Like Mother, Like daughter—
During the very early morning hours of the 13th, an Owatonna officer was on patrol in the northeast section of town. He was traveling on Elm Ave. when he observed two vehicles travel north following each other very closely. The officer observed several times that the front vehicle would gain distance on the other, then allow the vehicle behind to catch up; it appeared they were traveling together. The vehicles turned onto 16th St. N.E. where the officer observed the front vehicle cross the center line several times and then veer off, nearly striking a parked vehicle. The front vehicle pulled into a driveway at 1900 St. Paul Rd. where the officer made contact with the driver. At the same time, the second vehicle pulled over alongside of the road. In speaking with the driver of the car in the driveway, the officer noticed signs of intoxication and had the driver perform roadside field sobriety tests, which she failed. She was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving. While speaking with this driver, she indicated the driver of the vehicle pulled alongside of the road was her daughter and she was leading her daughter home because her daughter was intoxicated. She also admitted to nearly striking a parked vehicle because she was texting on her cell phone. The officer met with the daughter and again observed signs of intoxication. After failing roadside field sobriety tests, she too was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving. Linda M. Decoux, age 49 and Courtney M. Pedersen, age 20, were transported to the Steele County Detention Center Center were they were booked and later released—formal charges are pending for both.

Drunk Drivers on the Naughty List for December DWI Patrols—
Minnesota law enforcement officers this weekend are uncorking December-long increased statewide DWI patrols. The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over effort will also take place nationwide. December is a potentially deadly month due to holiday celebrations, according to officials from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. In the last three Decembers (2009-2011), 28 people were killed in drunk driving crashes and 7,497 were arrested for DWI. County sheriff’s offices, municipal agencies and the Minnesota State Patrol will work overtime hours in December to focus on drunk driving. “Our goal is to ensure families are together for the holidays and no lives are taken due to a drunk driving tragedy,” says Lt. Eric Roeske of the Minnesota State Patrol. “If there is one gift to give, offer to be a designated driver for a loved one.” A DWI offense can result in loss of license for up to a year, thousands in costs and possible jail time. Repeat DWI offenders, as well as first-time offenders arrested at 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level, must use ignition interlock in order to regain legal driving privileges, or face at least one year without a driver’s license. Offenders with three or more offenses are required to use interlock for three to six years, or they will never regain driving privileges.

Social Host Enforcement—
A call of a loud party on Saturday, December 8th brought Owatonna officers to a residence at 645 East Rice Lake St. When they arrived, they observed approximately 15 young adults standing outside of the residence taking loudly. Officers noted that many of the individuals appeared intoxicated due to their slurred speech and they were swaying while they standing. Investigating officers found that five of the individuals drinking at the party were between the ages of 19-20—under the legal age to consume alcohol; they were each charged with Minor Consumption of Alcohol. Officers identified the resident of 645 East Rice Lake St. as Corey A. Larson, age 22. Larson later admitted to hosting the party, but denied knowing there were underage drinkers at the party. Larson was charged by citation with violating the City of Owatonna Social Host Ordinance.

As a reminder, the Social Host ordinance stipulates the following—
It is unlawful for any person(s) to—
1. Host or allow an event or gathering;
2. at any residence, premise, or any other private or public property;
3. where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present;
4. when the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person will or does consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage—or posses any alcohol with intent to consume it; and
5. the person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s).