6

- Busiest Day of Week: Monday—95 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 2:00 PM—41 events
- Total # of Events: 551
- Average Events/Day: 78.71
- Average Events/Hour: 3.27
- Average Traffic Stops: .68 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 4

Speed Enforcement Campaign—

Law enforcement across Minnesota witnessed disturbing driving behaviors across the state during July’s enhanced speed campaign. The dangerous driving included:

- A motorist stopped for drunk driving and speeding 100 miles per hour (mph) in Dakota County.
- Two motorcyclists clocked going 135 mph in a 55 in Olmsted County.
- A motorcyclist with a suspended license traveling 106 mph in a 65 in Carver County.
- In Perham, a child was in the back seat, not properly restrained, while the driver was traveling 100 mph. Drug paraphernalia was also found in the vehicle.

More than 300 law enforcement agencies participated, including the Owatonna Police Department, and officers, deputies and troopers cited 16,410 motorists for unsafe speeds from July 10 – 26; locally, our officers issued 29 citations during the enforcement campaign with the highest recorded speed of 52 in a 30 zone.

IRS Scam—

Even though tax season is behind us, we are still seeing on a routine basis many of our community members being targeted by the IRS Telephone Scam. In this rip-off, the scamsters will call a victim and purport to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The victim will be told they owe money to the IRS. The victim will be told that law enforcement is on the way and if they don’t pay the amount alleged to be owed, they will be arrested. The scamsters ask that the amount owed be paid by a wire transfer to or by a pre-paid debit card. Luckily, very few of our community members have fallen victim to this scam. The IRS reports that they do not initiate contact with tax payers through email or by telephone; they will initiate contact with a tax-payer on a tax issue via the U.S. mail. If you’ve received a call similar to this, the IRS requests citizen to report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. If you’ve fallen victim to this scheme and been defrauded out of your money, please call the Owatonna Police Department.

Late Night Car Wash Leads to Arrests—

On Wednesday morning at approximately 2:00 AM, an Owatonna officer on patrol noticed a vehicle parked in the wash stall at the Husky Car Wash. The officer conducted a premise check on the building and entered the car wash through the walk-in door. The officer approached the vehicle and observed it occupied by a female driver and male passenger. As the officer walked up to the passenger door, he observed the male was lighting a glass pipe with a lighter—the officer believed the male was smoking meth. The male looked at the officer with a surprised look and froze. When the male exited the vehicle, an open beer bottle was found between his legs and a mint container in his lap. The mint container was later found to contain presumptive positive methamphetamine and other pills. Underneath the driver’s seat another pipe was located that contained presumptive positive meth residue—the driver later admitted the pipe belonged to her. The driver, Skylar M. Lavenz, age 21 and the passenger, Keith Beene, age 37 were arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—both felonies.

What a Perfect Night!

On Tuesday evening, a crew of 15 officers, 2 police chaplains, a community service officer and Administrative Assistant Pam Roberts were joined by Mayor Tom Kuntz, Council Members Les Abraham, Jeff Okerberg, Kevin Raney and City Administrator Kris Busse to spread out across the city to help our community to celebrate this year’s Night to Unite. A total of 28 registered block parties occurred throughout the city and were attended by an estimated 750 community members. Night to Unite offers our department the opportunity for our officers to develop and strengthen relationships with our community members. Night to Unite offers our department the opportunity for our officers to develop and strengthen relationships with our community members. Night to Unite offers our department the opportunity for our officers to develop and strengthen relationships with our community members.

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