CLOSE BUT NO CIGAR—Just before midnight on Thursday, an officer stopped a car for speeding and improper lane use. The driver didn’t have any identification but said he was Aaron Smith from Minneapolis. Smith wrote his name and date of birth on the officer’s notepad. This information was not on record in any police databases. The unidentified driver also mentioned a woman who resided in town that he was seeing. From other police involvements, the officer knew the woman and prior knowledge that her male counterpart had a warrant for his arrest. The officer pulled up a driver’s license photo of the man whom he believed to be the driver - Johnathan Cornelius Smith. A driver’s license photo confirmed his belief and Smith was arrested. Johnathan Cornelius Smith, 32 of Owatonna, was arrested on an outstanding Anoka County warrant for DWI and was cited for driving after revocation, false name to a peace officer and speeding.

ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES FILED—At 01:47 a.m. on Christmas Day, Officers responded to a disturbance at 509 East Academy Street. As officers were arriving one by one, they heard a woman inside the home screaming for help. The officers noticed she had a bloody face and was being held against her will. They forced their way into the home and were immediately confronted by the assailant, Jeremiah Bauer in tight quarters of the entryway. Unbeknownst to the officers, Bauer was armed with a machete strapped to his wrist. Two officers began restraining Bauer’s arms to control the machete. Bauer was resisting and challenged the officers to kill him. He was tased multiple times by a third officer with no sign off incapacitation. A sergeant arrived and cut the strap of the machete off Bauer’s wrist to successfully disarm him. One officer sustained a cut to his hand during this altercation. Other officers arrived and tended to the victim who had a bloody face and hands. The victim reports that Bauer was intoxicated, prevented her from leaving, choked her, held a machete to her stomach, throat and threatened to kill her. Bauer admits to head butting the victim. Bauer, 31 of Owatonna, remains in custody on charges of 2nd Degree Attempted Murder, Kidnapping, 1st and 2nd Degree Assault.

New Year’s Safety Tips—Drive sober or line up a sober ride. Holiday cheer means different things to different people. Think about your sober ride before you start to drink. And if your holiday celebration doesn’t involve spiked eggnog, offer to drive someone else home. Extra DWI enforcement is out statewide in full force on weekends through December 30, 2017.

Respectful Workplace

This past Thursday, 24 employees from the police department and several other city employees representing engineering, streets, park and rec, library, finance, and building inspection joined together at the Owatonna Police Department for a 1.5 hour course on Cultivating a Respectful Workplace. The course was led by Ms. Sheila Krejci, a consultant for the League of Minnesota Cities.