



THE OWATONNA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
EST. 1909

The Owatonna Police Department is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community through partnerships, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Policing excellence through our People, our Work, and our Relationships



The photo above shows a vehicle properly navigating around the center island instead of over it.

Traveling **OVER** the roundabout rather than around it. Please note, Minnesota statute prohibits driving over the center island, stipulating, *a vehicle passing around a rotary traffic island shall be driven only to the right of such island.* This week, you'll notice a traffic barrel has been placed over the center of the island—the placement is a reminder that drivers should not be driving straight through the intersection. Below are some reminders from the MN Dept. of Transportation for navigating **AROUND** a roundabout.

- **SLOW** down when approaching a roundabout
- Traffic entering the roundabout **YIELDS** to the traffic already in the roundabout. Merge into the flow when it is safe
- Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk
- Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit—don't stop or pass in a roundabout.

# Just the Facts

February 12, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 7

## Order for Protection Violation—

Early last Sunday morning, Owatonna officers were called to a home in the 1400 block of N. Cedar regarding a domestic disturbance. A female victim reported a male was inside the home holding on to a child and not letting the child go. A Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) was currently in place, prohibiting the male from having contact with the female victim and the child, or being at the residence. Officers entered the home to search for the suspect and found him hiding in the bedroom closet. In an interview with the suspect, he admitted to knowing the order was in place and was hiding in the closet because he wasn't supposed to be there. **Abraam Rodriguez**, age 20 of Owatonna, has been charged with Violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order.



**Abraam Rodriguez**

## Roundabouts Revisited—

Back in July in *Just the Facts*, we talked about the two new roundabouts in town—one at the intersection of N. Cedar Ave. & 26<sup>th</sup> St. and the other at Rose St. & Grove Ave. Today, we are focusing on the roundabout at Rose & Grove. Records show the intersection has been the location of 13 vehicle crashes and the source of many traffic stops by officers for drivers traveling

## DANCO Violation #2—

On Tuesday morning, Owatonna officers were called to investigate an in-progress order for protection violation—a protected female victim was reporting the male subject of the order was following her. The suspect fled the area and was not located; however, the victim reported speaking to the suspect on the phone. She also reported several other calls purported from the suspect that she didn't answer. She reported while in Owatonna, she saw the suspect following her; he later approached her telling her that since she did not answer his calls, he came looking for her and found her. She drove away while the suspect continued following her until she called 911; while speaking with a 911 dispatcher, the suspect drove off. The suspect was arrested later that evening by the Prior Lake Police Department in a traffic stop. **Jacob Wheeler**, age 31 of Eden Prairie, has been charged with Stalking & Violating and Domestic Abuse Order for Protection—a misdemeanor.



**Jacob Wheeler**

## Our Team

### Administration

Police Chief Keith Hiller  
Captain Eric Rethemeier  
Captain Jeff Mundale

### Sergeants

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Andy DeVinny  
Andy Drenth  
Josh Sorensen  
Tracy DuChene  
Jason Matejcek  
Zack Schumaker

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Christian Berg  
Ben Johnson  
Steven Bowman  
Valerie Satre  
Travis Ardolf

### Patrol Officers

Joel Hunt  
Matt Oeltjenbruns  
Andrew Van Osdale  
Melissa Michael  
Alan Callahan  
Derrick Quinlan  
Alexandra Vogel  
Casey Martin  
Luke Selvik  
Travis Johnson  
Benjamin Metcalf  
Joshua Lee  
Todd Schwanke  
Anna Martin  
Zachary Plein  
John Van Alstine  
Jeremy Katz  
Brandon Fandel  
Michael Brein

### Community Service Officers

Brian Shaw  
Gabrielle Flemming  
Julia Hansen

### Canine

Vegas

### Support Staff

Kimberly Dub  
Pam Roberts  
Wendy Gasner

### Chaplains

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Nancy Deetz  
Loren Olson

### Reserve Officers

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Bill Traetow  
Julia Hansen  
Steve Wrede  
Gabrielle Flemming  
Osbeida Aguilar  
Asberry Thoreson  
Maddie Ziegler

### Records Staff

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Renee Babcock  
Rebecca Melchert  
ShaLee Ebertowski