On-Star Tracks Stolen Vehicle to Owatonna—

Last Thursday morning, the Owatonna Police Department received a call from On-Star that they were tracking a stolen vehicle in Owatonna. The vehicle, a 2015 Chevy pick-up, was stolen from a garage in LeSueur County and was reported by On-Star as eastbound on McKinley St. in Owatonna. Opportunely, a patrol sergeant was just a few blocks away and quickly spotted the stolen vehicle. As the sergeant passed and turned to follow the vehicle, the stolen vehicle sped off and a pursuit began. The pursuit continued for several blocks in the south end of Owatonna and culminated when the driver of the stolen vehicle lost control navigating a turn and ended up stuck in a snowbank. The driver was arrested without incident and jailed. Officers later learned a stolen handgun was in the vehicle and kicked into a snowbank by the suspect before he was apprehended—the .38 caliber revolver was later recovered. Zachary Savoie, the driver of the stolen vehicle has been charged with Motor Vehicle Theft, [Illegal] Possession of a Firearm and Fleeing in a Motor Vehicle. He has also been charged with DWI-Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance—Savoie admitting that he used methamphetamine and heroin earlier in the day.

Body Cameras—

The Owatonna Police Department is currently considering implementing a body worn camera program. Our Technology Committee with the assistance of our Information Technology Team is beginning to evaluate and test the leading body worn camera manufacturers—Axon and WatchGuard. We have started to field test Axon cameras and their cloud storage called Evidence.com. Next we will be looking at WatchGuard cameras, the same manufacturer as our in-car video system. We are operating under a draft policy which has been posted on our department webpage and can be found [here](#). Our draft policy is open for public comment by writing to the Owatonna Police Department Body Worn Camera Program at 204 East Pearl St., Owatonna, MN 55060. Before we officially launch a body camera program, a public meeting will be held at a regular city council meeting.

Neither Snow nor Rain nor Gloom of Night—

We mentioned above our two newest officers beginning the field training program, but before that takes place, they each need to qualify on our various weapon platforms. As you can see from the photo to the right, inclement weather often impacts our operations, even our training programs!!