



# BIRCHWOOD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2024



## TEAMING UP FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY

Over the summer, the Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit and Special Enforcement Teams began "Teaming Up for Traffic Safety" using an enforcement model known as High Visibility Enforcement. HVE combines traditional traffic enforcement with high-visibility elements such as messaging boards or roadside signs, and a publicity strategy, including social media. Together these elements are designed to deter dangerous and unsafe drivers and to encourage voluntary compliance with traffic laws.

Between June and August, SIU/SET teams worked in several communities, including Marine on St. Croix, Mahtomedi, Stillwater Township, Baytown Township, Afton, Newport, Hugo and Mahtomedi. The numbers were impressive: In late June/early July, the teams made 61 traffic stops, resulting in 20 citations and 4 warrant arrests. In early August with a focus on distracted driving, they made 30 stops that resulted in 19 citations, included 15 for cell phone use, 3 for no seatbelts, 1 suspended license and 1 open container.

Now that school buses are back on our busy roads, it's even more important for drivers to pay attention to traffic laws, and enforcement will continue to be one of our top priorities. Stay safe!

NUMBER OF  
INCIDENTS

17

TRAFFIC  
STOPS

2

# WC24041786

## DUMPING COMPLAINT

3XXX JAY STREET

At 7:34am on Aug. 4, a deputy was dispatched to a report of two cardboard boxes found by a roadway. A caller had reported opening one of the boxes slightly and seeing a hand. Upon arrival, the deputy opened the box to find two life-size female silicone pleasure toys. The deputy requested public works to pick them up for disposal.



## MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF



Summer has flown by, and now that we're past the State Fair and Labor Day, students and families are returning to a school schedule — some started even earlier! Every year, the Washington County Sheriff's Office helps kids get ready for the academic year. Thanks to a generous donation from Prohibition Barbers, in early August several deputies, Explorers and volunteer reserves joined Oakdale Police Department officers at Oakdale Target to shop for school supplies with nine students, and for classroom supplies for one teacher. We wish we could do more to help students be prepared.

Our commitment to students doesn't end there. Despite a recent confusing state law that caused several law enforcement agencies to step away from providing School Resource Officers, we stood firm and kept ours in place to provide a steady guiding presence. The law has since been clarified, thankfully, and our SROs are ready for the new school year. We also want to welcome Deputy Nick Sullivan as the new Mahtomedi SRO!

We hope everyone has a safe and successful school year.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Dan Starry".

Sheriff Dan Starry