Just the Facts

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Dangerous Weapon Allegedly Used in Assault—

On Sunday afternoon, our officers responded to a neighboring home to the Law Enforcement Center at 303 N. Elm Ave. for a domestic assault. Investigating officers learned a 25-year-old female victim and a 27-year-old male suspect had been verbally fighting for some time. The female went into a bedroom and was confronted by the male who was holding two shotguns, stating he was going to kill himself and maybe her. The female tried to take the weapons away and the suspect struck her on the hand with a gun. The suspect took the guns away, but the victim managed to sneak away with the ammunition and hide it. Due to weapons and threatened use of the weapons, the South Central Drug Investigation Tactical Team was called out to assist with apprehending the suspect; however, prior to their arrival, the suspect emerged from the home and was arrested without incident. During a search of the home, two shotguns were located and seized along with the ammunition taken by the victim. The suspect, Troy J. Hollister, was jailed at the Steele County Detention Center and was subsequently charged with 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon—a felony and two counts of Domestic Assault—both misdemeanors.

Happy Thanksgiving—

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, police records and administration will not be staffed on Thursday, November 24th & Friday, November 25th. Regular & emergency police services will continue during the holiday.

Don’t Let Joyous Holidays Become a Somber Anniversary—

It’s Christmas and your son gives you a hug before he heads home for the evening. In the middle of the night, an officer knocks on your door, telling you your son is dead. He was drunk when he crashed his vehicle. The joy of the holidays can quickly change with poor, selfish decisions. Christmas has the second highest percentage of drunk driving-related fatalities (35.3 percent) during a major holiday period, followed by Thanksgiving (33.3 percent). The July 4 holiday has the highest percentage at 45.5 percent. To help keep the roads safe during the holidays, the Blooming Prairie Police Department, the Owatonna Police Department, and the Steele County Sheriff’s Office will be participating with law enforcement statewide in an extra DWI enforcement campaign starting Nov. 23rd and on weekends through Dec. 30th. The extra patrol is a result of the Toward Zero Deaths initiative of which the Owatonna Police Department is a proud partner. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes - education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma response.

Police Citizen’s Academy—

On Monday, November 21, 2016, our fellow community members graduated from the Citizen’s Academy! The culmination of the academy ended with a brief overview of City Administration, Community Development, Human Resources, Finance, Engineering/Streets, Parks and Recreation, Information Technology, and the Library. A special THANK YOU to all the City department heads for sharing how they serve our community. Citizen’s Academy is held annually, typically in the fall. Stay tuned to future editions of Just the Facts for the next opportunity to enroll!

Cops in the Community—

On Tuesday morning this week, Detective Joel Hunt and Officer Mike Earl met with staff at Fernbrook Family Center in Owatonna. They discussed a wide range of issues regarding mental health. In addition to general information about Fernbrook and OPD, they discussed current trends the police department is seeing in the community, changes in child protection cross reporting, and what information is needed when reporting welfare checks. This was a great opportunity to discuss approaches from both entities and how we can better serve our community. Detective Hunt is frequently involved in adult and child protection investigations and Ofc. Earl is one of our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers.