Fleeing Driver Tasered by Officer —

On Friday, October 14th, an Owatonna officer on patrol recognized a driver of a vehicle as a person known to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The officer stopped the vehicle in the Eagles parking lot to investigate further. The officer confirmed the identity of the driver as having the outstanding warrant and as he was placing him under arrest, the driver failed to comply and ran away from the officer. The officer directed the subject to stop; however, the driver failed to comply. At that point as the subject was fleeing from the officer, the officer deployed his Taser. The Taser effectively did its job as the subject was incapacitated, falling to the ground and was arrested by the officer. Beyond the scope of the warrant arrest, the subject and vehicle were searched. The driver was found to be in possession of prescription drugs prescribed to someone other than himself. Found in the vehicle was 22.9 grams of marijuana, alcoholic beverages and other prescription medications. The subject was transported to the Steele County Detention Center and held for court. Jordan L. Hernandez-Cox, age 20, was charged by citation with Driving after Suspension, Possession of Marijuana in a Motor Vehicle, Underage Possession of Alcohol, Fleeing a Police Officer on Foot and Illegally Possessing a Legend Drug. A legend drug is a drug which is required by federal law to bear the following statement, “Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescriptions”.

Door to Door Sales Persons—

Occasionally throughout the year, Owatonna residents are confronted with sales person(s) going door-to-door peddling their goods. Often these are legitimate sales persons and have been permitted by the city to conduct door-to-door sales. However, on occasion as was the case this last Wednesday, the sale persons are attempting to sell door-to-door in the city without a permit. In this most recent case, the sales persons were going to door-to-door selling magazine subscriptions. When confronted by officers, the sales persons did not have permit(s) issued by the city. The sales persons’ supervisor was also located by officers and he reported that a permit was not needed due to the Interstate Commerce Act…..not true!! In all, Owatonna officers cited six sales persons for violating the city ordinance and escorted them to the city limits. Protect yourself from being victimized by unauthorized door-to-door solicitors. If you are approached, ask the solicitor to see his permit issued by the city. If you are told he/she does not have it with him or his supervisor has the permit, he either has not been authorized by the city to solicit door-to-door or is not compliant with the city ordinance. All door-to-door solicitors are issued a permit and are required to carry their permit on their person while they are conducting business in the city. If the solicitor does not have his/her permit, politely tell the solicitor you are not interested in their product. We ask that you call the law enforcement center so we can send an officer out to investigate the legitimacy of the solicitor.

Extra Officers Promote Safe Driving—

The Toward Zero Deaths Law Enforcement Coalition and Owatonna Police Department will conduct a seatbelt enforcement campaign between Friday, October 14 and Thursday, October 27. During this time period, extra Owatonna officers will be out patrolling with a special emphasis on enforcing Minnesota seat belt laws. Minnesota’s seat belt law requires all passengers to be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. A seat belt fine is $25, but can cost more than $100 with court and administrative fees. The campaign includes enforcement of Minnesota’s child passenger safety law, which requires children to use a booster seat after they have outgrown car seats. Children should remain in a booster seat until age eight or they are four feet, nine inches tall. A recommendation is to keep a child in a booster seat based on height rather than age. A child seat violation can cost more than $120 with court fees. Each year, in more than 60 percent of fatal accidents that occur between 9 p.m. and 3 a.m., vehicle occupants are not buckled up. A primary vision of the TZD program is to create a safe driving culture in Minnesota in which motorists support a goal of zero road fatalities by practicing and promoting safe and smart driving behavior. TZD focuses on the application of four strategic areas to reduce crashes: education, enforcement, engineering and emergency trauma response. So far in 2011, Owatonna officers have issued 503 seatbelt citations and 29 child restraint citations.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month—

If you have reason to suspect someone you know is a victim of domestic violence—do not ignore it. Should you witness abuse, whether it is someone you know or a complete stranger, call the police immediately. If you know someone who is a perpetrator, let him or her know it is a crime. Explain you strongly disapprove of their behavior and encourage him or her to get help.