Owatonna Crime Mapping—

The Owatonna Police Department and BAIR Analytics Inc. recently collaborated to provide a new way for the public to stay informed about crime in Owatonna. The Owatonna Police Department now has an online crime map called RAIDS Online that maps and analyzes crime data, alerts Owatonna citizens about crimes in their area, and allows the Owatonna Police Department to quickly alert the public about crimes as they occur. Owatonna citizens can view a map and grid with all of the crimes in their area and sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically email a breakdown of recent crime activity. RAIDS Online automatically syncs with the Owatonna Police Department’s records system to keep crime information updated online and in the mobile app. RAIDS Online cleans and geocodes the crime data, then displays all of the incidents on a map, grid and analytics dashboard along with some basic information about the incidents, including the type of crime, block-level address, date and time. RAIDS Online Mobile empowers citizens to better understand crime trends and lower crime in their area. Recent crime incidents are displayed on a map or listed in a grid. Users can click on an incident for more information or display a hotspot map based on the crimes that are currently in display. Users can also sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically email any recent crime activity on a daily, weekly or monthly schedule. The app makes all of this information accessible anywhere from a user’s mobile device. The RAIDS Online Mobile app is available for FREE on the App Store. BAIR Analytics offers RAIDS Online and the RAIDS Online Mobile app as a free service to any law enforcement agency that wishes to participate. To view the current map, click on the RAIDS link to the right.

Task Force Investigation Leads to Arrest in County—

Recently, agents from the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) received information of a clandestine methamphetamine lab operating somewhere in the county between Albert Lea and Owatonna. The information indicated the lab was in an abandoned farm house and involved two individuals by the name Jason and Clifford and that Jason drove a light blue four-door car with a smaller spare tire on one of the wheels. On the 17th, agents spotted a similar car in Clarks Grove and followed it to an abandoned farm site on Hwy 30. Agents approached the farm site and were met by an individual who indicated he was scrapping metal on the property; he was later identified as Jason D. Wilker. Agents observed Wilker showed signs of impairment, kept putting his hands in his pockets and acted visibly nervous. The agents asked if they could pat Wilker down for a weapon at which time he produced from his pockets a tin container and a hollowed out pen that appeared to be used as a snorting device. The agents walked back to their vehicle with Wilker to field test the pen for controlled substances when Wilker backed away from the agents and fled on foot; he was apprehended after a short foot pursuit. A complete search of Wilker revealed presumptive positive methamphetamines. A search of the abandoned farm site revealed many items used in the manufacturing of methamphetamines. Wilker was arrested and formally charged with 1st Degree Manufacturing a Controlled Substance, 3rd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—both felonies, Obstructing the Legal Process and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot.

Department News—

The Owatonna Police Department and the Owatonna Public School district will be enhancing our partnership during this school year in an effort to increase school security. We are currently in the process of hiring three additional community service officers (CSOs) who will be primarily assigned to work within the schools. Two of the CSOs will be assigned to the Owatonna High School and one will be assigned to work in the Owatonna Junior High School. Initial interview for the positions will begin next Thursday and we hope to have the officers in the school within the month. The three positions will be funded by the school district.

Weekend Highlights

Friday, Sept. 13 to Thursday, Sept. 19

- Busiest Day of Week: Saturday — 131 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 2:00 PM & 9:00 PM — 53 events
- Total # of Events: 833
- Average Events/Day: 119
- Average Events/Hour: 4.96
- Average Traffic Stops: .91 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 3