Drug Bust(ed)—

On Saturday, October 6th, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle to investigate a curfew violation. During the course of the stop, the officer detected an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The officer conducted a search of the vehicle and uncovered a passenger who was in possession of a substance that tested presumptively positive for cocaine. Juan B. Guerrero, age 21, was arrested and later charged with 2nd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. Based upon information learned during the traffic stop, the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIIU) became involved and secured a search warrant for 1220 S. Oak Avenue. With the assistance of the SCDIU Tactical Team, the warrant was executed on October 7th. As a result of the search, three people were arrested—one for violating the terms of his parole and two others for crimes related to the search itself. Brian M. Bennett, age 33, was arrested for violating the terms of his probation. Henry C. Fox, age 28, was arrested and later charged with 2nd degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Being in Possession of a Firearm with an Altered Serial Number—both felonies. Sharon M. Bell, age 31, was also arrested and later released pending formal charges. During the course of this search, officers recovered substances believed to be cocaine and marijuana. They also recovered Raven Arms .25 pistol which had the serial numbers filed off of—hence the firearm charge on Fox.

Manthey Park Victimized Again—

Back on August 17th, we reported in “Just the Facts” damage done to the pavilion at Manthey Park. In that case, some juveniles had damaged the restrooms and lit toilet paper on fire around the outside of the pavilion. We are sad to report a similar incident occurred during this last week. Again, this incident was reported by a concerned citizen who observed some suspicious activity occurring in the men’s restroom. He investigated and found some leaves had been set on fire inside the restroom. The citizen observed two juveniles leaving the restroom, contacted the police and followed them to 2300 N. Cedar Ave, apartment #C16. Officers located two juveniles at the location and they had an obvious “smoky” smell to them. The juveniles later admitted that they had set fire to the leaves in the restroom because they were really cold and wanted to warm up. The juvenile males, a 15-year and 16-year old, were charged with 5th degree Arson and Violating the Burning Ban. The most disturbing part of this case is the 15-year old male was also arrested and charged for the incident that occurred on August 17th.

October Marks Crime Prevention Month—

Local communities join forces with local law enforcement during a time when police budget cuts are substantial. Officially recognized as Crime Prevention Month, October is the month when the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) recognizes those that work tirelessly all year to prevent crime and highlights new tips and resources for effective crime prevention in the future. “Crime Prevention Month is a time to reinforce the importance of community safety”, said NCPC President and CEO Ann M. Harkins. “Community safety and effective crime prevention will always begin with active partnerships between community members and local law enforcement.” Each week of Crime Prevention Month, communities are encouraged to focus on one of four crime prevention themes:

- October 1-7 – Community Engagement
- October 8-14 – Neighborhood and Home Safety
- October 15-21 – Personal Safety
- October 22-28 – Cyber Safety