

Squad 99 Police Blotter

Duluth Police Department

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Graffiti Clean Up Day

Working together to clean things up...



On May 16, 2018, the Duluth Police Department and the Life Safety Office will sponsor a graffiti clean-up in the city of Duluth. Life Safety inspectors, Officers and volunteers will clean graffiti on public spaces. Owners of private property, where there is graffiti, are asked to clean it by May 16, 2018. The Police Department asks the public to report Graffiti to 218-730-5183. You can leave a message with the address of the graffiti, and inspectors will add it to the list of places for clean-up. Let's all help keep Duluth clean!

Opiates Suck!

A community effort to save lives...

On May 8th from 6-8:00pm, at the Holy Family Catholic Church- 2430 W.3rd Street, the Duluth Police Department is organizing an all ages community event regarding the opiate problem in our community. This is an open discussion and learning opportunity on the impact opiates are having on our community and what WE can do as a COMMUNITY to help reduce opiate

Fun Facts from March

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Miles Walked - 92

Business Contacts - 159

Parking Enforcement
Contacts - 5

Meetings (hours) - 18

Self-Initiated Field Activity
and Community Engagement
Events - 42

Citations - 12

Arrests- 3

Traffic Stops- 8



abuse and deaths. Invited to this meeting are

members of the healthcare profession, Youth Services Professionals, St. Louis County Human Services, The Duluth Human Rights Officer, Natives Against Heroin and the Duluth Police Department. Do you know what the warning

signs of opiate use are? Do you know the effects opiates have on the human body, our families or our community? We need to educate ourselves so we know when and how to intervene. It will save lives!

Summer is just around the corner.....hopefully!

As I sit here writing this, we are forecasted to get many inches of snow this weekend. I'm doing my best to stay positive about the weather and know that summer is coming! There is a topic worth discussing as the weather warms up. In an earlier newsletter I talked about panhandling and the side effects of giving to those who panhandle.

Is it legal? According to Supreme Court rulings, panhandling is a form of free speech and not illegal. So what does this mean for our community? These decisions have essentially determined the act of holding a sign and asking another for money is free speech and therefore protected by the 1st Amendment. With that being said, we are unable to enforce our current City Ordinance which addresses begging in public. While panhandling, or asking people for money, is protected by the 1st Amendment, there are things that one cannot do while panhandling. People are not allowed to violate other City Ordinances and State Laws while asking for money. Soliciting in the roadway is not legal for obvious safety reasons and is prohibited by State Law. Furthermore, obstructing traffic, blocking sidewalks and creating disturbances and/or being aggressive and alarming others are actions that are not legal either.

As a Police Department we need to balance the rights of all citizens of our city, businesses, tourists and panhandlers alike. This creates a situation that can be difficult to navigate at times. Obviously enforcement action is part of what we do, but we also balance enforcement with education and connecting those in need with resources. The end goal is to hopefully resolve issues on a long term basis.

Last summer we saw an increase in public alcohol consumption, disturbances, public urination and other incidents near Lake Avenue and Superior Street that lead to a decrease in the perception of safety for downtown businesses, resident and tourists.

As a police department our mission is to provide a safe Duluth for all by strengthening relationships and serving in a respectful, caring and selfless manner. With that being said, if you find yourself wanting to help a panhandler, we ask that you make that donation to the CHUM, Duluth Gospel Mission or another organization that helps those in need. Donations to these organizations will ensure that donated money is providing much needed shelter, food and personal care items!

