Just the Facts

Pair Arrested on Arson Charges—

Very early last Friday our officers were called to the 2600 block of 18th St. NW for the report of two suspicious people near a car. The caller reported knowing one of the suspects and was involved in an altercation with him earlier. Investigating officers found a liquid substance on and around the victim’s car believed to be gasoline and a partially burned piece of paper laying in the liquid substance near the car. The two suspects and a third passenger were stopped in a car leaving the area—inside the car was a container of gasoline. The passenger reported one of the suspects wanted to retaliate for a fight that happened earlier in the day. They parked down the street from the victim’s home; one of the suspects exited and when he returned, smelled like gasoline. The passenger reported as they were leaving, they stopped by the car and the other suspect left a piece of paper on fire and threw it out the door. Officers arrested two suspects, Kevin Jackson, age 53 of Owatonna and Mario Garcia-Ramirez, age 21 of Owatonna. Jackson has been charged with 2nd Degree Assault [with a] Dangerous Weapon, 3rd Degree Arson and 5th Degree Assault. Garcia-Ramirez has been charged with 3rd Degree Arson. The assault charges are a result of the earlier altercation where it was alleged Jackson struck the victim with a rake and for which the victim sustained puncture wounds on the right shoulder and left leg.

Wear the Badge—

The Minnesota Chief of Police Association (MCPA) recently released another video featuring Police Officer Ericka Running of the Inver Grove Heights Police Department. In this video, Officer Running talks about how she wanted to find a career that would allow her to give people a sense of security and why she chose to Wear the Badge. To view the video, click on the Wear the Badge logo. To learn more about becoming a police officer, click here.

Click it or Ticket—

Ninety-two people. That’s 3 classrooms full of students. That’s an entire NFL football team and their staff. That’s how many unbuckled motorists were killed last year in Minnesota. To remind motorists that seat belts save lives and it’s the law to buckle up, the Owatonna Police Department along with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across the state, will be participating in the statewide Click It or Ticket campaign May 20 – June 2. The Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety coordinates the extra enforcement and education campaign. Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled or seated in the correct child restraint. Officers will stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly — low and snug across the hips, and shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back. Join the crowd—most Minnesotans are making the life-saving decision to buckle up. According to the 2018 Minnesota Seat Belt Survey, 92.4 percent of front seat occupants are wearing their seat belts. Unfortunately, that means more than 7 percent of motorists continue to risk their lives and the lives of those in the vehicle by failing to buckle up.