Caught In The Boulevard —

On Friday, January 8th at 10:38 p.m., officers responded to a vehicle off road/crash on the 1300 block of N. Cedar Avenue. During the officer's investigation, the driver stated she was going to work but maybe a bit too fast. The driver stated she began to brake and upon doing so, she lost control of her vehicle, crossed the center line, bounced over the curb, then hit a landscape retaining wall, and finally came to rest in the boulevard. The investigating officer administered roadside sobriety tests and determined the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The officer brought the driver to the detention center for further investigation. A certified breath test operator from the Owatonna Police Department reported the driver's alcohol concentration was .09. The driver, Diana Villarreal, age 32, was charged with a 4th degree DWI—a misdemeanor. This DWI arrest marked Owatonna PD's 4th impaired driving arrest of the year. Luckily no one was injured or in the path of this driver. According to statistics published by the Department of Public Safety, there were 3,453 alcohol-related crashes in 2014. Of those, 111 were fatalities. Owatonna Police Department urges drivers to plan ahead by using a designated driver or call a cab.

Statewide Holiday DWI Enforcement Campaign Results —

300 police agencies throughout Minnesota participated in a statewide crackdown on DWI offenders to help keep holiday travels safe. The enhanced enforcement campaign ran from November 25th—January 2nd with emphasis on weekend enforcement. The results are shocking and the men and women in law enforcement are commended for their efforts. The statewide campaign yielded 2,502 impaired driving arrests. Owatonna PD officers made nine arrests—four were for controlled substance or “drugged driving”. The highest blood alcohol level was reported by Minnetonka PD at an alarming .40. The entire campaign report from participating agencies can be found here. This campaign is wrapped up with a short educational video at an inside look at a DWI booking process. This video came out on December 30th, courtesy of the Minnesota State Patrol and the Scott County Sheriff’s Office. The video can be found on You Tube titled “Locked Up: A DWI Booking”. Click on the title to watch a standard impaired driving booking process—it’s more than just dropping a drunk driver off at jail.

Emotions Flared Up —

On Saturday, January 9th officers responded to a report of a hit and run on private property. The officers learned that the suspect made her way into an ex-boyfriend's home to find him with another woman. A slight altercation took place in the home and the suspect left. However, before leaving, the suspect slashed the new girlfriend's car tire, threw a chunk of wood at the car and intentionally rammed it with her vehicle before leaving. Officers located the suspect at her home and arrested her for criminal damage to property. The suspect, Margie Grubish, age 40, was released with a citation for criminal damage to property and trespassing.

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the LEC Records and police administration offices will be closed on Monday, January 18th. Regular and emergency police services will continue.