Police Citizen’s Academy Underway—

On Monday night, the 4th Annual Police Citizen’s Academy kicked off when twenty-seven of our fellow community members embarked on an 8-week journey to learn more about law enforcement and specifically, your Owatonna Police Department. The academy kicked off with Chief Keith Hiller. Chief Hiller gave the group a tour of the Owatonna Police Department and a high-level overview of our operations. In the next seven weeks, we look forward to enlightening the group more specifically on uniform patrol, investigations, use of force elements, narcotics, prosecution and the judicial process. Stay tuned for more updates!

SCDIU Continues with Local Investigations—

On October 22nd, a South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) investigation culminated with a pair of arrests that were part of an investigation that began in early October. As part of the investigation, an SCDIU agent, through an informant, arranged with a female suspect the purchase of methamphetamine from a male actively dealing meth in Owatonna—the drug transaction took place and 8-grams of presumptive meth were purchased. On Oct. 22nd, the same female agreed to a transaction to sell meth to an informant. Agents were aware of the vehicle believed to transport the illegal drugs—it was located and stopped by a Steele County deputy for an equipment violation. The vehicle was searched after a State Patrol K9 alerted on the vehicle for illegal drugs. A search was conducted and 11 grams of meth were found on the driver and inside the car. The male driving the car, Zane Roberts, age of 29 of Austin, was arrested and jailed. Roberts has been charged with 1st Degree Sale of Methamphetamine, 3rd Degree Possession of Narcotic and Driving after Cancellation-Inimical to Public Safety. The female, Korissa Pratt, age 25 of Medford, was also arrested and has been charged with Conspiracy to Commit 1st Degree Sales of Methamphetamine and 3rd Degree Sales of a Narcotic.

Wrong Way Driver Arrested for DWI-

Rose Street between Hoffman Dr. and Willow Ave. has been a construction zone since August 20th, limiting traffic to one-way traffic during that time. Very early last Saturday, a couple of officers were traveling west on Rose St. in the correct direction when they observed a vehicle coming at them in the wrong direction. The officers stopped the vehicle and upon closer inspection, observed empty beer cans on the rear floor boards and a driver showing signs of intoxication—roadside field sobriety tests confirmed their observations and the driver was arrested for drunk driving. A later breath test revealed the driver had a breath alcohol content of .10. In an interview, the driver admitted to knowing the roadway was a one-way, but didn’t feel it mattered at that time of the night—well it does and so does drunk driving! The driver was a 17-year old juvenile and has been charged with two counts of DWI, Wrong Way on a One-way, Underage Drinking & Driving and Minor Consumption of Alcohol.