Friday, Dec. 23 to Thursday, Dec. 29

- Busiest Day of Week: Thursday—131 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 AM—61 events
- Total # of Events: 718
- Average Events/Day: 102.57
- Average Events/Hour: 4.27
- Average Traffic Stops: 1.13 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 0

Department News—

Welcome Back!

In August 14th, we said goodbye to an outstanding officer when Alexandra Mieritz left the department for the Savage Police Department—Alex had served with us since 2014. As fate and fortune would have it, beginning next Tuesday, Alex is coming back to the OPD, although now as Alex Vogel. We’re excited to welcome Alex back and looking forward to her continued service to our community.

Slight of Hand not Quick Enough for Good Police Work—

On Wednesday afternoon, our canine officer stopped a vehicle after receiving information that the driver was operating without a valid driver’s license. While speaking with the driver, she admitted to the license violation, but the officer also noted she and a passenger were acting in a way to conceal something in the vehicle or to divert the officer’s attention. The officer advised that because of their behavior, he was going to use his canine to sniff the vehicle—at that point, the female produced a marijuana pipe from her purse. Due to the cold, the female was offered the opportunity to sit in a squad while a search was conducted in the vehicle. While seated in the squad car, a passerby intervened in the stop and an officer watching the female was momentarily distracted. When the officer’s attention was brought back to the female, a pipe, still warm to the touch, was seen in the snow in a close proximity to the female. The pipe tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. The driver, Heather M. Krumrie, age 27, was arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Driving after Suspension.

Tax Time Scam—

With the start of a new year, tax refunds will be on the minds of many. Tax refunds are also on the minds of many thieves who purport to be an agent with the IRS. The scheme works like this—an impostor representing him/herself as a representative with the IRS will call an unsuspecting victim by telephone. The phony IRS agent, sounding legitimate and very insistent, will threaten that unpaid taxes are owed and agents are on the route to your home to arrest you if the taxes are not paid. The phony will give the victim the option of paying immediately to avoid arrest and ask that payment be made by money order, gift card, or some similar non-traditional method of payment. The problem is that the IRS does not make these kind of calls and if you fall for this scam, you will be very likely to be out your money. If this happens to you, your best bet is to hang up the phone. If you get such a call or if you’ve fallen victim, go to www.treasury.gov/tigta. Click the link for “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting.”

Cold Weather Blues—

We’ve all done it. You know, its -10 degrees outside and we have to crawl into ice cold car to head to work or run some other errand. So what do we do? Start the car, leave it unlocked while its running and head back indoors…and hope it’s there when we return. Unfortunately, that is what happened to one of our unlucky community members this past week and left an easy target for a prowling car thief. Though not illegal in Owatonna, many cities in Minnesota have ordinances that prohibit this practice. Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you are away from it, not even for a minute. Heeding this advice may keep you from being left out in the cold and from a car thief enjoying the warmth you intended to create.