Just the Facts

December 24, 2020   Volume 11, Issue 50

THE OWATONNA POLICE DEPARTMENT
EST. 1909

The Owatonna Police Department is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community through partnerships, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Policing excellence through our People, our Work, and our Relationships

Winter Driving Advisory—

This past week the light dusting of snow we received created some hazardous driving conditions in places, evidenced by a few crashes in town where ice-covered roads were a contributing factor to the crash. A major winter snow event is way overdue, so remember these tips:

WINTER SURVIVAL KIT
- Boots, jackets, gloves
- Blankets
- Cell phone charger
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Bottled water and snacks
- Booster cables
- Basic tools
- Sand or cat litter
- Red bandana
- Pencil and paper

- Slow down to safe speeds for the current road conditions—road conditions may change very quickly
- Avoid unnecessary travel if road conditions are poor
- Check current road conditions at 511mn.org
- Stay alert for snow plows and give them room—stay 5 car lengths behind the plow
- Be prepared with a winter survival kit
- Buckle up and ensure children are properly secured in the correct child restraint

Walking After Dark—

Many people, including this writer, are taking advantage of wonderful weather and road conditions and are out walking—often in the early morning or after work and in the dark. Please remember to help protect yourself and wear light/bright colored clothing to help motorists see you. You may want to consider investing in some gear to keep you visible, such as a headlamp, reflective clothing or LED lighted vests, arm or ankle bands. Lastly, don't assume motorists see you—keep your head up and be alert to oncoming traffic or when crossing streets or at intersections.

From the team at the Owatonna Police Department

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

In observance of the Christmas Holiday, police administration and records will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th. Regular and emergency police services will continue during the holiday.

Scam Alert—

Scam Alert

Last week, a patrol officer fielded a call from an elderly female reporting she had been getting calls to bail her grandson out of jail. This is a common scam, but instead of sending money to the scamster, the potential victim contacted law enforcement to talk about the matter. The officer told her this was a scam and to not send any money. We credit the potential victim in this case--she did exactly as she should do when confronted with this scam by not acting on impulse and verifying the information. For more information on scams, please click here for information compiled by the Federal Trade Commission.

Fallen Officer

RECENTLY FALLEN HERO

Police Officer Jason Shuping
Concord (NC) P.D.

Police Officer Jason Shuping was shot and killed while attempting to apprehend a carjacking suspect. Officer Shuping is the 48th law enforcement officer to be shot and killed this year and the seventh officer fatality from the state of North Carolina in 2020.

End of Watch: December 16, 2020

Our Team

Administration
Chief Keith Hiller
Captain Eric Rethemeier
Captain Jeff Mundale

Sergeants
Jason Petterson
Andy DeVinny
Andy Drenth
Josh Sorensen
Tracy DuChene
Jason Matejcek
Zack Schumaker

Detectives
Brady Vaith
Christian Berg
Ben Johnson
Steven Bowman
Valerie Satre
Travis Ardolf

Patrol Officers
Joel Hunt
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Andrew Van Osdale
Melissa Michael
Alan Callahan
Derrik Quinlan
Alexandra Vogel
Casey Martin
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson
Matthew Borash
Benjamin Metcalf
Joshua Lee
Todd Schwanke
Anna Martin
Zachary Plein
John Van Alstine
Jeremy Katz
Brandon Fandel

Community Service Officers
Brian Shaw
Michael Brein
Gabrielle Flemming
Julia Hansen

Canine
Vegas

Support Staff
Kimberly Dub
Pam Roberts
Wendy Gasner

Chaplains
Brent Carlson
Nancy Deetz
Loren Olson

Reserve Officers
Michael Leyva
Bill Traetow
Julia Hansen
Steve Wrede
Gabrielle Flemming
Asbeida Aguilar
Asberry Thoreson
Maddie Ziegler

Records Staff
Kate Schroeder
Renee Babcock
Rebecca Melchert
ShaLee Ebertowski