Close Call—

On January 3rd, our officers were called to an accident on 26th St. NW for a vehicle off the roadway and into the Straight River. Upon our arrival, our officers had found the driver had walked up the river embankment and was unharmed. Officers located the vehicle down the river embankment, perched on some shelf ice, only a few feet from very thin ice and open water. The driver indicates she was traveling westbound on 26th St., approaching the Straight River Bridge. The driver was following a vehicle that began to lose control. The driver had to swerve off the roadway to avoid hitting the truck and came to a stop on the frozen portion of the river. We are thankful this crash did not end up with a tragic result!

Mid Afternoon DWI—

On Thursday afternoon, our patrol officers received a report from a school resource officer that a parent had drove to a school to pick up their sick child and was displaying signs of intoxication. Due to the apparent condition of the parent, law enforcement was contacted and the parent left. Later, the parent returned to the school in his vehicle and was approached by an officer. The officer observed several signs of intoxication and had him perform roadside sobriety tests—which he failed. The driver was arrested for suspicion of drunk driving and transported to jail. At the jail, he provided a breath sample which indicated an alcohol level of .26 of over 3x the legal limit to drive. Gregg Finch, age 30, was charged with (2) counts of DWI—both gross misdemeanors.

Retail Protection—

Detective Christian Berg is our in-house retail theft protection guru. Detective Berg is a member of Twin Cities Organized Crime Association (TCORCA) and uses that membership as a resource to investigate organized retail that does occur in Owatonna. Recently, Detective Berg was able to acquire (50) analog surveillance cameras from TCORCA to be given out locally to enhance or begin a surveillance system. If you are interested in learning more about available surveillance cameras, please contact Detective Berg at 507-774-7220.

Success—

The Office of Traffic Safety has released preliminary data that shows Minnesota crash fatality totals are the lowest since 1943! The preliminary numbers show that 348 people died on Minnesota roadways in 2017—down from 392 in 2016 and the lowest since 1943 (274) and the second lowest since 1926 (326). Through education and enforcement efforts, more of our fellow Minnesotans are making the right choices behind the wheel by driving sober, wearing their seat belt, paying attention and driving the speed limit. Let’s keep it up Owatonna and make a commitment to safe driving!