New Beginnings—

Last Sunday marked the end of a policing career with the Owatonna Police Department when Officer John Petterson and his canine companion Kash signed off-duty for the last time. John will be beginning the next chapter in his law enforcement journey when he becomes the chief of police for the City of Arlington, MN. In two separate stints with the Owatonna Police Department, John has devotedly served our community for 24 ½ years as a patrol officer, task force agent, school resource officer, corporal investigator, field training officer and canine handler. Kash was born in 2012 and was a faithful partner to both former OPD officer Brady Fox and his current partner John. The years as a working dog have taken a toll on Kash and limited some of his abilities. Rather than have him kenneled until a new handler could be certified and trained we elected to retire him from service and live out his retirement years with John. We wish both of these officers the best in this new journey.

Loose Lips Sink Ships—

On Monday, an Owatonna officer investigated the complaint of a stolen motorcycle, a 1984 BW 80 Yamaha collector’s item. The officer also received information of a suspect and a possible location he was living at—the suspect allegedly told the reporting person he should steal the motorcycle. The officer and a sergeant responded to the suspect’s residence, an apartment complex, and located the stolen motorcycle stashed behind a storage shed. The officers met with the suspect in his apartment and he acknowledged taking the motorcycle, but was given permission by 3rd party. The 3rd party was interviewed and denied giving permission. Skylar A. Guggisberg, age 24, was arrested, jailed and formally charged with Motor Vehicle Theft & Possession of Stolen Property—both felonies.

Shhh...Quiet Please—

On Saturday afternoon, our officers were called to the Owatonna Public Library for a male causing a disturbance. Responding officers located the male who quickly walked outside, threw his backpack on the ground, took off his sweatshirt and turned toward officers and stated, “let’s fight”. Officers de-escalated the situation and detained the male while they investigated the complaint. Officers learned that the male was swearing, insulting and threatening to fight library staff when the computer he was using timed out after two hours. The male was placed under arrest and subsequently refused to get up off the ground and walk to the squad car—two officers later picked him up and carried him to his awaiting ride. Michael A. Krengel, age 31, was jailed and charged by citation with Disorderly Conduct, 5th Degree Assault & Obstructing the Legal Process—all misdemeanors.

Some Are Not Getting the Message—

During the most recent statewide Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) enforcement wave, Aug. 18-Sept. 3rd, Minnesota law enforcement agencies made 1370 DWI arrests. That’s an unfortunate increase of 1.4% over the same period last year—and incredibly, in (3) cases, the driver tested at .38 or nearly 5 times the legal limit of .08. Locally, the three Steele County Law Enforcement agencies made 11 DWI arrests with the highest BCA of .25.