Citizen’s Academy Week 7

Steele County Attorney Dan McIntosh was a guest speaker for this week’s Citizen Academy. Mr. McIntosh and his staff are responsible for juvenile and adult criminal prosecution for Steele County, including the Owatonna Police Department. Mr. McIntosh also represents and provides legal services for county offices. The Steele County Attorney’s Office handles many court matters such as child protection, child support, paternity, civil commitment hearings, services and programs available to crime victims. During this session, Mr. McIntosh presented a case study to illustrate the complexity and process of criminal prosecution and the interaction his office has with law enforcement.

What’s that Smell?

Just after midnight on Saturday, November 5th, an officer stopped a vehicle with two occupants at Oak Avenue and W. Vine Street for an improper turn while coming from W. Bridge Street. While speaking to the driver, the officer noticed a strong smell of cologne. The driver admitted to drinking beer at a downtown bar. Based on other indicators of impairment the officer asked the driver to submit to roadside sobriety tests. The officer concluded that the driver was impaired and was subsequently arrested for DWI. During the booking process, the driver admitted to drinking five beers and felt “a little fuzzy”. The driver was identified as Jared Sammon, 25, of Faribault. Sammon’s breath test was measured at .11 BAC with no prior DWI convictions. Sammon was charged by citation with 4th degree DWI and a lane violation.

Winter Parking Ban — Coming Soon...

The winter parking ban begins in the City of Owatonna on November 15th and ends on March 31st even if we see snow or not. During these months, you may park on either side of the street between the hours of noon and midnight. The restriction commonly referred to as odd/even parking is between the hours of 12:01 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. (noon). Between 12:01 a.m. and Noon, you need to park on the odd side of the street on an odd calendar day (s) and even side of the street on an even calendar day (s). The odd/even side of the street is determined by house numbers. If your house number is 1305 (odd number), you park on that side of the street on odd days (11/15/2016). On even days (11/16/2016) you will park across the street from your house. If you get home from work at 5:00 p.m. on 11/16/2016, and odd even applies (winter parking ordinance) you will park on the odd side of the street because at 12:01 a.m. it will be 11/17/2016! This ordinance does not apply to any street where there is more restrictive parking requirement. Please follow the Winter Parking Ordinance to learn more.

Giving a False Name to a Peace Officer—On Sunday, November 6th at 02:39 a.m., an officer stopped a vehicle for expired registration. When the officer asked for identification, the driver gave a false name of a real person, making it an enhanced offense. The officer asked the driver for his name the second time and his response didn’t change. The officer used an on-line access to driver’s license files to compare driver’s license images against the actual driver. As the officer continued to investigate, he noticed two tires with rims in the back seat. The officer also noticed the vehicle registration stickers were displaying 2017 year tabs but after closer examination, the tabs belonged to a different vehicle - which came from a stolen vehicle. The officer then noticed that only the front tires and rims on the stopped vehicle matched those tires and rims in the back seat. The officer arrested the unknown driver. With the help from a fingerprint database, the driver was identified as Cheng Xiong, age 22, of Minneapolis. Xiong was charged with driving after suspension and a giving a false name and date of birth (of another) to a peace officer—a gross misdemeanor.