When the Eye is Quicker than the Hand—

Last Friday morning, an officer stopped a motor vehicle that was not displaying a front license plate and had a severely crashed windshield. When the officer met the driver and two other occupants, the driving readily admitted to not having a driver’s license. The officer also noted the rear seat passenger appeared to be very nervous. The driver was asked to exit the vehicle and in doing so, put his hands down toward the center console. When the driver made this motion, a back-up officer noticed the driver dropped a baggie that appeared to contain drugs. A search of the vehicle uncovered the baggie which contained 2.3 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine. The driver was arrested and transported to jail. In route to the jail, the driver elected to kick at the back door, causing a large dent and damaging the lower portion of the passenger door. Cedric A. English, age 45 of Owatonna, was charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and 4th Degree Criminal Damage to Property. English’s vehicle has been seized and is subject to forfeiture.

Take it Back—

There is no debating the opioid epidemic has hit the State of Minnesota hard. Recent data released by the MN Department of Public Safety indicates that statewide prescription pill seizures increased by 230% in 2016 from the same time period in 2015. As part of curbing this epidemic, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is sponsoring Take Back Day on Saturday, April 28, 2018. This is a day for Minnesotans and our community members to safely and properly dispose of medication that are no longer needed to limit the opportunity for those medications to be misused. Although April 28th is designated a Take Back Day, locally, every day is Take Back Day as we at the Law Enforcement Center have a disposal box in the lobby where you can safely and responsibly dispose your unused medications.

Cops in the Community—

This past week, many of our officers and community service officers partnered with McKinley school over the lunch hour to have lunch with a student. The photo below, Detective Sergeant Andy Drenth (left) and Detective Christian Berg (center) are dining with the kids. Last Tuesday, Captain Jeff Mundale spent the lunch hours at Torey’s Restaurant speaking with the Owatonna Ministerial Group. Captain Mundale was a guest speaker and gave a State of the OPD address to the group. Later that Tuesday evening, Captain Eric Rethemeier and Detective Joel Hunt were guests at an Owatonna City Council study session. At the session, Detective Hunt gave a presentation on the status of our sUAS (small Unmanned Aircraft System or Drone) program.

In Honor of Fallen Officers—

Cedric English

Policing excellence through our People, our Work, and our Relationships