A Shot Rang Out—

Early Sunday morning, Owatonna officers were called downtown to Reggie’s Brewhouse for the report of a gun being discharged. Investigating officers found that a firearm had been discharged in the bar with the round entering the men’s restroom. Officers viewed surveillance video and observed the suspect and another male in a discussion. The suspect, with his back to the camera, appears to put his hands into a front sweatshirt pocket and then the shot is fired. The other male in the discussion is seen plugging his ears and stepping away. Officers were unable to locate the suspect at that time. On Monday the suspect heard the police were looking for him; he came to the Law Enforcement Center where he was placed under arrest. In an interview with a detective, he admitted to hearing a loud pop, but denied shooting the gun. Josue A. Cardenas, age 30, was formally charged with Reckless Discharge of a Firearm within a Municipality—a felony.

Grand Theft Auto—

On Monday morning our officers were called to the 300 block of South Street for a stolen vehicle report. The victim reported she parked her vehicle overnight and left it unlocked and with the keys inside. Later that day, a State Patrol officer located the stolen vehicle unoccupied in eastern Steele County—just prior to locating the stolen vehicle, the trooper observed three males walking in the area of the stolen vehicle. Later that day, officers were called to Manthey Park for a suspicious person complaint. In the park, officers located three males matching the description of the males walking in the area of the stolen vehicle. After speaking with the males, it was believed one of them was responsible for the stolen vehicle and was placed under arrest. Upon searching the suspect, he was found in possession of property believed to be stolen, including the key fob of the stolen vehicle. Kutley W. Thouk, age 19, was charged with Motor Vehicle Theft—a felony.

Police Officer Hiring—

The Owatonna Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of police officer; qualified candidates can find out more about the position and apply here. The selection of police officer candidates is a long, arduous process that we have found ourselves in a few times this year and one we take very seriously to find the highest quality candidate(s) to serve our community. The Owatonna Police Department, along with other departments are finding there are less and less qualified candidates to fill these positions. A hiring analysis was conducted by the Plymouth Police Department in 2012—in 2012, 417 police officer candidates went through Plymouth’s hiring process, including a thorough background investigation and yielded only three officer candidates, one of which could not successfully navigate the field training process—Plymouth’s selection process is similar to the OPD’s. While our results may not be as dramatic, we have also found remarkable similarities. As such, police departments are beginning to trend away from the traditional hiring processes and are migrating toward recruiting potential known candidates through reserve officer programs, community service officers and interns, or by looking to other police departments for current police officers seeking to join a different organization.

Daylights Savings Reminder—

Clocks are to be set back one hour during Fall Back. This year, Fall Back occurs on Sunday, November 2 at 2:00 AM. Fall Back is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detector.