Social Hosting Violation—

Last Friday night a 911 hang-up turned into a social host enforcement action. Our officers responded to an address on Creekside Dr. to verify there wasn’t a need for emergency services. When they arrived, they found a home in which a group of underage persons were having a drinking party while parents were on vacation. In all, twelve individuals were charged with minor consumption of alcohol and the minor host was charged with violating the social host ordinance. This case serves as a good reminder of the local social host ordinance which stipulates it is unlawful for any person to:

- At any residence, premise or any other private or public property;
- Where alcoholic beverages are present;
- When the person knows or should know that an underage person will or does consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage—or possess any alcohol with the intent to consume it; and
- The person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s)

Department News—

This week we welcomed a new officer to the department, Shantel Loos. Shantel comes to us from the Olmsted County Detention Center where she worked as a detention deputy for the last year. Shantel is working through some in-house training this week and will be out on the street with field training officers for the next few months. Please help us in welcoming Shantel to the City of Owatonna!

Scam Alert—

Please be aware that there are scammers trying to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though none have been reported in Owatonna, other police departments in Minnesota have been reporting them. For more information on prevention, please click here.

A Message from the Chief...COVID-19—

With the COVID-19 pandemic upon us, it is critical we keep our emergency responders healthy so they can respond to your emergencies. To help with that, you may notice our officers making phone contact in cases you’d normally have an in-person response. During this pandemic, rest assured you’ll get them same level of service, but they may be delivered in a method to practice safe-social distancing in an effort to keep you and our officers healthy.