Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, Aug. 7 to Thursday, Aug. 13

• Busiest Day of Week: Friday—93 events
• Busiest Hour of Day: 4:00 PM—37 events
• Total # of Events: 494
• Average Events/Day: 70.57
• Average Events/Hour: 2.94
• Average Traffic Stops: .62 per hour
• DWIs for the week: 2

Department News—

The Owatonna Police Department is pleased to announce the hiring of a new police officer and returning community service officer. Derrik Quinlan has been hired as a police officer to fill a position vacated by Brandon Fandel’s departure. Derrik is a native of Faribault and brings previous law enforcement experience working as a Faribault Reserve Officer and security officer with Allina Hospitals. Tommy Adams returns as a community service officer. Tommy held the same position with the Owatonna Police Department in 2014 before moving on to the Steele County Sheriff’s Office.

Prescription Medication Theft—

On Wednesday morning our officers were called to the Rison Home facility on Hoffman Drive for theft of prescription medications. The investigating officer found a centralized medication cache had been broken into during the night and a large quantity of prescription medication had been taken. A suspect living in the facility was identified by Rison staff and was sought out by investigating officers. When confronted, the suspect was found to have white powder around his face and medication scattered in his room. The male was later found to be in possession of two other pills found during a search. A search of the suspect’s room revealed prescription medication and schedule II and IV controlled substances matching medications stolen from the cache and not prescribed to him. Michael J. Worden, age 37, was arrested and jailed. He was formally charged with (2) counts of Theft and Possession of a Controlled Substance—felonies.

Altercation Leads to Robbery Charges—

The bike path near Hoffman Drive and Rose Street was the location of an altercation that lead to felony charges on one of the participants. Owatonna officers were called to the area in response to a fight involving two females. Officers located the victim who reported she was walking on the trail toward the Blast when the suspect drove up and approached her. The suspect was allegedly mad because she thought the victim was with a male. The victim, who was holding her daughter at the time, was allegedly assaulted when the suspect came at her and scratched her face and arms—the suspect then allegedly took the victim’s phone and left. An officer observed the victim had a scratch under her eye and scratches on her elbows. In an interview with the suspect, she admitted to some sort of confrontation with the victim and taking her cell phone. Shanda H. Grundhoffer, age 30, was arrested and formally charged with Simple Robbery, Theft and 5th Degree Assault.

Good Luck Brandon—

Long-time Officer Brandon Fandel signed off-duty for the last time on August 5th as he departs for a police officer position with the Minneapolis Police Department. Brandon has served the community since 1999 in many capacities, including as a patrol officer, canine handler, field training officer and most recently as a detective. Brandon will be missed and we surely wish him the best in his new endeavors!

Motorcycle Law Change—

Certified motorcycle “road guards” will be able to stop and control traffic for large motorcycle group-rides in Minnesota beginning August 4. The Motorcycle Road Guard Law, passed by the legislature and signed into law in 2012, is designed to help motorists and motorcyclists safely share the road during group rides. More than 400 Minnesotans have passed the Department of Public Safety Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center Road Guard Training Course. The law requires road guards to:

• Successfully complete a driving record review and a training course to receive a motorcycle road guard certificate.
• Meet safety and equipment standards outlined in the law.
• Only act as a flagger for group rides with 20 motorcycles or more.
• Notify each statutory or home rule charter city through which the ride is traveling.

Drivers stopped by a certified road guard must obey the flagger’s instructions and stay stopped until they are given the “all clear” signal from a flagger or police officer. Road guards are not allowed to hold traffic for longer than 10 minutes.

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