Where There’s Smoke, There’s Fire—In early February, our officers received a report from family members that an elderly loved one, who suffered from dementia, had their credit card used without their consent. The elderly woman resided in a care facility in Owatonna and was confined to her room, unable to travel or manage her own finances. Subsequent investigation revealed that a nursing assistant at the care facility, identified as Amy Delane Hewett, had taken the card and used it for purchases around the area—including $190.00 worth of tobacco! On February 15th, a detective swept Hewett “up in smoke” and transported her to the Detention Center where she was held in custody and formally charged with a financial transaction card fraud, a felony.

Not This Time—On Sunday evening, a suspect responsible for two previous thefts at Walmart on January 8th and February 10th, came back to steal more but was recognized by a store employee. During the first two incidents, the suspect fled with over $500 in goods and was never identified. This time, an employee notified the police department before the thief got away and was stopped by police officers as he left the store. He was identified as Randy Marx, age 53, of Mankato. Marx had outstanding warrants out of Nicollet County. He was formally charged with gross misdemeanor theft.

Odd-Even Parking Ban Expires March 31st

The spring-like weather and the withering snow banks have some Owatonna residents thinking spring is here and the winter is gone. This message is to remind citizens who use street parking that the winter parking ban is still enforced until the last day of March. Call the number below with questions.

In observance of President’s Day, the Law Enforcement Records and Police Administration offices will be closed on Monday, February 20th. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday.

Warrant Arrests—OPD officers made five warrant arrests this week. Of those five, one gave the officers a bit of trouble. On Tuesday morning, officers dropped off a suspended driver at 730 12th Street NE, the home of Derek Denselbeck. Before going there, they were able to talk to Denselbeck on the phone who confirmed he was home. Once officers arrived, it took some time before Denselbeck would answer the door but officers eventually spoke to him. His attitude changed from nice to resistant when he was informed he had a warrant for his arrest and needed to go with the officers. Denselbeck refused to go and slammed the door and locked the deadbolt. Officers kicked the door to gain entry and made the arrest without further resistance. Denselbeck was wanted for a 2015 Domestic Abuse charge.