School Bus Safety— As the first school bell rings, motorists are reminded to be ready to stop for school buses and be watchful for children exiting school buses and crossing streets. Be ready to anticipate children, especially in a school bus “danger zone” — the area around a bus where children are at greatest risk. Parents should also discuss and demonstrate pedestrian safety with their children and reinforce safe crossing after exiting a bus. In Minnesota, motorists must stop for red flashing lights and when stop arms are extended — both when driving behind a bus and when coming toward a bus on undivided roads.

Burglary in the Works—At approximately 12:12 pm on Sunday, August 28th, Officers responded to the 700 block of Oak Avenue North for a report of a past action burglary. Upon arrival, officers met with a reporting party that noticed an unrecognizable Chevy Tahoe backed up to a trailer in his shed. The home-owner made eye contact with the driver who then sped out, but luckily got the license plate number which had dealer plates registered to Main Street Auto in Albert Lea. After verifying the vehicle with the dealership, officers learned that Robert Lynn Hagmann, age 35, took the Tahoe for a test drive and never returned. Steele County Deputies advised that they had stopped the same vehicle the night before and that Hagmann was driving it. After OPD officers learned of Hagmann’s location, he was taken into custody where he said he was being harassed and was asked to take the trailer. He agreed to taking it so they would leave him alone. He also admitted to taking a weed wacker and a leaf blower to pawn off because he needed gas money. Robert Lynn Hagmann was formally charged with 3rd Degree Burglary—a Felony.

A Cover Up—At 9:00 p.m. on August 25th, officers responded to the 1000 block of South Elm Avenue for a male driver leaving the scene of a crash. While investigating and shortly after the crash occurred, officers went to 125 W. McKinley Street, the home of the vehicle owner, who was calling in her vehicle as stolen. The car owner was adamant that her husband hasn’t been out of the house and was not the driver. A witness who heard the crash, ran to the scene, observed the driver exit the car, and then flee. The witness, who knows the driver by name, matched up with whom the officers were interviewing at the home. Ironically, he was sorting through a pile of clothes when the officer arrived. Formal charges are being requested against Stacy Torres for making a false police report and Matthew Torres for leaving the scene of a property damage crash and driving after revocation.

Good Shepard Lutheran Church
Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner

On Sunday, August 28th, 40 members of the Owatonna Police Department and the Steele County Sheriff’s Office attended a special appreciation dinner at Good Shepard Lutheran Church. A blessing was said by Senior Pastor and Police Chaplain Mark Rosenau where he expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices and services made by our local law enforcement agencies and their families. Great food and company was enjoyed by all!