SCDIU Agent Seize Sizable Amount of Methamphetamine—

On October 8th, South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) agents were conducting narcotics surveillance on 149 ½ W. Bridge St., an apartment in downtown Owatonna. Agents observed a person exit that apartment and leave in a vehicle. That vehicle was stopped in Mower County and 20 grams of meth was found in the car. Agents observed a second person exit the apartment and drive away in a vehicle that was also stopped. A Faribault County K9 conducted a sniff of that vehicle and gave a positive indication of narcotics in the vehicle. Inside the vehicle, $990 in cash and approximately 6 ounces of presumptive positive meth was seized. The driver of the vehicle, Timothy Frenzel was arrested. Following the second traffic stop, a search warrant was executed on the apartment. During a search, over 2½ pounds of presumptive meth was seized along with almost $10,000 in cash. Two occupants in the apartment, Peter Woollard and Kevin Welsh, were arrested. The following day, a search warrant was obtained for a storage unit associated to Woollard. Inside the unit, additional meth was seized and a shotgun. As a result of this investigation, Timothy Frenzel, age 41 of Good Thunder & Kevin Welsh, age 42 of Mankato, have been charged with 1st Degree Possession of Methamphetamine. Peter Woollard, age 40 of Albert Lea, has been charged with 1st Degree Possession of Methamphetamine and Illegal Possession of a Firearm [by a felon convicted of a crime of violence].

Who do You Want Me to Be?

On Tuesday evening, our officers were called to the Microtel regarding an unwanted guest—a male had used a females identification for checking in and staff wanted assistance in vacating him from the hotel. While talking with the male he began to sweat noticeably, was pacing back and forth and generally ignored the officers talking to him. When asked that he identify himself, he hesitated and was only able to provide a name and date of birth. Of course, the name given came back without any record. The male was detained and given the opportunity to provide his real name. He did so and admitted he had a warrant. Records were checked and sure enough, the male had a warrant out of Winona County. Jesse Wise, age 45 of Coon Rapids, was arrested on the warrant and faces an additional charge of providing a false name to a police officer.

Cops in the Community—

Beyond our normal duties, this week many of our officers have been out in the community at special events. At a Monday evening event, Chief Keith Hiller and Detectives Matt Oeltjenbruns and Brady Vaith were at a community forum hosted by the Steele County Safe & Drug Free Coalition to talk about substance use prevention. On Wednesday morning, Community Service Officer Brian Shaw paid a visit to the Owatonna Christian School to visit with a group of students and show off his police vehicle and answer questions. Also on Wednesday, Target and Starbucks hosted two Coffee with a Cop sessions—the cops attending were Chief Keith Hiller, Captain Jeff Mundale, Sergeant Rob Kniefel, Detective Christian Berg and Officers Joel Hunt, Travis Johnson and Anna Peterson.