Home Invasion Robberies—

This past holiday weekend, the Owatonna Police Department responded to two separate calls of home invasions; the first occurring on May 27th in the 400 block of E. Main St. and the second occurring on May 28th in the 1100 block of E. Rice Lake St. In the first incident a shotgun was displayed and the second, the victim punched in the face and rendered unconscious—the victim sustaining substantial facial injuries. During the day Thursday and into the evening, Owatonna officers and detectives arrested three individuals believed to be responsible or have a connection in these home invasions. The individuals arrested in this case, two adult males and one juvenile male, remain in custody pending formal charges. These cases remain under investigation.

Pets and Hot Weather—

We’re all happy warm weather is finally here so we can get outside and enjoy our Minnesota summer activities, with one exception, our family pets. Since our weather turned warmer, we’ve seen a definite uptick in the number of calls related to pets, and specifically dogs, left confined in a vehicle. If you leave your pets in a vehicle, even if it is only for a few minutes, you put your pet at risk of serious illness or death. According to information published by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the temperatures inside your vehicle can rise almost 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and the longer you leave your pet unattended, the higher it goes and cracking a window makes no difference. On an 80 degree day, after 20 minutes, the temperature inside the vehicle will be an estimated 109 degrees!! Let’s do out pets a favor—do we need to take them with us? If the answer is no, leave them safely at home and avoid risking their health. And finally, in Minnesota, it is a crime to subject your animal to an act, omission or neglect which causes or permits unnecessary or unjustifiable pain, suffering, or death.

Bike Thefts—

Today is the last day of the school year for our sons and daughters and we’ll be seeing them out and about on their bikes for the next few months. Unfortunately, data suggests that many of our community members are going to be seeing them out and about on their bikes for the next few months. According to the National Bike Registry, it is estimated that over 1.5 million bikes are stolen every year. The increasing popularity of bicycling as a sport and a means of transportation have made bicycles an easy target for thieves. If you leave your bike at a location, even for a moment, take the time to lock or secure your bike and prevent yourself from becoming a victim. Nationalbikeregistry.com/theft.html