Revoked Driver Leads Officers on Pursuit—

On Friday, April 18th, an Owatonna officer observed a vehicle with a registration violation traveling on Bixby Road near Havana Road. The officer turned around to stop the vehicle; however, the vehicle fled away at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued the vehicle south on Highway 218 at speeds estimated up to 80 miles per hour. During the pursuit, the officer observed the suspect vehicle pass at least one vehicle at a high rate of speed and several on-coming vehicles pulling off to the side to avoid a collision with the suspect vehicle. The pursuit came to an end on Highway 218, south of 38th Street when the suspect vehicle came up behind two slow moving cranes and pulled over. Officers conducted a high risk stop and arrested the driver. Lesly L. Wadley, age 37, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Jail. Wadley was formally charged with Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle—a felony, Reckless Driving and Driving after Revocation—both misdemeanors.

Methamphetamine Arrests Continue—

On Monday afternoon, an Owatonna officer stopped a pick-up truck containing two occupants for failing to signal a turn. While speaking with the driver, the officer smelled marijuana coming from within the vehicle. The officer searched the vehicle and found a cigarette package that contained a substance believed to be marijuana and a small plastic bag that contained a white crystal-like substance—the substance later tested presumptive positive for meth. He also found a scale with white residue. The driver, Robert Schirmer, was arrested and taken to jail. Schirmer was later charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Schirmer’s passenger was also arrested for outstanding warrants.

Fugitive Faces Additional Charges—

On Monday morning, an Owatonna officer patrolling the northeast side of town observed a vehicle turning onto Mineral Springs Road from St. Paul Rd. What was interesting about the vehicle was that it was being operated by a person known to be a fugitive wanted by the Department of Corrections. The officer lost sight of the vehicle, but later located it unoccupied at the registered owner’s address. Shortly thereafter, the suspect was observed getting into the vehicle and driving away. The officers stopped the vehicle and placed the suspect under arrest. While searching the suspect, the suspect admitted to having pills concealed in his sock—the officer later found a plastic bag in the sock containing schedule IV controlled substances. The suspect also directed officers to the glove box that contained a glass pipe that tested presumptive positive for methamphetamines. Officers arrested Joshua R. Drabek and transported him to the Steele County Jail. Drabek has been formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Unlawful Possession of Legend Drugs and Driving after Revocation—both misdemeanors.

The Owatonna Police Department is accepting applications for Reserve Officers. Reserve Officers are volunteer positions that assist the police department with various duties. Applications are due May 7, 2014 and can be picked up during regular business hours at the Law Enforcement Center located at 204 E Pearl Street. For more information about our Reserve Officers programs, click here. Questions can be directed to Pam Roberts at 774-7200 or pamelia.roberts@ci.owatonna.mn.us.