Duo Arrested after Drugs Found in Car—

Last Friday afternoon, an Owatonna officer stopped a vehicle for being driven by an unlicensed driver—the vehicle passed the officer and he recognized the driver and that he did not have a valid license. After stopping the vehicle, the officer checked records and found this driver had been charged with driving after suspension six times since 8/20/15. The officer had the driver step out of the vehicle and in doing so, observed a pill and a small plastic baggie on the driver’s side floor. From experience, the officer recognized the pill as possibly being Alprazolam, a narcotic and the baggie as narcotics packaging. Our K9 Kash arrived on scene and conducted a canine sniff on the vehicle. In doing so, Kash gave a positive alert for narcotics inside the vehicle. A search of the vehicle took place and uncovered drug paraphernalia, additional Alprazolam, cash and 25.5 grams of presumptive positive methamphetamine. The male driver and his female passenger were placed under arrest and jailed. The driver, Matthew Peters, age 28, and the female passenger, Tessa A. Sjol, age 20, were both formally charged with 2nd Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance. The vehicle driven by Peters, a 2005 Chevy Impala, is being held for possible forfeiture.

Click it or Ticket-Enforcement Wave Results—

Troopers, officers and deputies from 320 law enforcement agencies across the state are seeing a trend on Minnesota roads — motorists choosing to put safety first. During October’s Click It or Ticket campaign, law enforcement reported 5,550 motorists were cited for seat belt violations from Oct. 9 – 25, a 33 percent drop from last year’s October wave when 8,195 motorists were ticketed and the lowest since 2010. Locally, the OPD issued just 19 citations for seat belt violations.

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled up or seated in the correct child restraint. Under Minnesota law, officers can stop and ticket unbelted drivers or passengers. Seat belts must be worn correctly—low and snug across the hips, and shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back.

Winter Hazard Awareness Week—

To help Minnesota residents minimize risks and mitigate the hazards of winter, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety — in collaboration with the National Weather Service and other state, federal and non-profit agencies — sponsors “Winter Hazard Awareness Week” each fall to educate, inform, remind and reinforce the behaviors that lead to a warm, safe and enjoyable winter season. The week-long educational campaign, beginning November 9th and running through November 13th, targets specific information each day that can be used in conjunction with school, church, or civic programs. The daily topics can be seen by clicking the following links:

November 9th—Winter Storms
November 10th—Outdoor Winter Safety
November 11th—Winter Fire Safety
November 12th—Indoor Winter Safety
November 13th—Winter Driving

Bus Stop Arm Violations—

This week we cited a driver for failing to stop for a school bus stop arm—remember, when a school bus is stopped on a street or highway, or other location and is displaying an extended stop-signal arm and flashing red lights, the driver of a vehicle approaching the bus shall stop the vehicle at least 20 feet away from the bus. The vehicle driver shall not allow the vehicle to move until the school bus stop-signal arm is retracted and the red lights are no longer flashing.