Fight Call Leads to Drug Charges—

On Wednesday evening, Owatonna officers were called to 205 13th Street SW for the report of a fight—it was also referenced by the reporting person that a gun may be involved. The officers arrived and established a perimeter when they encountered a male subject leaving the apartment building carrying several items, including a shirt, cigarettes and a flashlight. The officers asked the subject to set his items down on the ground as they spoke with him. After speaking with the officers, a sergeant retrieved the subject’s property to return it to him. As he picked up the shirt, he felt an item he believed to be a pipe in a pocket. The subject gave consent to search the shirt and a glass pipe was recovered. Residue in the pipe was field tested presumptive positive for methamphetamines and the subject was arrested. Willie C. Hampton, age 32, was formally charged in District Court with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. The fight and weapons complaint ended up being unfounded.

Click it or Tickets it Results—

A statewide Click It or Ticket seat belt and car seat enforcement campaign between the dates of May 19th and June 1st resulted in 10,874 seat belt citations statewide, including 13 seatbelt related citations issued by Owatonna officers. Campaign results were reported by 329 agencies and included 279 child seat citations. The Click It or Ticket enforcement and education campaign reminds motorists that buckling up not only is the law, it’s your best defense in case of a crash. A similar campaign in May 2013 cited 10,342 motorists.

Minnesota Seat Belt Use—Based upon observational studies, daytime seat belt use in Minnesota was only 20 percent in 1986. Buckling up has steadily climbed since, due to enforcement, education and the strengthening of seat belt laws. Minnesota hit a record-high seat belt use rate of 94.8 percent in 2013.

Minnesota Seat Belt Law—Minnesota’s seat belt law is a primary offense, meaning drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or in the correct child restraint.

Minnesota Child Passenger Safety and Booster Seat Law—A child who is both under age 8 and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches is required to be fastened in a child safety seat or booster seat that meets federal safety standards. Under this law, a child cannot use a seat belt alone until they are age 8 or 4 feet 9 inches tall—whichever comes first. It is recommended to keep a child in a booster based on their height, rather than their age. Children under age 13 should always ride in the back seat.

Suspicious Fire Investigation—

During the early morning hours on Friday, Owatonna officers were on foot patrol in the downtown area searching for a female related to an assault. While searching for the woman, they observed smoke coming from the alley between the Dog Pound Bar and the Garage Sale Outlet store. The officers investigated further and found a small fire had been burning on the roof of 214 ½ North Cedar Avenue. The Owatonna Fire Department and a detective responded to the scene and the fire has been determined to be suspicious in nature. No one was injured in this case and it remains under investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Detective Joel Hunt at 507-774-7218.

* Reprinted in part from the MN Department of Public Safety