Halloween Safety Tips

This Tuesday, Kids will flood the neighborhoods in spooky outfits to fill their bags and buckets with Halloween treats.

Motorists—be extra cautious for kids crossing streets in hard to see outfits.

For the kids—costumes should be worn and fit properly to reduce slips, trips and falls.

Be seen! Use flashlights, glow sticks or reflective material on shoes and costumes. Be careful around candles and open flames. Look before crossing streets.

Don’t run in front of traffic. Don’t cross between parked cars and cross only when necessary and in well-lit areas. Respect others property and privacy. Don’t cut across landscaping and stay away if the property looks dark and outside lights are off.

Parents—inspect treats before allowing children to consume.

The MN Crime Prevention Association recommends adult supervision of children under the age of 13.

Distracted Driving Simulator

On Thursday morning, the City of Owatonna hosted their annual Wellness Fair at the Senior Center in Owatonna. Captain Eric Rethemeier and Administrative Assistant Pam Roberts sit on the Wellness Committee and helped organize the event with other city employees. The event highlights living a healthy lifestyle by bringing in vendors to talk about healthy nutrition, exercise options, ergonomics, fire safety and having biometric testing done. In addition, Captain Rethemeier brought in a driving simulator that allowed participants the opportunity to experience the difficulty and dangers of distracted driving—the simulator allowed those who participated a practical mockup without putting lives and property at risk! Wellness and Safety is especially important to law enforcement officers as it has been identified by the President’s (President Obama) Task Force as one of the six pillars of 21st century policing.

UAS – Unmanned Air System

The police department has purchased a drone in collaboration with other city departments to enhance safety, response and service to the community. Before the drone will be permitted to fly, the following steps have to occur:

- Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the FAA
- Registration
- Authorized User Certification
- Public Notice
- Training and Policy Development

Weekly Highlights

- Busiest Day of Week: Wednesday — 113 events
- Busiest Hour of Day: 11:00 PM — 49 events
- Total # of Events: 703
- Average Events/Day: 100
- Average Events/Hour: 4.17
- Average Traffic Stops: .48 per hour
- DWIs for the week: 0

COPS & COMMUNITY

On Friday, Captain Mundale and Chief Hiller met with staff from Cedar Valley Services - Owatonna and Albert Lea locations at the history center in Owatonna about workplace violence and distracted driving. Cedar Valley Services serves citizens with disabilities and their mission is to assist each individual in the activities of work and community living.