Busiest Day of Week: Friday — 99 events
Busiest Hour of Day: 1:00 PM — 43 events
Total # of Events: 595
Average Events/Day: 85
Average Events/Hour: 3.54
Average Traffic Stops: .73 per hour
DWIs for the week: 3

Again this year we will be hosting a Citizen’s Police Academy, beginning September 28, 2016 and running through November 16, 2016. The academy is meeting Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is designed to give residents and business owners a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the Owatonna Police Department and its day to day operations. Applications for this year’s class will be accepted through September 14, 2016. For more information, contact Pam Roberts at 507-774-7200 or click here.

Precious Metals—On Wednesday, August 24, the Steele County Attorney’s Office formally charged Matthew Ray Hager with felony theft following a two month theft investigation involving silver that was taken from Viracon. The silver was traced back to a pawn shop and some of which had already been sold. A total weight of 4.88 pounds or 71.2 Troy ounces was pawned, a value of $1,471.03. Hager is also responsible for stealing an additional $22,134.74 of silver weighing 73.5 pounds or 1,071.9 Troy ounces by stashing it outside a Viracon building during his work hours, although his actions were detected and the silver was recovered. On Tuesday, Hager was interviewed by investigators from his home in New Richland. He confessed to the thefts and was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and held in custody until the criminal complaint was issued.

Space for Stepfather and Son—Just after bar close at the Ye Olde Beer Garden, an OPD officer stopped a Dodge Alero on South Oak Avenue near Barney Street for no headlights after dark. The driver, Jose Colmenero, age 34, of Owatonna, was arrested for DWI. His license to drive was already revoked. Once at the Steele County Detention Center, the arresting officer ran a breath test on Colmenero that registered a BAC of 0.16. Due to current Minnesota laws, the car was not towed so it was left at the scene in a legal parking position. Until....

At 04:15 a.m., just three hours after the car was stopped the first time, a new drunk driver got behind the wheel to drive the same car home. This time, an OPD Reserve Officer observed this vehicle drive without headlights and called for a sworn officer to make an investigative stop. Once an officer was in position, the officer noticed the driver was not signaling turns, still driving without headlights, and was riding the brakes. Once pulled over, the driver stated his stepdad was just arrested and he wanted to make his mom happy and get her car home. The driver, David Beraza, age 23, of Owatonna, was arrested for DWI. Beraza was also revoked and admitted to “drinking a lot” while at the Beer Garden. He was arrested and submitted to a breath test which reported his BAC at 0.23.

Jose Colmenero and David Beraza were both charged with 3rd degree DWI—a Gross Misdemeanor that carries a maximum fine of $3,000, and/or up to one year in jail.