Just the Facts

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And so it Begins—

This past week an annual right of winter passage took place when we fielded our first report of a stolen car that was left running, unattended to warm up. Last Friday morning a community member in the northeast side of town went outside and started the car and went back inside—within two minutes the car was gone and later recovered at an abandoned farm site in Freeborn County. During the winter months, who doesn’t want to cozy up in a warm car, but does it outweigh the risk? In some cities, idling an unattended vehicle is against the law. Locally, no person shall have or allow a motor vehicle engine to idle in residential districts of the city for longer than 15 minutes.

Department News—

This week we welcome John Van Alstine to the City of Owatonna and the Owatonna Police Department. John became our newest police officer to hit the street and will be working with a field training unit in the upcoming weeks. John comes to us with previous law enforcement experience as a former officer with the Dundas Police Department, the Federal Department of Veteran’s Affairs Police Department in Minneapolis and is a military veteran. Please help us in welcoming Officer Van Alstine to Owatonna!

Cops in the Community—

During this holiday season our officers and staff have been out and about in the community, including two Shop with a Cop events—one at Fleet Farm (Officers Travis Johnson & Nathan Heeren and Sergeant Josh Sorensen) and the other at Target (Officers Travis Johnson & Benjamin Metcalf and Reserve Officers Bill Traetow, Brennen Brase). On Tuesday evening, some of our officers (Sergeant Jason Petterson, Detective Matt Oeltjenbruns, Officers Joel Hunt, Derrik Quinlan, Anna Peterson and McGruff) were ringing the Salvation Army bell in a friendly Battle of the Badge with the Fire Department to see who could raise the most donations—both badge bearing departments were successful, but our fire-fighting friends out-raised us by $30!

Citizen’s Academy Wrap-up—

The final session of the ‘19 Citizen’s Academy was held this past Monday. Since the last update, the academy group has heard from the Honorable Judge Joseph Bueltel about a day in the life of a district court judge, Steele County Attorney Daniel McIntosh, Rice/Steele 911 Center Administrator Jill Bondhus and South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) Tactical Team Members Zack Schumaker & Matt Oeltjenbruns. In Monday’s session, the group had a surprise visitor, Officer Casey Martin and his canine partner Vegas. SCDIU Commander Sergeant Andy Drenth and a SCDIU agent were the main presenters as they focused on drug trends in the SCDIU enforcement area. At the end of the session, Chief Keith Hiller had an ad hoc commencement ceremony with the group. The Owatonna Police Department will be holding the ‘20 beginning next fall so stay tuned to Just the Facts for more information.

2019 Citizen’s Academy Participants

Our Team

Administration
Chief Keith Hiller
Captain Eric Rethemeyer
Captain Jeff Mundale

 Sergeants
Robbe Kniefel
Jensen Petterson
Andy DeVinn
Andy Drenth
Josh Sorensen
Tracey DuChene
Jason Matejcek

Detectives
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Brady Vath
Christian Berg
Ben Johnson
Zack Schumaker
Steven Bowman

Patrol Officers
Joel Hunt
Andrew Van Osdale
Melissa Michael
Travis Ardolf
Alan Callahan
Derrick Quinlan
Alexandra Vogel
Casey Martin
Valerie Satre
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson
Nathan Heeren
Matthew Borash
Benjamin Metcalf
Joshua Lee
Todd Schwanke
Anna Peterson
Zachary Plein
John Van Alstine

Canine
Vegas

Community Service Officers
Brian Shaw
Cain Troeger
Michael Brein

Support Staff
Kimberly Dub
Parn Roberts
Wendy Gasner

Chaplains
Brent Carlson
Nancy Deetz
Loren Olson

Reserve Officers
Michael Loyva
Kyle Clausen
Bill Traetow
Lance Ulrich
RJ Kniefel
Brennen Brase
Julia Hansen
Steve Wrede
Lori Miller
Gabrielle Flemming

Records Staff
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Barb Rupprecht
Renee Babcock
Rebecca Melichert

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