Local Fugitive Jailed

For the past few weeks, the Owatonna Police Department has been following up on leads on the whereabouts of Corey Johnson. If you remember, August 12th, Johnson led our officers on a pursuit in the Kaplan’s Woods Parkway area and fled the scene on foot after crashing in Morehouse Park. On Wednesday evening, our officers received information that Johnson was in a vehicle and would be returning to an address on 26th St NW. One of our officers spotted the vehicle and observed it had an equipment violation. The vehicle was stopped and Johnson was found in the vehicle as a passenger and placed under arrest. Once Johnson was placed under arrest and handcuffs, he kept making movements toward his front pockets and wanting officers to leave his property for his father. Johnson removed his shoes and allowed his lose fitting shorts to fall to the ground. The shorts were retrieved by an officer and upon searching the shorts, uncovered a plastic baggie which appeared to be a controlled substance. The substance later tested presumptive positive for methamphetamines. Johnson was arrested on a warrant issued for the previous pursuit and faces an additional felony charge of 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Department News—

We are pleased to announce the hiring of another new officer to the Owatonna Police Department. On Tuesday, Jason Christensen will be working his first shift as an Owatonna Police Officer. Jason comes to us from the Rochester area and brings with him a considerable amount of law enforcement experience as he formerly worked as a deputy with the Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office. Christensen comes to us filing the position vacated when Canine Officer Brady Fox moved onto the Sioux Falls, SD Police Department. Please help us in welcoming Jason to the City of Owatonna.

What Goes Bump in the Night Leads to Arrest—

On Sunday morning at approximately 5:00 AM, an Owatonna officer was parked in the Domino’s Pizza lot when he heard a vehicle and a loud bang. Shortly thereafter, a vehicle passed his location and the officer observed the vehicle passenger was semi-standing in the vehicle trying to close the rear door on a van. The officer stopped the vehicle and noticed the driver acting very odd. The driver was asked to perform roadside field sobriety test, which she failed. She was placed under arrest and later provided a blood sample to determine her level of impairment. When interviewed, the driver admitted to smoking methamphetamine two days prior and still feeling wired—she later admitted to using meth a day earlier and smoking crack just prior to being pulled over—she also admitted to striking a road sign just prior to be stopped by the officer. A search of the vehicle also uncovered drug paraphernalia and presumptive positive meth residue. Hope D. Neitzell, age 24, was formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance, 4th Degree DWI and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Cops in the Community—

On August 24th, Owatonna Sergeant Laddie Bata, Detective Joel Hunt, Officers Zack Schumaker, Ben Johnson and Reserve Officers Colton Ryg and Cody Mosher participated in the annual Shop with a Cop. This program aims at developing better connection between law enforcement and our youth.