Car Prowlers Arrested—

During the early morning hours on Wednesday, an Owatonna citizen living at 618 W. Bridge Street reported observing two black male suspects in his vehicle. He yelled at the suspects and one fled on foot and the other began walking toward him. He went inside and called the police and as our officers arrived in the area to search for the suspects, observed two individuals crouching in an open field near the American. The individuals then fled on foot to the north. At the location where the suspects were seen, officers recovered property stolen out of the victim’s and a second victim’s vehicle. Officers kept searching for the suspects to the north where they found one suspect laying in a wooded area near Casey’s General Store. The second suspect was found walking on Florence Avenue near Kids Corner. Officers found the second suspect had stolen property on him that was identified as stolen out of the victim’s vehicle. The first suspect, identified as Adel A. Hussein, age 23, was arrested and charged by citation with Theft, Motor Vehicle Tampering and Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot. The second suspect, Faisal Abdullahi, age 23, was charged by citation with Theft and Motor Vehicle Tampering. Abdullahi was also arrested for an outstanding warrant for burglary out of Rice County.

Typically, we will see an uptick in this type of activity with the onset of warmer weather. To protect yourself from being victimized, we suggest that if you must leave your vehicle parked outside, consider parking your vehicle in well-lit locations, do not leave valuables in your vehicle—or conceal them in your trunk and remember to lock your vehicle at all times.

K9 Assist—

In the early evening hours on June 13th, Officer Brady Fox and his canine partner Kash were called to the parking lot of Mills Fleet Farm to assist with a fugitive who had fled on foot from a traffic stop being conducted by the Minnesota State Patrol. Responding officers from the Steele County Sheriff’s Office arrived to help flood the area and set up a perimeter. Shortly thereafter, Officer Fox and Kash arrived. Based upon the history of the wanted fugitive, Kash was deployed and controlled on leash by Officer Fox. Shortly thereafter, the suspect was observed walking north across the Fleet Farm parking lot toward Bridge Street. Upon seeing the presence and readiness of the canine, the subject followed orders and was taken into custody without further incident.

Crime Alert—

The Owatonna Police Department is currently investigating multiple residential burglaries that have been reported in the northeast section of Owatonna. Since May 20th, seven burglaries or attempted burglaries have occurred in an area bordered by 14th St. NE to the north, Rose Street to the south, the city limits to the east and St. Paul Rd. to the west. The burglaries or attempted burglaries have occurred to both occupied and unoccupied residences. The majority of the incidents have occurred during the overnight hours, however, in some instances, the time of the occurrence cannot be determined. The suspect appears to be targeting cash; however, in at least one case, electronic items were also targeted. In one instance, the burglary was interrupted when the homeowner was waken by a burglar.

What can you do—

- Please be alert to suspicious activity and don’t hesitate to call 911. This includes strangers walking or loitering about your neighborhood, apparent juveniles out after curfew, and vehicles you don’t recognize circling your neighborhood.
- Record descriptions of suspicious people and/or vehicle(s) and obtain license plate numbers when possible.
- Remember to lock all doors when you are away from your home and during the nighttime hours, including patio, overhead garage and garage access doors.

Department News—

Owatonna Officers Laddie Bata, Matt Oeltjenbruns and Detective Joel Hunt were recently appointed to the South Central Drug Investigation Unit Tactical Team. The tactical team is a specially trained unit equipped to resolve critical, high-risk situations. The team is comprised of law enforcement officers from agencies within Steele, Waseca, Freeborn and Faribault Counties. Team members typically train as a unit between 10 -15 hours each month in areas that include—hostage rescue, warrant service, firearms qualifications, tactical first aid, physical fitness and other various specialized areas. Congratulations to these officers.