Patrol Officer Interview Process
The Owatonna Police Department is in the process of hiring a new patrol officer to replace Officer Scott Kirchner. Officer Kirchner returned to his old stomping grounds and took a job with the Plymouth PD. Initially, the OPD / Civil Service Commission received 163 interested applicants. As of this week, the Civil Service Commission recommended three (3) final candidates to Chief Hiller. The anticipated start date for the new patrol officer is February 14, 2011.

Old Man Winter
Old Man Winter came knocking on Owatonna’s door step last weekend dumping an estimated 12-15 inches in town! The Owatonna Police Department issued 28 citations and towed 31 vehicles to clear the way for snow removal. Fortunately, the City witnessed overwhelming compliance and very few vehicles were towed or ticketed. The main intent of the ordinance is to clear the roadways for the safety and convenience of the traveling motorist. In order to accomplish this, it is imperative vehicles are not in the way of our street crews. There is somewhat of a misnomer when it comes to snow emergencies. The homeowner is allowed to park on the street during snow emergencies. They are allowed to park on any street between noon and midnight, just not between 12:01 AM and noon. In addition, they are allowed to park on the street authorized by the ordinance. For example, if it is 12/15/2010, the homeowner may park on the odd side of the street that day (East side of the street or South side of the street) and they just need to be cognizant of the date.

Nice job Owatonna Street Department!

Nudity & Drugs
On December 13, 2010 at 6:31 p.m., Officers responded to a call of a naked man out of control in an apartment. The Officers summoned Gold Cross Ambulance to deliver medical services. As officers helped the man, they noticed a strong odor of marijuana from within the apartment. When officers investigated further and spoke to the owner, she gave officers a bag of marijuana and pipes. Officers took that as a clue and felt that there was more to this situation due to the behaviors of the occupants. A search warrant was pursued and more drugs and money were confiscated. From left to right, Officer Fierst, Officer Bata and Officer Swenson are holding numerous bags of marijuana recovered in the search warrant.