OFF THE CUFF

Threats to Officer – Officers responded to a call of an intoxicated man on November 5. When officers arrived, they found it was a man who we have dealt with many times for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and other illegal behavior. The man was arrested because he was on probation and consuming alcohol was a violation of his probation. While driving to jail, the suspect began talking about an incident where he was arrested a number of years ago by an Apple Valley officer. He recounted details of this arrest and made specific threats to the officer including threats to kill him and his family. He then went on to make threats to kill the female officer who was transporting him to jail. While at jail, the suspect grabbed the front of the officer's gun belt and needed to be restrained for fear he would assault the officer. The man was charged with threats of violence and obstructing legal process.

Homeless Encounters – Officers handled a few calls involving our homeless population in close succession overnight on November 8. The first call came in at 2:59 AM and was in the form of a 911 call. A homeless woman was calling from the transit station on Cedar Avenue asking for someone to open the door. Officers responded and did not locate anyone. At 3:59 AM, officers were dispatched to Cub Foods. Store management called to report a man was urinating all over the ground in front of the store. Officers located the man who was homeless and from Minneapolis. His actions disturbed staff members and customers and wanted him charged. The man was taken to jail for disorderly conduct as he was unable to care for himself. At 5:27 AM, officers were again dispatched to the transit station on Cedar Avenue on a report of a homeless woman playing with matches or a lighter which was concerning to commuters. The woman was also playing with the display where schedules were kept making people believe she was going to start it on fire. Officers arrived and checked the area, but the woman was gone by the time they arrived.

Runaway Vehicle – Officer Schultz was sent to check on an unoccupied vehicle that was moving across a parking lot on November 11 at approximately 1:00 PM. A resident of an apartment complex called 911 and was giving the play by play as Officer Schultz responded to the scene. The vehicle was slowly moving backwards and the caller thought it might run into her corner unit at one point. The vehicle eventually left the parking lot and drove into a grassy area. The vehicle ultimately came to rest nearby. Officers checked and found minor damage on the front bumper from running over a curb. Multi-Housing Officer Marcus Smith worked with complex management to try to identify the owner or determine what management wanted to do with the vehicle. Luckily, nobody was injured.

Shoplifting - On November 12, Officer Hanson was at Walmart when he was approached by a loss prevention employee advising him that a theft had just occurred. The employee told him the suspect had been taken into custody and was in the loss prevention office. Officer Hanson attempted to speak with the suspect about the theft, but he did not speak English. Another Walmart employee was able to translate for Officer Hanson and he learned that the suspect was currently visiting family in Burnsville, but lived in Venezuela. Officer Hanson brought him to his squad where he contacted an official interpreter from our language line. The suspect told them he did not intend to forget to scan two bags of merchandise containing 34 items, totaling $245. The suspect was cited for the theft and trespassed from the store.

Snow and Accidents-Sunday afternoon the snow came first and then came the accidents. Officers responded to numerous accidents during this time. Fortunately, none of the accidents were too serious and no one was seriously hurt. However, it was another reminder that when the snow comes down we all need to slow down, keep our distances, and have your car properly cleaned off before you start to drive. None of this is a guarantee that you will not get in an accident, but most of wintertime accidents we see are preventable. Drive safe!

Your Friends at the AVPD!