A Time to Celebrate—

On Thursday afternoon, many co-workers, friends and family converged on the Owatonna Art Center to help celebrate the career and retirement of Cheryl Pfeifer. Cheryl retired from the police department on November 29th after 33 years of public service. During the celebration, Cheryl was presented with a vase embossed with the department’s patch and her years of service and filled with Stargazer Lilies. She was also presented with a pendant that had been donated by Jostens; the pendant is similar in design to rings that Jostens has graciously donated to Owatonna police officers who have served the Owatonna community for at least 25-years. Lastly, in true Cheryl form, she requested that in lieu of gifts, a donation of new or gently used mittens or gloves be made for a local charity—thanks to the generosity of many, 74 pairs of mittens or gloves and 12 stocking hats were collected and donated. Now Cheryl, go out and enjoy your retirement!!

From Our Not So Smart Offender Files—

Late Sunday afternoon, our officers were called to the area of Elm Avenue and Rice St. for the report of a cab driver who had just been robbed. Our officers responded to the area where they were met by a 54-year old male victim who was a driver for First Choice Shuttles. The victim reported he had picked up two black males from the area of Hillsdale and was asked to drive them to the area of Main St. When he arrived at the destination and stopped the van, one of the males took a money bag that was located between the seats and the two fled from the cab. As luck would have it, there was newly fallen snow on the ground and people tend to leave their foot-prints in the snow. The officers followed the proverbial trail of breadcrumbs to 134 East Rice Street. At that location, the officers established a perimeter and eventually detained a black male subject who exited the residence. Officer obtained a search warrant for the home and discovered a second male individual in the residence. A search of the residence recovered the money bag, items believed to be from the money bag and suspected stolen money. Both black males were arrested, however, one was later released. J-Qwan D. Robinson, age 20, was charged with Theft and Violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order. Robinson faces the domestic abuse charges because he was on court restriction that prevented him from being at 134 East Rice St. Incidentally, Robinson was arrested on December 4th and charged with Domestic Assault and Interference with a 911/call for an incident that occurred at the same East Rice Street address.

Explorer Opportunity—

The Owatonna Police Department is once again offering a police explorer’s program for students interested in exploring and learning more about law enforcement. The program also serves as a mentorship program for those persons aspiring to become a law enforcement officer. The advisors are full-time police officers with the Owatonna Police Department and will be assisted by members of the Police Reserve Unit and Community Service Officers. This program is offered to persons who reside in Owatonna/Steele County and are between the ages of 14-20 who have successfully completed 8th grade. As the Explorer’s learn law enforcement skills and tactics, they will be offered an opportunity to compete with other agencies at an annual conference. Students interested in learning more about this program or are interested in joining are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, December 15, 2013, 4:00 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center. If you are interested and cannot attend, please contact Ofc. Matt Oeltjenbruns at (507)774-7000–Ext. 7148 or Ofc. Zach Schumaker at (507)774-7000–Ext. 7116.