Serial Car Thief Arrested—

Beginning in April, our community has been plagued with a number of automobile thefts. Our officers and detectives have been working hard on these cases and had identified a person of interest. On Wednesday, a report came in of a person tampering with a vehicle at Domino’s Pizza. The suspect matched the description of the person of interest and he had just been seen in the area by a patrol officer. Officers located the suspect at his home and he was later identified by a witness as the suspect at Domino’s. The suspect, Khadar Mohamud, age 22 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. Khadar has been linked to five stolen vehicles, a burglary to Riverland Community College and the motor vehicle tampering at Domino’s. As a result, Khadar has been charged with (5) counts of Motor Vehicle Theft, 3rd Degree Burglary—all felonies and Tampering with a Motor Vehicle—a misdemeanor.

Department News—

Detectives at the Owatonna Police Department are generally assigned to the Detective Bureau for a five-year period. This week, we saw a five-year period come to a close for Detective/School Resource Officer (SRO) Matt Oeltjenbruns. Many of you know Matt as the SRO at the Owatonna Middle School where he has done an outstanding job. Matt will be transitioning back to the Patrol Division as a uniformed patrol officer and a field training officer. Matt, who has been with the OPD since 2011, also serves as a tactical officer on the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) Tactical Team and is the current Chairperson of the Steele County Safety Camp. We thank Matt for his service as a detective and to the Owatonna School District and for a job well done!

National Police Week—

The annual National Police Week occurs May 10th through May 16th. May 15th is a day set aside for law enforcement officers and the public to pay their respect and homage to those officers who have given their lives in the line-of-duty. On October 1st of 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which declared May 15th as the National Law Enforcement Day. President Kennedy signed this bill to honor and remember those fallen officers. In Minnesota, The Law Enforcement Memorial Association (LEMA) hosts “Standing of the Memorial” events on May 14th and 15th. However, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, those events have been cancelled. In place of the live events, LEMA will pay tribute to the 289 fallen Minnesota officers who have given their lives in the line of duty since the beginning of the roll and the addition of three new names to the roll with a live Facebook tribute on Friday May 15th at 7:00 PM CST. The event will last approximately 90 minutes and those wishing to view the memorial service can do so by clicking here.