



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

September 17, 2021

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Police Officer of the Year—

After a 2020 COVID hiatus, the Moonlighter's Exchange Club has named an Owatonna Police Officer of the Year for 2021. This year's honoree, as selected by the Moonlighter's, is Detective Christian Berg. Christian has been a police officer with our department since June of 2011. He was assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2016 where he works as a general investigator.



Christian is also assigned to the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force. Christian has been the recipient of many informal written acknowledgments from community members and partnering agencies and a recipient of two formal department commendations. The award presentation will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021, starting at 6:00 pm with a social including meal and program at 6:30 PM at the V.F.W. Hall, 135 W. Oakdale Street. The recognition banquet is open to the public; tickets are \$15 and are available at the Owatonna VFW Club, the Law Enforcement Center, from Exchange Club members or by calling 507-456-4596.

Child Passenger Safety—

National Child Passenger Safety week is September 18th - 24th, and it serves as an ideal time for parents to take a look in the backseat and check those car seats.

- Is the restraint secured tight enough and does not shift more than one inch side-to-side or out from the seat?
- Is the harness on the child tight enough, so you can't pinch the harness material?
- Is the retainer clip at armpit level?
- Most importantly, is your child in the right car seat?

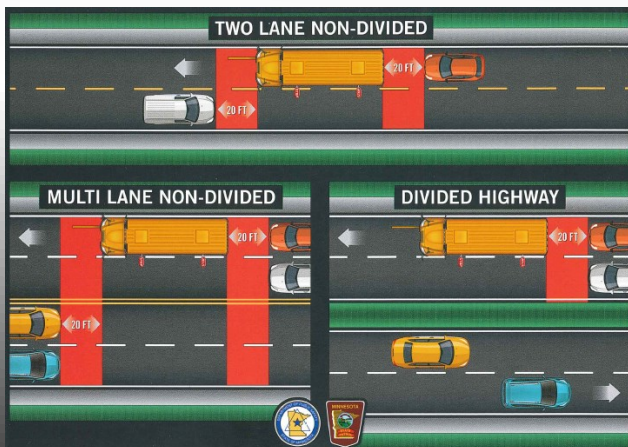
Remember, children progress through different seats as they grow – rear-facing infant seat, forward-facing toddler seats, booster seat and seat belt. Minnesota law requires the use of booster seats for children. Kids should ride in a booster starting when they are at least 40 pounds until they are 8 years of age or 4 feet 9 inches tall. Boosters lift a child up to help a seat belt fit properly. It is recommended that you keep a child in a booster based on their height, rather than their age.

Choose the right car seat.

One size doesn't fit all.

School Bus Safety, Continued—

School has been in session for only a short time and already three violations (as of Tuesday afternoon) have been reported to us by the bus company—that's three too many. As a follow-up to last week's *Just the Facts*, we are providing a second resource provided by the Department of Public Safety and State Patrol to help drivers better understand their responsibility when encountering school buses on the roadway.



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
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