Duck, Duck, Deer? As we move into hunting season, we are sure to see more deer encounters with motorists as deer move into the rut or breeding season and those driving within the city will not be immune to those encounters. According to a study by State Farm Insurance, an estimated 1 in 74 Minnesota drivers will hit a deer or other large animal this year, an increase from last year and collaborates with a report from the DNR which reports 20% more deer in forested areas over last year. But alas, don’t fret, according to the same study, we are lucky to live in Minnesota as you’d be more likely to strike a deer if you lived in our bordering states of Iowa, Wisconsin and South Dakota! So remember, along with all the other distractions we have to be wary of, please keep an eye out for deer along our roads.

**Website Dating Caution**

This week officers fielded a report from a woman in town that met a man on the dating application, “Plenty of Fish”. The woman picked him up in Minneapolis and she invited him to stay with her. Her suspicions grew and she learned he was a level three predatory offender from Minneapolis who tried to go by a different name to shake off his questionable past. Be cautious and suspicious when using dating websites.

**Ghoulish Behavior Abroad**—A tour around Owatonna will show that many of our community members are getting in the Halloween spirit with spooky displays in their yards. Unfortunately for some, their holiday spirit fell victim to Halloween thieves who felt they needed the display more than the lawful owners. This week, we fielded several reports from the south end of town where Halloween yard ornaments were stolen during the overnight hours. If you have a Halloween display and to prevent from being victimized, consider extinguishing or deflating any inflatable Halloween ornaments when you head to bed, or consider keeping the entire area well lit. If you have any information regarding the thefts, please contact the Owatonna Police Department Detective Bureau at 507-774-7207. In one instance, an adult female driving a Ford Edge of similar vehicle was caught on video at one of the theft sites.

**NOT A COP**—Formal charges were filed today against Keith Haskell for assault and impersonating a police officer stemming from a September 4th incident. First, officers were called to a shoplifting incident at Cash-wise then redirected to a fight nearby. OPD officers learned the two calls were related and Haskell took matters into his own hands and went a bit too far. Haskell pursued two juvenile suspects in a vehicle from Cash-Wise then blocked their car at 520 Adams Avenue. Haskell allegedly identified himself as the “police” pulled one subject out of the car, restrained him and used pepper spray to defend himself. The driver escaped. Then Haskell approached the other occupant and threatened him with a pepper spray and a “stick”. Haskell requested the car keys, removed him from the car and used an arm restraint to hold him. Later, an expandable police baton and pepper spray were found in Haskell’s vehicle. Witnesses heard squealing tires, observed Haskell pull the driver out of the car and identified himself as a cop. They observed Haskell with a “crowbar”. Haskell was arrested and released pending formal charges.