



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

# Just the Facts

April 9, 2021

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## Suspicious Vehicle Leads to Drug Discovery—

Early Tuesday morning, patrol officers were called to the report of a suspicious vehicle parked on Coolidge St.—a reporting person reported the vehicle had been in front of their home for the past thirty minutes and remained occupied. Officers found the vehicle and lone female occupant. While speaking with the occupant, they saw indicia of controlled substances in the vehicle—specifically, a white crystal substance on a seat. The occupant admitted to an officer there were controlled substances under the seat. During a search of the vehicle, presumptive methamphetamine, heroin, THC cartridges, prescription medication and drug paraphernalia were uncovered in the vehicle. In an interview, the 25-year old occupant admitted to being a drug addict—she was not arrested, but is facing formal charges for controlled substance crimes.



## Cops in the Community—

On Thursday morning and afternoon, Owatonna Detectives Christian Berg and Ben Johnson returned to an academia setting, paying a visit to Nicole Rhodes' forensics class at the Owatonna Middle School to talk about the physiological effects of drugs on the body, examples of illegal narcotics, death investigations and general law enforcement topics. We've been partnering with the middle school forensics class for a number of years, but put a pause on the partnership due to the COVID pandemic. We are excited for this collaboration to continue for the years to come!

## Severe Weather Awareness —

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 12-16, 2021. The week is designed to refresh, remind and educate



everyone about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them. It's also a great time to make and practice your emergency plan and build or refresh your emergency preparedness kit. The most important events during the week are the two annual statewide tornado drills. These drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 p.m. and 6:45 p.m. Outdoor warning sirens and NOAA Weather Radios will sound in a simulated tornado warning. The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families. During the week, each day focuses on a different weather safety topic—for more information, click the links below

- Monday—[Alerts and Warnings](#)
- Tuesday—[Severe Weather, Lightning & Hail](#)
- Wednesday—[Floods](#)
- Thursday—[Tornadoes](#)
- Friday—[Extreme Heat](#)

## Drive Smart—

[Drive Smart](#) means parking the phone, setting the GPS and music before driving, keeping your eyes on the road during a conversation, not reaching down for an object on the floor, not eating messy food that could spill and take your attention off the road, and the list

goes on. Drive smart simply means putting all the distractions away and focusing on the road.



## Our Team

### Administration

Police 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 Deltjenbruns  
Andrew Van Osdale  
Melissa Michael  
Alan Callahan  
Derrick Quinlan  
Alexandra Vogel  
Casey Martin  
Luke Selvik  
Travis Johnson  
Benjamin Metcalf  
Joshua Lee  
Todd Schwanke  
Anna Martin  
Zachary Plein  
John Van Alstine  
Jeremy Katz  
Brandon Fandel  
Michael Brein

### Community Service Officers

Brian Shaw  
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  
Osbeida Aguilar  
Asberry Thoreson  
Maddie Ziegler

### Records Staff

Kate Schroeder  
Renee Babcock  
Rebecca Melchert  
ShaLee Ebertowski