It Only Takes a Second—Just Drive—

Early Tuesday afternoon, a female was driving her vehicle on Vine St. with her granddaughter in the vehicle. As she was approaching the intersection with Pine Avenue, a cellphone in the vehicle began to ring. The driver took her eyes off the road momentarily to check the cellphone and that was enough time for her vehicle to deviate from the traveled portion of the roadway into a parked car. The female suffered minor injuries and her passenger was thankfully uninjured. This is but just one example of how a distraction inside your car can take you from your primary task—driving your car and keeping you, your passenger and those around you safe. Distracted driving continues to be a factor in 1 of 4 crashes in the state and in 2015, resulted in 74 deaths, a 21 percent increase over 2014.

Police Chaplains—

On Monday evening Owatonna Police Chaplain Dr. Rev. Brent Carlson and Captain Jeff Mundale were invited to speak at the Owatonna chapter of Compassionate Friends support group meeting at St. Joseph Church to share information about the City of Owatonna’s police chaplain program. Compassionate Friends has a mission to provide personal comfort, hope, and support to every family member experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family. To inquire about a Compassionate Friends support group meeting, please contact co-leaders Joan Spindler at (507) 451-7613 or Jeanne Willmott at (507) 363-1225. The Owatonna police chaplains were formed in May of 2012 to enhance police services to the community by providing non-denominational spiritual care, comfort, counseling, and guidance to individuals who are affected by losing loved ones to suicide, homicide, SIDS, serious or fatal accidents. Chaplains also care and assist members of our police community.

Cops in the Community—

On Tuesday evening, Officer Alan Callahan visited Federated Insurance and spoke to a insured group representing Industrial and Building trade about distracted and impaired driving—the program is part of Federated’s Risk Management Academy program to their insured customers.

On Thursday morning, Community Service Officers Travis Johnson and Colton Ryg visited a home day care facility in Owatonna. The officers met with the kiddos to talk about general safety, pass out junior police stickers and to give a squad car tour.

Click here to subscribe to this newsletter electronically