One Injured One Arrested in ATV Incident — On Sunday evening, Owatonna police, fire and Gold Cross Ambulance responded to a personal injury ATV crash at Elm and School Street. When officers arrived, a 34-year-old injured rider was lying in the street. It was discovered that one ATV, operated by Scott Simon, was pulling another ATV on the street because it wouldn’t run. As the machines were making a turn off Elm Avenue, the tow strap tightened up causing the rider on the second machine to fly off. The injured rider momentarily lost consciousness, sustained broken ribs and a collarbone. Officers met with Simon and began a DWI investigation. Simon tested .11 on a breath instrument and was arrested. Simon was held in custody and faces two felony charges and three gross misdemeanor charges with the most serious being Criminal Vehicular Operation (CVO) resulting in substantial bodily harm—a felony and 3rd Degree DWI.

2016 Crime Rate Down - Preliminary data maintained by the Owatonna Police Department suggest that crime rates are down for Part 1 crimes by nearly 17 percent and Part 2 crimes by 20 percent. Among the Part 1 crimes that saw a decrease in reported occurrences were rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and theft. The Part 2 crimes were misdemeanor level assault, criminal damage to property, controlled substances, DUI and juvenile runaway. It is very difficult to pin-point any single factor for the crime fluctuation, although department officials believe crime rates are often an outcome of many un-tackled issues within a community. Fortunately, our community members do not shy away from taking action. A healthy community values the rule of law but realizes crime may be mitigated by an interconnected society focusing on education, employment, active non-profits, a healthy population, a solution-based criminal justice system, and a professional and progressive police department. Our community members are involved and desire a safe community, and it is the police department’s goal to meet that mission!