Two Face Charges from Traffic Stop—

On Tuesday night at approximately 11:00 PM, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle for a broken taillight. After making the stop, the officer learned the driver had a revoked driver’s license. While speaking with other occupants in the vehicle, officers observed several syringes about the vehicle. Our K-9 Kash was summoned to the scene—Kash is a certified narcotics detection dog and he gave a positive alert for narcotics being in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a baggie of crystals which tested presumptive positive for methamphetamine. The driver, Brandon C. Froid, age 28, was arrested and later formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony and Driving after Revocation. The vehicle also contained a male front seat passenger believed by officers to be Corey Johnson—a fugitive from justice. The passenger provided a different name, his brother’s, but officers were able to later verify his identity as the wanted fugitive. Corey Johnson, age 27, was arrested on two outstanding warrants and also charged with an additional crime of Providing a False Name to a Police Officer—a gross misdemeanor.

Burglary Arrested—

On Wednesday morning, an officer met with a female victim who was reporting her home had been burglarized. The officer observed footprints in the snow outside the residence and a window reversed in a window frame. The victim showed the officer text messages she received from the suspect, acknowledging entering the apartment. The officer located the suspect, recovered some stolen property and placed the suspect under arrest. Heath J. Baier, age 34, was formally charged with 1st Degree Burglary.

Toward Zero Deaths Report—

December 31st marked the end of a state-wide Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) enforcement wave that focused on impaired drivers. Preliminary reports from the Department of Public Safety indicates Minnesota law enforcement officers arrested 2,537 drivers between November 26th and December 31st—a 3.4% increase from the same time period in 2013. Locally, the Owatonna Police Department made 12 arrests during the enforcement wave with the highest blood alcohol content .25, over three times the legal limit. The graph to the left represents regional DWI arrests for 2013 and Owatonna’s DWI arrests for 2014.

Become A Police Reserve—

The Owatonna Police Department is accepting applications for Reserve Officers. Reserve Officers are volunteer positions that work under the direction of sworn personnel and assist the police department with various duties. To learn more about reserve duties and requirements or to obtain an application, click here. Applications for this recruitment period are preferred no later than February 1, 2015.