

INFORMATIONAL RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



For Release Immediately

Monday, February 08, 2010

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CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Further Information Contact

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OPERATION SNOWBOWL

The weekend proved very productive for the evening and night crews and some well deserved recognition is due. Special patrol effort was directed in two dimensions during the weekend: DWI enforcement and narcotic/arrest warrant investigations. We wish to commend all the officers that worked this past weekend: Cooper, Hunt, Bata, Fierst, Swenson, Fandel, and Eichten for jobs well done.

Friday, February 5th, 2010

Officers responded to a call of a possible domestic disturbance, which was reported third hand. Upon arrival a perimeter was established around 100 block of Front St W. Officers made contact with a female occupant of the lower level apartment. Through investigation of the initial complaint officers confirmed that a man wanted on outstanding warrants was at the location. After determining that there was not a domestic assault, officers searched the basement and lower level apartment for the male. Perimeter officers, along with Deputy Helget, observed movement in the upper level apartment. No contact was made with the occupants of the upper level apartment and it was determined that a search warrant would be drafted to locate the wanted male. While in the process of drafting a search warrant for entry, the renter of the upper level apartment elected to meet with officers and allow entry into her apartment to locate and arrest the wanted male.

Prior to all officers clearing from Front St, officers were dispatched to Southpark Lanes for an assault call. While en route, dispatch advised the main suspect was leaving in a car. Dispatch provided officers with the vehicle description and license plate. As initial officers arrived at Southpark Lanes, the suspect vehicle was not in the area. The suspect vehicle was located by Deputy Bennett near 26th St NW. Officers divided responsibilities, without supervisory direction. Officer Eichten and Cooper initiated the investigation at Southpark Lanes, while Officers Fierst and Swenson assisted Deputy Bennett with the high risk stop and questioning of the suspects. Subsequently, two subjects were cited for 5th degree assault and released. Additional Information obtained by Officer Eichten indicated that the victim in the

assault at Southpark Lanes had sustained a fractured vertebra in his neck and was being transported to Rochester. This information changed the initial 5th Degree Assault to a felony level.

Officers Eichten and Swenson attempted to locate subject in Owatonna and were unsuccessful. Dodge County was contacted and asked to locate subject. This information was passed onto dayshift officers in roll call.

Officers were dispatched a driving complaint which was called in by a party that delivers newspapers in town. Sergeants Thiele and Petterson were in the area of the complaint and located the suspect vehicle occupied by three individuals. Subsequently the vehicle was stopped and the driver was arrested for 3rd Degree DWI. Officers Swenson and Eichten arrested the rear seat passenger, for obstructing, underage consumption and open container. The front seat passenger was cited for open container and released.

Saturday, February 6th

Officer Seifert followed up and made phone contact with assault subject. Officer Seifert verified subject's location and arranged for Dodge Co Deputies to arrest him.

Officers Seifert and Schroeder investigated a domestic assault complaint, which resulted in another arrest

Officers Hunt and Bata were patrolling the area of 400 Riverside and observed a suspicious male walking towards a taxi that had pulled up in front of the residence. This male was believed to have a warrant for his arrest and fled on foot. A foot pursuit was initiated. With the assistance of Deputy Helget the suspect was caught, arrested, and identified. Officers Hunt and Bata obtained information from this arrest that another fugitive was currently in the 100 block of Front St W. Officer Hunt planned and coordinated a warrant service at this location. Another subject was arrested without incident.

Four DWI arrests were made from approximately 1230- 0200 hours:

- arrested for 2nd degree DWI by Sgt Petterson
- arrested for 4th degree DWI by Officer Eichten
- arrested for 4th degree DWI by Officers Swenson
- arrested for 4th degree DWI by Officer Fierst

While the a DWI investigation was in progress, Swenson and Cooper observed a friend of a subject being investigated for DWI, park her vehicle in the roadway and approach officers to see if she could help out. Officers Swenson and Cooper suspected this individual of DWI and called Officer Fierst to assist. Subsequently, this subject was impaired and was arrested and charged with 4th degree DWI.

While Officer Fandel investigated an unoccupied vehicle off Austin Rd near 22nd St SE, Officer Hunt located an intoxicated male walking on Lincoln Ave and 16th St. This male was identified and determined to be in violation of his probation conditions. Officer Fandel's investigation found that this subject was the owner of the unoccupied vehicle. There was not enough evidence to prove that this subject was the

driver of his vehicle, however, he was arrested on an Apprehension and Detention Order that his probation officer signed.

All in all, this was a successful weekend for the Owatonna Police Department. The success is not only due to officer's teamwork within the organization as well as with the Steele County Sheriff's Office. It was also made possible from the willingness of citizens and suspects to provide information to the police.