Social Media Dangers—

On September 9th, Owatonna officers responded to the report of a juvenile who received an sexually explicit photograph via Facebook Messenger. The investigating officer learned the juvenile had been contacted by an adult and had received a Friend Request from the adult, which the juvenile accepted. During the evening hours on September 8th, the juvenile had video message from the adult; the juvenile felt the message was creepy because the adult winked at her. Later, the adult continued with the conversation in text form which led to the adult sending a photograph of male genitalia. Officers located the male a short while later at his residence and placed him under arrest.

Daniel J. Decker, age 34, was formally charged with 3rd Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct— Lewd Exhibition and Indecency Exposure— both Gross Misdemeanors.

Department News—

This week brought big changes in our CSO ranks as three CSOs left the department for other opportunities. CSO Tommy Adams, formerly assigned to the junior high school, will be advancing his career by moving on to the Rochester Community and Technical College to complete a continuing education requirement. Our officers will be participants in the driving portion of a course that focuses on police pursuits and emergency vehicle operations; officers will later participate in a 4-hour on-line lecture that focuses on legal and policy issues, pursuit tactical options and other critical components of emergency vehicle operations. In the State of Minnesota, licensed officers are required to complete an 8-hour police pursuit and emergency vehicle operation course once every five years.

Again this year we will be hosting a Citizen’s Police Academy, beginning September 29th and running through November 17th. The academy is meeting Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is designed to give residents and business owners a unique opportunity to become better acquainted with members of the Owatonna Police Department and its day to day operations. Applications will be accepted through September 22nd and can found here.