Officer/Citizen Recognition Ceremony—

On Tuesday evening at the Owatonna City Council meeting, the Owatonna Police Department formally recognized our newly hired officers, newly promoted officers, commended officers and citizen award recipients. Taking the oath of office were officers Travis Ardolf, Adam Dupic, Jason Christensen, Alex Mieritz, Steve Bowman and Said Hilowe. Following the reading of the oath of office, each officer had a significant other pin them with their police officer badge. Taking the oath of office as newly promoted sergeants were Andrew Drenth and John Bata—both Drenth and Bata were also pinned with their sergeant’s badge. Earning Class C Commendations were Sergeants Tim Hassing, Jason Petterson & Detectives Andrew Drenth and Brandon Fandel. A Class C Commendation is awarded to officers for an incident or incidents which clearly demonstrate an exceptional level of expertise, thoroughness, conscientiousness or determination, or for achieving a superior level of job performance and maintaining that level for an extended period of time. Earning Class D Commendations were Sergeant John Bata & Officers Christian Berg, Andrew Seifert, Jesse Ackerson, John Petterson, Steven Bowman, Travis Ardolf, Melissa Michael and Brady Vaith. A Class D Commendation is awarded to officers for outstanding performance on a single event or for situations that demonstrate the application of a member’s job skill under difficult circumstances. Rick Ellingson & Kelly Arndt, our professional associates from Gold Cross, were awarded a Public Safety Partner Award for their role in coming to the aid of Owatonna officers who were assaulted and injured by a mental health patient. Lastly, Paula Johnson was awarded with a Citizen Commendation for her role in aiding the department in a burglary investigation.

Playing the Name Game—

On Sunday, March 1st, Owatonna officers were called to the Kwik Trip store on South Oak Ave. about a male individual who was approaching people and panhandling. The first arriving officer met and identified the individual—the male indicated he was just at the store to buy chips. When a second officer arrived, he recognized the male from a previous incident and also realized he gave a name different than he has used in the past and arrested him for giving a false name to the police. The male was fingerprinted and officers were able to learn his true identity, Lamarieo J. Sanders—officers also learned Sanders had arrest warrants out of Hennepin County and has provided different names and dates of births on multiple arrests. Sanders, age 29, was formally charged with Providing a False Name to a Police Officer—a gross misdemeanor.

Spring Ahead—Daylight Savings Time kicks in on Sunday, March 8th at 2:00 AM. Remember to spring your clock one hour forward!!