



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



Detective Berg accepting his plaque as 2021 Police Officer of the Year

Dog Bite Investigation—

On Sunday, September 19th at approximately 11:00 AM, a dog bite occurred at the Owatonna Dog Park located at 1915 State Avenue, and we are seeking help in identifying the biting dog and its owner. In the case, a younger brindle colored Pitbull, or Pitbull/Boxer mix bit a black Labrador and then bit its human owner on the forearm—the dog also had a dark blue collar. The biting dog’s owner was described as white female with shoulder length dark hair and a small tattoo on her ankle. The biting dog owner collected her dog and left the scene before exchanging any information with the victim. Without information or vaccination records of the biting dog, the victim has started receiving the rabies series of shots. Anyone with information about this biting incident is asked to contact an Owatonna community service officer at 507-451-8232.

Just the Facts

September 24, 2021 Volume 12, Issue 40

Department News Aboard—

We are proud to announce the promotion of Josh Sorensen to the rank of captain, effective Sunday, September 26th. Josh, an Owatonna native, has been an Owatonna police officer since 2004. During that time, Josh has been a defensive tactics instructor, firearms instructor, child protection investigator, school resource officer and mobile field force instructor. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and held the role as the coordinator of the Use of Force Unit. In 2019, Josh was selected as the Owatonna Police Department Police Officer of the Year by the Moonlighter’s Exchange Club. Josh will be replacing Captain Eric Rethemeier who will be retiring in January 2022. Please help us in congratulating Josh with his well-deserved promotion!



Josh Sorensen taking the oath of office before the Honorable Judge Karen Duncan

At Tuesday’s city council meeting, the department recognized several officers with their badge pinning and official oath of office, including: Officers Michael Brein, Tony Malepsy, Jeremy Katz, John Van Alstine, Matthew Lounsbury and Sergeant Zack Schumaker.



Officers taking the oath of office

On Thursday evening at the Owatonna VFW, Detective Christian Berg was officially recognized by the Moonlighter’s Exchange Club as their 2021 Police Officer of the Year. Christian has been with the Owatonna Police Department since 2011 and has been a detective since 2018. Congratulations to Christian on this great honor!



Sergeant Schumaker having his sergeant badge pinned by his son

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

Christian Berg
Ben Johnson
Steven Bowman
Valerie Satre
Travis Ardolf
Derrick Quinlan

Patrol Officers

Joel Hunt
Brady Vaith
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Andrew Van Osdale
Melissa Michael
Alan Callahan
Alexandra Vogel
Casey Martin
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson
Benjamin Metcalf
Joshua Lee
Anna Martin
Zachary Plein
John Van Alstine
Jeremy Katz
Brandon Fandel
Michael Brein
Anthony Malepsy
Kyle Martin
Matthew Lounsbury

Community Service Officers

Brian Shaw
Gabrielle Flemming
Julia Hansen

Canine

Vegas

Support Staff

Kimberly Dub
Pam Roberts
Wendy Gasner

Chaplains

Brent Carlson
Loren Olson

Reserve Officers

Michael Leyva
Bill Traetow
Julia Hansen
Steve Wrede
Gabrielle Flemming
Maddie Ziegler
Dietrich Piepho

Records Staff

Kate Schroeder
Renee Babcock
Rebecca Melchert
ShaLee Ebertowski