Click it or Ticket—

The Owatonna Police Department is in the midst of the statewide Click it or Ticket campaign which runs from May 20th through June 2nd. A component of the Toward Zero Deaths Campaign (TZD), the Click it or Ticket campaign is a statewide initiative where nearly 400 Minnesota law enforcement agencies are increasing patrols to encourage motorist to buckle up. In the last three years on Minnesota roads (2010-2012), there were 864 traffic deaths, of which 352 (41 percent) were not buckled up. Of those 352 killed, 41 percent were motorists ages 16-29, according to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety. Statistics show that teens and young adults continue to represent a large percentage of unbuckled traffic deaths, which indicates there is still a major issue with seat belt usage among that age group. For whatever reason—be it comfort, restriction or philosophy—some motorists and passengers still refuse to wear their seat belts. We ask them to remember that their minor inconvenience could turn out to be a major life saver.

Duo Arrested For Mail theft—

During the early afternoon hours last Saturday, officers from the Owatonna Police Department were called to the area of the 1400 block of 14th Street NE for the reports of someone possibly stealing mail. Officers responding to the area learned from witnesses that two individual were seen taking packages from a residence on 14th Street and running toward a residence on Bigelow Avenue. Officers secured a perimeter around the suspected residence, but were unable to locate the suspects. Shortly thereafter, the officers were directed to the residence next door on Bigelow where they came into contact with two individuals matching the description of the subjects suspected of stealing the packages; a witness later positively identified the two individuals as the suspects. Officers interviewed one of the suspects who admitted to seeing the packages left out in front of the residence and taking them. A search of the residence turned up some of the stolen property. Officers arrested Roy Jr. Reyes, age 18 and a 16-year old juvenile. Reyes and the juvenile were formally charged in District Court with Mail Theft—a felony and Theft—a misdemeanor.

Suspect Arrested for DWI Assaults Officer—

On May 25th, officers were called to the area of the 1900 block of Hartle Avenue for a driving complaint; a witness reported seeing a visibly intoxicated male drive up to a residence on Hartle Ave., exit his car and stagger around the car. The male got back in the car as a passenger and a female drove away. The first arriving officer found a car matching the description of the suspect vehicle traveling on 22nd St. SE. The officer stopped the car and found a female driver and a male passenger. The passenger matched the description of the intoxicated male provided by the witness. The male made a statement indicating he had been driving the car approximately five minutes earlier and had just picked up his girlfriend. The officer noted the male was showing signs of intoxication and had him perform roadside sobriety tests—which he failed. The male was placed under arrest for suspicion of DWI and transported to the Steele County Jail. En route to the jail, the male was verbally abusive toward the officer; once they arrived at the jail, the male began kicking at the window of the squad car. Jail staff assisted the officer with the suspect and he was led into the center; verbally abusive toward the officer; once they arrived at the jail, the male began kicking at the window of the squad car. Jail staff assisted the officer with the suspect and he was led into the center; verbally abusive toward the officer; once they arrived at the jail, the male began kicking at the window of the squad car. Jail staff assisted the officer with the suspect and he was led into the center; verbally abusive toward the officer; once they arrived at the jail, the male began kicking at the window of the squad car. Jail staff assisted the officer with the suspect and he was led into the center; verbally abusive toward the officer; once they arrived at the jail, the male began kicking at the window of the squad car. 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Garage Project—

City crews began working on a capital improvement project this week at the law enforcement center that will give us seven additional garage stalls and an additional evidence storage area. The garage is being erected on the northwest side of the law enforcement property.