



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



there are many other forms of distractions going on inside our car, including: eating, adjusting the radio, backseat passengers and pets to name a few. This past week, a pet became a distraction or a hazard inside the car when it was reported that the driver's dog got tangled up in the driver's feet and the driver accelerated into the Russell Stover store, damaging both the vehicle and store. Sergeant Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol recently penned an [article](#) about pets riding in cars in his *Ask a Trooper* series published in Owatonna Peoples Press. In the article, Trooper Christensen ends the discussion with, *for your pet's safety and the safety of all passengers in the vehicle, take the extra time and effort to properly secure your pets so you can drive smart by always paying attention behind the wheel.*



Just the Facts

October 30, 2020

Volume 11, Issue 42

Gone in a Flash—

The unseasonable cold weather has caught many of us off-guard and wondering where our Fall season went to. Unfortunately, a biproduct of cold weather is that too often it creates an opportunity too tempting for thieves to resist. Such was the case this week when we fielded our first report of a community member warming their car up only to return and find it stolen. In this case, a victim in the 400 block of 16th St. NE., started their car to warm it up and left it unattended and unlocked for fifteen minutes. Instead of returning to a comfy, warm car, they found disappointment. The car was later recovered, unattended, by the Minnesota State Patrol after striking a cable median barrier near Dundas and leaving it wrecked. Warming an unattended car certainly has its benefit, 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.



Distracted Driving—

When we mention distracted driving often our first thoughts go to cell phone usage or texting and driving. However,

We're Hiring—

The Owatonna Police Department is currently in a hiring cycle for a Community Service Officer. If you or someone you know may be interested, click [here](#) for more information.

Daylights Saving—

Remember to set your clock back one hour on Fall Back day. This year Fall Back occurs on Sunday, November 1st at 2:00 AM. Fall back is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



RECENTLY FALLEN HERO



Police Officer Ismael Chavez
McAllen (TX) Police Department

Police Officers Ismael Chavez and Edelmiro Garza were shot and killed as they responded to a domestic disturbance call. As the officers attempted to enter the home, the suspect opened fire, fatally wounding both officers. The suspect committed suicide after shooting the officers. Police Officer Chavez is the 29th law enforcement officer to be shot and killed this year and the twelfth officer fatality from the state of Texas in 2020.

End of Watch: July 11, 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 Deltjenbruns
- Andrew Van Osdale
- Melissa Michael
- Alan Callahan
- Derrick Quinlan
- Alexandra Vogel
- Casey Martin
- Luke Selvik
- Travis Johnson
- Nathan Heeren
- 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

Canine

- Vegas

Support Staff

- Kimberly Dub
- Pam Roberts
- Wendy Gasner

Chaplains

- Brent Carlsson
- 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
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