

Note from Sheriff Torgerson

April is Distracted Driving Awareness month; you'll see Sgt. Jens Dammen shares information on our Traffic Safety efforts over the last year on page 2. Distracted driving is something each and every one of us can control for our own safety as well as our families, friends, co-workers and our communities wherever we drive.

The month of April also includes Severe Weather Awareness week, April 9th – 13th. You'll once again begin hearing the sirens more routinely on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Again, it is not meant to be something that causes challenges for you but as an awareness, learning and training tool for you, your families, neighbors and co-workers. We like to remind people the sirens are not intended for you to hear inside your homes or workspaces but for outdoor warning for people working and playing in the immediate area to take cover. As always, if there is severe weather, please be aware of the threatening conditions and monitor them the best you can so you can head to a safe place indoors upon hearing the sirens. Please be sky aware throughout the entire severe storm season; and again take the information shared via our social and mainstream media to heart and put the tips into practice to save lives.

Senior Administration

Sheriff

Kevin Torgerson

Chief Deputy—LEC

Terry Waletzki

Captains

Scott Behrns
Mike Bromberg
David Satzke
Vince Scheckel

Executive Assistant

Laura Collins

Chief Deputy—ADC

Brian Howard

Captains

David Adams
Macey Tesmer

Olmsted County Sheriff's Office Newsletter

Sheriff Kevin E. Torgerson

OLMSTED COUNTY

SHERIFF



Severe Weather Awareness Week

Captain Mike Bromberg

April 9th through 13th is Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota. According to the National Weather Service, Minnesota experiences an average of 40 tornadoes per year and had 61 in 2017. In the past 10 years, more than 55 people have died as a result of weather-related events in Minnesota. The goal of the week is to enable citizens to be better prepared and take appropriate action when necessary. Each day of the week we will focus on a different topic.

- Monday- Weather Alerts and Warnings
- Tuesday- Severe Storms, Lightning and Hail
- Wednesday- Flood and Flash Flood
- Thursday- Tornadoes (Tornado Drill Day: 1:45pm & 6:45pm)
- Friday- Heat Waves

Please check out our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/OlmstedCOHSEM/> during Severe Weather Awareness Week for great information that will assist you in keeping you and your family safe during severe weather events.

Adult Detention Center Promotions

Captain Macey Tesmer

This year the ADC was approved to add a sergeant position to split the booking and court divisions. As a result, we have several excellent staff that took the test for the corporal and sergeant eligibility rosters. We want to congratulate Aaron Budensiek and Eric Williams on their promotion to corporal and Phil Limpert on his promotion to sergeant.

Chili Cook Off Raises Funds

Sergeant Ted Maeder

On March 15th the Olmsted County Detention Deputies brought back the Chili Cook off challenge. This was an annual event for many years in the ADC which helped generate funds for a charity and for correctional officer week which is held every year the first week of May. This year's event was a big success with 10 people entered in the challenge and 11 pots of chili donated for the cause.

The event is organized by the ADC steering committee who do the work behind the screens to get everything set up. The entrants/donators this year for the challenge included Zane Malcomson, Aaron Budensiek, Andy Danielson, Cory Sherman, Travis Pries, Ted Maeder, Tom Lansing, and Mary Mauseth. The celebrity Judges for the event were Chief Waletzki, Retired ADC Programs Director Pete Ward, and Deputy County Administrator Pete Geisen. The Judges reported that all the Chili was very good but the clear-cut winner was Sgt. Danielson's white chicken Chili. The cook-off charged 5 dollars for all the Chili you could eat with a beverage. The sweating and burning from the spicy ones was free. The proceeds from the event went to Channel One Food Shelf and the correctional officer fund for activities during Correctional officer week this year. A special thanks to John Mancilman and Aviands Food Service for donating the bowls, spoons, napkins and the condiments for the cook-off. Hope to see you at next year's cook-off ~ until then, Sgt. Danielson has the bragging rights!!



