Butane Honey Oil
— In the morning hours of October 8th, an OPD officer was patrolling the streets when he observed a vehicle fail to use its turn signal and conducted a traffic stop. While making contact with the driver, the officer noticed what appeared to be a green leafy substance scattered about the center console. The officer asked if there was any marijuana in the vehicle and the driver handed him a small plastic wrapper with the green leafy substance the officer knew to be marijuana along with a ‘roach’. Two passengers advised they had marijuana in the vehicle & the officer also located a grinder, pipes, butane, and a soft rubber container with a brown wax like substance known to be consistent with Butane Honey Oil (BHO) inside, belonging to Baldemar Villarreal. Villarreal, age 24, was charged with 5th Degree Controlled Substance—Gross Misdemeanor and Possession of a Small Amount of Marijuana—Petty Misdemeanor.

*BHO is not new, but is becoming popular—maybe because it contains a very high concentrated form of THC or tetrahydrocannabinol which is the chemical ingredient in marijuana. BHO, has many names some call it honey, dabs, wax or hash oil. It is formed through a multi-step process that uses butane to extract the marijuana into an oil, then a process to purge the butane gas from the oil to create a wax like substance. BHO can be smoked, vaporized using a “vape pen” or a process called “dabbing” by placing the concentrate onto a hot surface to inhale the fumes through a pipe. Because the extraction process requires chemical solvents, it can be extremely combustible.

Owatonna Hometown Credit Union Spirit Day—A few years ago, a movement was started in Minnesota where credit unions across the state decided to close their offices on Columbus Day and spend that time giving back to their communities. This year, they chose to show their appreciation to local emergency service personnel and stopped by the LEC with treats and thank you notes for the Steele County Sheriff’s Office, Steele/Rice 911 Center, and the Owatonna Police Department. We are always very appreciative of the willingness to recognize the hard work of law enforcement and of course, the tasty treats!

New Community Service Officers

Both officers started with OPD on Monday, October 3rd. CSO Leah Hedberg, a Faribault native, is in her final semester attending Riverland Community College. She is currently assigned to work as an animal control and parking control officer. CSO Shelia Appel has eight years of experience as a Waseca County dispatcher and is a recent graduate from Rasmussen College with a degree in law enforcement. CSO Appel is assigned to work with staff and students at the Owatonna High School.

National Teen Driver Safety Week—October 16-22

According to a press release issued by Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), teen drivers are still 1.6 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than adult drivers; and teen-involved crashes spiked 10% in 2015. GDL or Graduated Driver Licensing laws are in place in all 50 states. The three-stage licensing system has proven to reduce teen crashes as much as 30 percent. Click here for more information about MN’s GDL Laws.