How to Earn Frequent Flier Miles with your Local Police Department—

On Sunday, July 21st, an Owatonna officer was called to the Fireside Coffee Beans on 26th Street N.W. for the report of a theft. The investigating officer learned that a suspect had broken into a candy vending machine that is located in the laundromat next door to Fireside Coffee Beans. The laundromat was equipped with a video surveillance system which showed a suspect readily known to the Owatonna Police Department breaking into the candy machine on July 15th. The suspect breaking into the candy machine caused damage that was estimated at over $250 to repair. An estimated $30 in change was taken from the machine. On July 22nd, officers located the suspect seen in the video and placed him under arrest. The suspect, William J. Wieseler, age 25, was later charged by citation with Theft and Damage to Property—both misdemeanors. Wieseler continues to be a frequent contributor to Just the Facts as he was featured in February and March for arrests and charges related to check forgery and mail theft.

2012 Crash Facts—
In 2012, there were 395 traffic fatalities involved 276 motorists. Of the 276 killed, 116 were not buckled up—54 percent of those not belted were ejected from the vehicle. A decade ago, there were 257 unbelted deaths. Seat belt compliance is at a record high 94 percent. Officials say the primary seat belt law (effective since June 2009) has helped to further increase seat belt compliance, resulting in fewer unbelted deaths. Officials urge motorists to insist every passenger is belted, including in the back seat. Also in 2012, there were two children killed (0-7 years of age) and 721 injured. Of those killed, one child was not properly restrained and of the injured, 32 percent were not restrained. Minnesota statute requires children under the age of 8 to ride in a federally approved car seat or booster, unless the child is 4 feet 9 inches or taller.

Cops in the Community—
On Friday morning, Officers Zack Schumaker and Bri Lesnau visited Wee Pals Child Care Center where they gave a presentation on police officer duties and squad car tours.

Reserve Sergeant Promotion—
The volunteer police reserve unit began on March 19th with 19 members. The structure or chain of command of the unit was designed to allow for three police reserve sergeants and one reserve captain. The first promotion to sergeant took place last week with the promotion of Clifford Bentley, Sean Robbins and Kevin Knopick. These men have displayed commitment, availability and leadership to help lead the unit. Each reserve sergeant will have five reserve officers under their command. The promotion to reserve captain will be considered at a later date following further evaluation of the newly promoted reserve sergeants. The police reserve unit has donated many volunteer hours this summer by providing security to many community events; such as parades, street dances, park security and park patrols, incident/scene security and assisting with prisoner transports to facilities outside our jurisdiction.

Time is running out to register for this year’s Night to Unite (NTU). This year’s event will be held on Tuesday, August 6th. Click on the here to view a NTU planning packet. Click on the NTU logo to register your event.