Dates of Interest

April 2

Oronoco Township Meeting
Pleasant Grove Township Meeting
Rochester City Council Meeting

April 3

Elmira Township Meeting
High Forest Township Meeting
Olmsted County Board Meeting

April 4

Salem Township Meeting

April 5

Dover City Council Meeting
Quincy Township Meeting

April 9

Cascade Township Meeting
Chatfield City Council Meeting
Orion Township Meeting
Rock Dell Township Meeting

April 10

Byron City Council Meeting
Marion Township Meeting
New Haven Township Meeting
Stewartville City Council Meeting

April 12

Eyota City Council Meeting
Rochester Township Meeting

April 16

Eyota Township Meeting
Kalmar Township Meeting
Oronoco City Council Meeting
Rochester City Council Meeting

April 17

Farmington Township Meeting
Olmsted County Board Meeting
Pine Island City Council Meeting

April 18

Haverhill Township Meeting

April 20

Stewartville High School Mock Crash

April 23

Chatfield City Council Meeting
Viola Township Meeting

April 24

Byron City Council Meeting
Stewartville City Council Meeting

April 26

Eyota City Council Meeting
Olmsted County Fire Meeting
Olmsted County Township Association Meeting

April 30

Dover Township Meeting

Traffic Safety in Olmsted County

Sergeant Jens Dammien

2017 is in the record books for Minnesota and Olmsted County helped contribute to it. Preliminary crash numbers indicate that 2017 was the third lowest year in Minnesota for traffic related fatalities (348) since they began collecting data. The two other lower years were 1943 (274) and 1926 (326). This is a remarkable feat considering the number of vehicles on the road, the number of miles being driven and the population increase. Although official statistical data still has not been released, Olmsted County had approximately 5 motor vehicle related fatalities in 2017 compared to an average of approximately 11-15. Time will tell if we got lucky for one year or if the state wide Towards Zero Deaths (TZD) initiatives that have now been in place for fifteen years are beginning to see additional positive results. I believe the traffic enforcement efforts from our Patrol Division has had a big impact here in Olmsted County. In 2017 the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office had a significant increase in the total number of traffic stops conducted and DWI arrests made.

On April 9, the first 2018 TZD enforcement wave begins with distracted driving enforcement. Hopefully the message gets out and is understood that drivers should put the phone down and wait until they are no longer in traffic before they use their phones.

I have attached the 2017 Preliminary Fatality Totals and supporting information. As you can see from the monthly fatality chart, we are approaching the time of year that is highest in serious crashes. This also corresponds with when our extra enforcement waves are occurring. Hopefully, with a strong commitment towards traffic safety, the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office staff can continue to take appropriate action to reduce the number of serious injury and fatal crashes. The preventative action we take will save lives and make a difference.

A Step in the Right Direction

Preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS) show 348 people died on Minnesota roads in 2017. These numbers may change, but this is the lowest number of fatalities in Minnesota since 1943 (274) and second lowest since 1926 (326).

- Through education and enforcement efforts, more Minnesotans are making the right choices behind the wheel by:
 - Driving sober
 - Wearing their seat belt
 - Paying attention
 - Driving the speed limit

The 348 Fatalities Include:

- 235 motor vehicle occupants.
- 52 motorcyclists, compared with 53 reported this time last year.
- 38 pedestrians, compared with 60 reported this time last year.
- Six bicyclists, compared with seven reported this time last year.
- 17 people died in other vehicles.

2017 Fatalities by Month (preliminary)

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept.	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
24	23	19	24	31	41	34	36	33	39	18	26	348

Fatality Crash Factors

Four main factors continue to contribute to the loss of life. Of the 348 fatalities, there were:

- 98 alcohol-related deaths
- 16 distracted-related deaths
- 82 speed-related deaths
- 80 unbelted motorist deaths

Minnesota Traffic Fatalities

2017 *	2016 *	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
348	392	411	361	387	395	368

* Data are preliminary until reviewed, verified and confirmed by DPS-OTS.

2017 Fatality Breakdown (preliminary)

Gender	Number	Percent
Female	96	28 percent
Male	252	72 percent
Total	348	100 percent

Fatalities by Age Group

10 and under	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71+	Total
5	32	61	51	50	49	42	58	348

2017 Olmsted County DWI arrests processed:

- Olmsted County ranked 25 out of all agencies in Minnesota for the number of DWI's processed through E-Charging
- Deputy Ness processed the 11th most DWI arrests through E-Charging in the state
- Deputy Wagner processed the 68th most DWI arrests through E-Charging in the state