SCDIU Remains Busy in the City—

Late Monday afternoon, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) met with a confidential informant who reported he could purchase a large amount of marijuana from an individual in Owatonna. Agents from the SCDIU set up an operation where the informant was going to purchase a quarter of a pound of marijuana in exchange for $1200—SCDIU agents monitored the transaction which took place at 430 Cherry Street. After the transaction had taken place, SCDIU agents themselves returned to the Cherry Street address where they confronted the suspect in this case. The suspect agreed to cooperate with the investigation and a search of the residence recovered the $1200 in buy funds used in the operation as well as uncovering additional amounts of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, a firearm, and large amounts of cash. As a result of the investigation, the SCDIU seized $6704 in cash and a 9mm handgun. Ryan C. Nappin, age 28, was arrested and jailed at the Steele County Detention Center. He was later formally charged in District Court with 5th Degree Sale of a Controlled Substance, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

OPD Recognized for Results—

The Owatonna Police Department is a partnering agency in the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) campaign. The TZD approach is based upon the belief that even one traffic-related fatality on our roads is unacceptable. TZD uses a data-driven, interdisciplinary approach that targets areas for improvement and employs proven countermeasures, integrating application of education, enforcement, engineering, and emergency medical and trauma services (the “4Es”). A combination of strategies from different focus areas is often the most effective for solving a particular problem. In 2012, the Owatonna Police Department was selected to receive an large incentive for the department’s efforts during the July 2012 Speed Mobilization—as a result of our efforts in DWI, speed, and seatbelt enforcement, TZD awarded the department two Whelen model light bars for use on squad cars (a $3000 value). The photo below shows Sergeant Deanne von Wald accepting one of the light bars on behalf of the city; the light bar was recently installed on our new Ford Utility.

I-35 Traffic Stop Yields Bountiful Harvest—

On April 5th, an Owatonna officer was on patrol on the interstate when he observed a SUV traveling in front of him over the posted speed limit and with an equipment violation. The officer stopped the vehicle and as he was walking up to it noted several large duffle bags in the vehicle and the driver removing a GPS from the front windshield. As the officer and an assisting officer talked with the driver and passenger, they learned the vehicle was a rental, all of their travel/rental expenses had been paid with cash and the driver/passenger had inconsistencies in their travel story—taking into account of the actions of driver, the inconsistencies between the driver/passenger and cash payments, the officers believed there was some illegal activity afoot and requested to search the vehicle. The officers were granted permission and upon searching the vehicle, found the duffle bags were filled with marijuana. A complete search of the vehicle was conducted at the Law Enforcement Center and officers uncovered six duffle bags that contained a total of 147 pounds of marijuana. Both the driver and passenger—from Clovis, CA—were arrested and transported to the Steele County Jail. The 47 year old female passenger was later released without charges and the 50-year old driver was released after posting bail. Formal charges are expected to be filed on the driver.

Department News—

We’d like to offer a thank you to Bremer Bank for a recent financial donation they made toward our canine program which will be instrumental in the purchase, training and equipment for our newly purchased canine, Kash. Community partnerships such as this as well as the others received for the canine program will benefit the City of Owatonna greatly as an enforcement tool, but also as a prevention and educational asset.

Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week 2013 is April 15-19, with two statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 18 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

This annual public event is designed to remind individuals, families, businesses, schools, and institutions that it’s essential to plan ahead for Minnesota’s severe spring and summer weather. An informed, involved community is more resilient to disaster, and being prepared helps reduce the risks and costs of hazardous weather events. An easy way to get prepared is by participating in Severe Weather Awareness Week (SWAW). The statewide tornado drills on Thursday, April 18 provide an excellent opportunity for citizens to prepare their homes, families, neighborhoods, and communities!

Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 5 to Thursday, April 11
- Busiest Day of Week: Wednesday 132 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 2:00 PM—45 events
- Total # of Events: 685
- Average Events/Day: 97.86
- Average Events/Hour: 4.08
- Average Traffic Stops: .84 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 2