2013 Citizen’s Academy in Review—

In 2013, the Owatonna Police Department set out to implement a Citizen’s Academy Program. The Citizen’s Academy program is an educational experience designed to give residents and business owners a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the Owatonna Police Department and its day-to-day operations. Beginning in September of 2013 and running for 8-weeks, the 14 member class engaged in law enforcement topics that included, patrol procedure, laws of arrest, use of force, crime scene investigation, along with many others. The program received great reviews from the class including some of the following quotes from their evaluations—

Every citizen should know these basics.

Very informative and very enlightening.

I would recommend this program to every citizen

I am so happy I took this class, thank you.

I tell everyone I talk to every week about the things I’ve learned.

The next academy class will be held in the fall of 2014 so stay tuned to Just the Facts for details later this year for how you can become involved.

Grocery Store Heist Suspect Taken Into Custody—

On January 20th, the Owatonna Police Department was called to the El Progresso Market at 204 N. Oak Avenue for a theft complaint. The owner of the store alleged two female suspects stole approximately $17,000 in cash from the store. A witness reported the two suspects entered the store. The witness recognized the suspects as previous customers and thought they were acting suspiciously. After the two left the store, the witness went to move a cash bag from behind the counter and found it missing. A review of the surveillance tapes showed that one of the females appeared to be engaging an employee in conversation while the other crawled on the floor behind the cash register several times. After the final time behind the cash register, the two suspects abruptly left the store. Both suspects were later identified in photo line-ups. One of the suspects, Kelly A. Tisdale, age 27, was arrested and later formally charged with Aiding and Abetting Theft—a felony. The OPD is currently seeking Tisdale’s accomplice, identified as Michelle L. Ciochetto, age 32.

Malicious Punishment Charge—

This past week an Owatonna detective investigated a complaint of a male suspect maliciously punishing children. Through a series of interviews, it was learned the suspect had been using a belt to strike the children on their bottoms when they didn’t get house cleaning chores completed. In an interview with the suspect, he admitted to spanking the children for being disrespectful and other things; he also admitted using a belt. Carnell D. Williamson, age 33, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. He was later formally charged with Malicious Punishment of a Child—a gross misdemeanor and Domestic Assault—a misdemeanor.