Disturbance Leads to Drug Arrest—

On Sunday evening, Owatonna officers were called to the Super 8 Motel for the report of a disturbance in rooms 230 and 232. Officers were invited into room 230 and were given consent to search. During the course of the search, they located a one-hitter pipe on an end table and inside the same end table, a digital scale that had a white powdery residue. Under the covers of a bed, officers found a bag of methamphetamines and a glass pipe. Officers arrested the room occupant and transported him to the Steele County Jail—Jay K. Wolf, age 47, was formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony. Related to this call, officers also met with a female in room 232. She also gave consent to search and upon doing so, officers uncovered a baggie of methamphetamines in a backpack. The female, Misty J. Montgomery, age 32, was also arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Department News—

In the past couple of weeks, Captain Eric Rethemeier and Chief Keith Hiller have attended separate leadership conferences—Captain Rethemeier attended the MN Chief of Police Executive Training Institute in Rochester and Chief Hiller attended the Blandin Community Leadership Program in Grand Rapids.

The Field Training Unit is looking to bolster its corps. Seven interviews were held on Wednesday afternoon and one will be conducted next Monday with the intent on adding two patrol officers to the unit. The Field Training Unit is a critical component of any successful police department. The field training process ensures that the department has sufficient opportunity to directly observe and certify that a newly hired officer has the essential job-related knowledge and skills to be an effective officer for the department and the community. Stay tuned to the next issue to learn which officers were appointed to the unit.

Keep Your Eyes On the Road—

The chance of getting stopped for thumbs on the phone will increase as Minnesota law enforcement agencies across the state focus on distracted driving education and enforcement between April 11-20. Nearly 400 Minnesota agencies are adding extra patrols during an enhanced law enforcement campaign that runs those 10 days. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety (DPS / OTS):

- There have been more than 86,000 crashes attributed to distracted driving during 2009-13, translating to 25 percent of all crashes in those five years.
- On average, distracted driving accounts for approximately 60 fatalities and 8,000 injuries annually.
- In 2013, inattention was the contributing factor in 17,598 crashes (23 percent of all crashes), 68 fatalities and 8,038 injuries.

* Reprinted in part from the MN Department of Public Safety

We’d be remiss if we didn’t recognize the Rice/Steele 911 Center during National Public Safety Communications Week. Housed in the Steele County Law Enforcement Center, the center serves as the public safety answering point for citizens of Steele and Rice County. Their dispatchers are the first person you hear in times of emergency and are often your heroes behind the scenes. Beyond that, the Owatonna Police Department truly appreciate their efforts to keep our law enforcement officers safe!!