Suspected Drunk Driver Flees on Foot is Tased—

On Tuesday, May 15th, Owatonna officers were called to downtown area for a suspected drunk driver who had just left Reggie’s Bar and was traveling east toward the police department. An officer located a truck matching the description of the vehicle driven by the suspected drunk driver on Elm Avenue and then to University; the officer observed the vehicle was driving down the center of the roadway. The officer activated his emergency lights and the vehicle pulled to the side of the roadway. As the vehicle came to a stop, the driver exited the vehicle and began walking away from the officer. The officer directed the driver back to his vehicle; however, the driver began walking in the other direction. The officer ordered the driver to stop or he would be tased, but the driver had his own ideas and began running through the backyard of 239 E. University and then east down the alley. The officer successfully deployed his taser, which had immediate effects, and the driver was taken into custody. The suspect, a 38-year-old male, was placed under arrest for probable cause DWI and transported and booked into the Steele County Detention Center. He was later released pending formal charges of DWI, Fleeing a Peace Officer on Foot and Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle.

From Our “Not so Smart” Offender Files—

During the early morning hours of Friday, May 18th, an Owatonna officer patrolling the south end of Owatonna was traveling behind a vehicle. The vehicle pulled to the side of the road, allowing the officer to pass. As the officer passed, the driver yelled out of the window at the officer. The officer tuned around to speak with the driver, but the vehicle pulled out from its spot and continued down the roadway. The officer followed the vehicle again until it pulled to the side of the road a second time. The officer pulled alongside of the vehicle to speak with the driver; however, the driver exited his vehicle, approached the officer’s driver’s side window and began yelling obscenities at the officer. While yelling at the officer, the officer detected a strong odor of alcohol coming from the driver. The officer got out his vehicle to investigate further when the driver began walking away and threw his keys into the grass. Our officer had the driver perform roadside field sobriety tests and he was subsequently placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving. The driver, a 28-year-old male, was booked into the Steele County Detention Center and later released pending the blood alcohol results from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Laboratory and formal charges.

Facts About Bullying and Harassment—

In the wake a 13-year-old girl tragically committing suicide in the city of Kasson, Minnesota, bullying and its effects has recently come to the forefront, specifically after the Dodge County Sheriff’s Office indicated that, “Harassment and bullying were likely factors” in the child’s death. The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association reports that bullying and harassment takes many forms and bullies keep bullying as long as it makes them feel more powerful. Many children and teens are bullies or victims of bullies, but the largest number of children and teens are bystanders – witnesses to bullying. Bullying begins in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and falls off in high school. It does not, however, disappear altogether. Girls can be bullies too, although bullying by girls is more likely to show up as spreading rumors, leaving people out of social events, teasing about clothes or boyfriends, or threatening to withdraw a friendship. Don’t be a bystander. Let’s all work toward ending bullying and preventing another tragedy.

The Owatonna Police Department is a proud participant in Minnesota’s Toward Zero Death (TZD) campaign. On Monday, May 14th, Community Service Officer Zack Schumaker represented the department in the 2012 Kick-off Event held in Northfield at the Northfield Hospital. The mission of TZD is to create a culture for which traffic fatalities and injuries are no longer acceptable through the integrated application of education, engineering, enforcement and emergency medical and trauma services.