Domestic Violence Leads to Felony Charges—

On Saturday afternoon, Owatonna officers were called to the area of the 600 block of South Cedar Avenue for a 911 hang-up call. Dispatch reported they were unsure of the exact address the call came from but could hear yelling in the background. An officer walked the area and could hear crying coming from 608 S. Cedar. The officer knocked on the door and was met by a male and a female; the female indicated she was the one who called 911. Investigation revealed that the female called 911 because she was assaulted by her boyfriend. It was alleged a dispute took place over a malfunctioning computer—the boyfriend became more agitated and punched the victim several times on her head and side. The officer observed the victim had a large bump, approximately the size of a golf ball on her forehead. Patrick W. Pexa, age 32, was arrested and jailed. He was later formally charged with Domestic Assault—a felony. Court records indicate Pexa was previously convicted twice of domestic violence related offenses. When interviewed, Pexa admitted that he “lost it” with the victim and had punched her.

Welcome Alex—

On Monday we welcomed our newest member to the Owatonna Police Department, Alex Mieritz. Alex comes to us the from twin cities metro area where she also had some previous law enforcement experience working as a community service officer with the White Bear Lake Police Department. Alex started this week with some basic orientation and training and began the field training with Officer Matt Oeltjenbruns on Thursday evening. Alex’s position became available when former Officer Tony Heaser took a similar position with the Olmsted County Sheriff’s Office. Please help is in welcoming Alex to the Owatonna Police Department and the City of Owatonna and we hope this is the start of a long, rewarding career.

Citizens Police Academy—

Monday marked the 4th session of the 2014 Citizen’s Academy with the focus of the night being investigations and the Detective Bureau. Captain Eric Re-theimer started the evening off with an overview of the Detective Bureau. From there, he went into the department’s program for investigating domestic abuse cases and gave a case study of significant domestic abuse case that was investigated in 2009. Detective Sergeant Jason Pettersson presented next and talked about case review and assignments; Detective Joel Hunt was up next and presented on the duties of our school resource officers and the department’s Predatory Offender program. Detective Terrence Flynn followed and presented on our program for conducting alcohol and tobacco compliance checks with local alcohol and tobacco retailers. Detective Tom Munns followed with a case study of a major stabbing incident he investigated in 2010. The evening was brought to a close by Evidence Specialist Kim Dub who gave the group a tour of our Property and Evidence Room and explained our processes for handling evidence.

Training Unit—

Congratulations to Officers Jesse Ackerson and Ben Johnson who were recently appointed to the Use of Force unit as firearms instructors. Both officers along with Sergeant Laddie Bata recently attended a week long firearms instructor course sponsored by the Chisago County Sheriff’s Office in Harris, MN.