On February 5th, the Owatonna police department was called to the 1500 block of Hemlock Avenue for the report of a person carrying a longer style gun, thought to be a shotgun. Our officers arrived in the area and began to search for the suspect. The officers were able to determine the suspect in this case lived in a residence to the south of Bethel Church on Hemlock Ave. The officers established a perimeter around the home and were able to communicate with the suspect and get him to meet with the officers outside. We were able to determine the 68-year-old suspect in this case had been outside his residence and was shooting squirrels with a BB gun. The suspect was issued a citation for Discharging a Firearm within the City. As a reminder, city ordinance prohibits shooting or discharging any firearm, air rifle, sling shot or any instrument used to expel at high velocity any pellets, darts, arrows or projectiles of any kind within corporate city limits of Owatonna with very limited exceptions.

Mother Knows Best—

During the early morning hours on Sunday, our officers were called to assist a cab company with a customer having trouble paying his cab fare. Our officers got on-site to assist and identified two passengers. The officers were trying to confirm one of the passenger’s identity with the name he provided, but were unable to locate a record for him; however, he did provide his mother’s phone number. Our officers called mom and she provided our officers with the passenger’s real name—who by the way had an outstanding warrant in Wabasha County. The passenger, Michael T. Martin, age 29, was placed under arrest and transported to jail. Martin also had a backpack in his possession found to contain drug paraphernalia, presumptive marijuana & methamphetamine and brass knuckles. Martin was formally charged in District Court with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance—a felony, Possession of a Dangerous Weapon, False Information to a Police Officer and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia—all misdemeanors.

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING is a traffic offense or a combination of offenses such as speeding, running a red light or stop sign, failure to yield the right of way, and reckless driving. It may also be tailgating, abrupt lane changes, failure to signal, and other norms of negligent and inconsiderate driving.

ROAD RAGE occurs when a traffic incident escalates into a far more serious situation. Road rage is an incident in which an angry or impatient motorist or passenger intentionally injures or kills another motorist, passenger, or pedestrian, or attempts or threatens to injure or kill another motorist, passenger, or pedestrian.

A few tips to avoid ROAD RAGE—

- Avoid cutting other drivers off in traffic.
- Don’t tailgate (allow 3 seconds space between lanes).
- Avoid making any gestures or eye contact with the other driver.
- Be courteous in the use of high-beam headlights