Garage Burglar Suspect Apprehended—

For approximately the past month, our community has been plagued by a number of residential garage burglaries. During the early morning hours on the 17th, an officer came upon Taylor Jacobs riding his bicycle on a sidewalk downtown. Jacobs was released, but a short while later it was discovered he had an active warrant for this arrest. Officers went back to Jacob’s residence at 422 N. Cedar where he was arrested. During the arrest, a backpack was discovered that Jacobs was wearing during his first contact with our department. Inside the backpack, several pill bottles were discovered in another male’s name. Officers contacted the prescription owner who determined that his garage had been burglarized and his backpack and prescription drugs were missing. He later positively identified the backpack worn by Jacobs, prescription medication and other items contained in the backpack as his.

Taylor Jacobs, age 21, was arrested and has been charged with 3rd Degree Burglary, Theft and 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Jacobs is not cooperating in this case or any other burglary investigations. Jacobs remains jailed at the Steele County Detention Center.

Stolen Car Recovery—

Midday on October 14th, a vehicle was stolen from the area of the Owatonna Public Works Facility. Later that day, an officer was fueling her squad at the same facility when she observed a vehicle matching the description of the stolen vehicle drive by. The officer followed the vehicle and attempted to stop it near the Auto Zone store. When the officer initiated the stop, the vehicle pulled over and three males exited the vehicle and fled on foot—none of the occupants were apprehended. Using squad video, an informant was able to identify the driver of the stolen vehicle. Additionally, detectives, using a receipt found in the recovered vehicle were able to track a transaction to Wal-Mart in Faribault. Wal-Mart surveillance video of the transaction showed the same person identified by the informant making a purchase at Wal-Mart. On October 16th, the identified suspect was located by officers and placed under arrest. In an interview, he admitted to being the driver of the of the stolen vehicle. Jefrey A. Wolf, age 27, has been formally charged with Motor Vehicle Theft of the stolen vehicle. Jefrey A. Wolf initiated the stop, the vehicle pulled over and three males exited the vehicle and fled on foot—none of the occupants were apprehended. Using squad video, an informant was able to identify the driver of the stolen vehicle. Additionally, detectives, using a receipt found in the recovered vehicle were able to track a transaction to Wal-Mart in Faribault. Wal-Mart surveillance video of the transaction showed the same person identified by the informant making a purchase at Wal-Mart. On October 16th, the identified suspect was located by officers and placed under arrest. In an interview, he admitted to being the driver of the of the stolen vehicle. Jefrey A. Wolf, age 27, has been formally charged with Motor Vehicle Theft of the stolen vehicle. Jefrey A. Wolf, age 27, has been formally charged with Motor Vehicle Theft.

Cops in the Community—

This week Captain Eric Rethemeier appeared on the Owatonna Today Show to talk about crime prevention and body cameras. Click here to view the episode.