Assault Suspect Arrested—

Just after midnight on Tuesday, our officers were called to 430 16th St. NE for a domestic. Responding officers met with 33-year old victim of an assault—officers observed she walked with a limp, had a swollen chin and bruising & lacerations on her legs. The victim alleged an argument led to a physical assault where the suspect allegedly pushed her down, kicked her chin, shins and stomped on her knee. Officers went to the home where the alleged assault took place and observed the back patio door shattered. They also observed the suspect inside the residence, but he refused to come to the door—he indicated that he was not going to open the door and if we wanted to come in we needed to break the door down. Undeterred, our officers obtained a search warrant for the residence. With search warrant in hand, the suspect still refused to open the door—his wish to have his door broken down soon became reality and our officer broke down the door to enter the home. Once inside, the suspect continued to resist and a Taser was used before he was finally apprehended. Kenneth R. Haukaas, age 35, was arrested and jailed. He faces charges of Domestic Assault, 5th Degree Assault, Obstructing the Legal Process and Disorderly Conduct.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over—

Drunk drivers take notice—the Owatonna Police Department is serious about taking drunk drivers off our roadways and our statistics during the month of August can back that up. In the month of August, our officers made 18 drunk driving arrests, the most in any month since August of 2012. During the month, the average blood/breath alcohol (BAC) content from those who tested was at .141 or 2x the legal limit to drive; the highest BAC registered at .283—over 4x the legal limit!!

School Bus Safety—

As the first school bell rings, motorists are reminded to be ready to stop for school buses and be watchful for children exiting school buses and crossing streets. Be ready to anticipate children, especially in a school bus “danger zone” — the area around a bus where children are at greatest risk. Parents should also discuss and demonstrate pedestrian safety with their children and reinforce safe crossing after exiting a bus. In Minnesota, motorists must stop for red flashing lights and when stop arms are extended — both when driving behind a bus and when coming toward a bus on undivided roads.