Repeat Customer—

On Sunday evening, an officer spotted a car on Bridge Street that appeared to be speeding; radar confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 41 in a 30 zone. As the officer came up behind the vehicle, she noted it crossed the center line and changed lanes without signaling. The officer stopped the vehicle and observed the driver had signs of intoxication; she could smell an odor of alcohol coming from the driver and he had a difficult time getting out of the car, almost tripping. Roadside field sobriety tests were attempted and the driver was subsequently arrested. The officer discovered controlled substances in the vehicle and a blood test was completed. For our faithful readers, you may recognize the driver—he was highlighted in last week’s Just the Facts and has been arrested by our agency now twice in the past two weeks. Christopher Ramirez, age 35 of Owatonna, was charged with 4th Degree DWI and Driving after Cancellation.

Night to Unite v. 2018—

Night to Unite is just around the corner and we’re taking reservations—this year’s event will be on Tuesday, August 7th. Our information and registration page is up and running on our website. By clicking on the Night to Unite logo to the side, you can download a step-by-step guide, planning packet and an event registration form. If you’re looking for more information about Night to Unite, Pam Roberts would love to talk with you. Pam can be reached at 774-7200.

How Close is Too Close—

On Tuesday afternoon our officers were called to the area of the 1500 block of Hemlock Avenue for a harassment restraining order violation. Our officers were advised a male was seen walking behind a house and there was a current order from the court preventing him from being closer than 1000 feet from the home. Arriving officers walked around the back of the home and found the suspect standing near a service door on the back of the home. Officers also found luggage believed to belong to the suspect on the front steps. Andrew A. Buzzard, age 23 of Owatonna, was jailed and charged by citation with Violating a Harassment Restraining Order— a misdemeanor.

Focusing on Speeding—

Construction is now in full swing on I-35, both north and south of Owatonna and motorists may feel the need to inch their speeds up to make up for lost time. Minnesotan law enforcement is currently in a speed enforcement mobilization, focusing extra enforcement to remind Minnesotan’s to stay safe by obeying the speed limit and not drive aggressively. The Owatonna Police Department and officers, deputies and troopers from more than 300 agencies will be out statewide to look for speeders jeopardizing the lives of themselves and others. Statewide crash data suggests that 88 people were killed in Minnesota in speed-related crashes in 2017 and during the 100 deadliest days (Memorial Day–Labor Day) in 2017, data suggests that speed played a role in 23 fatalities. Remember, posted speed limits are not just a suggestion—they’re the law designed to keep drivers and everyone around them safe. Driving aggressively and speeding gives you less room for error and can cause others to react in ways that endanger their lives. Safe driving is a cooperative effort, and the selfish choice to speed can ruin the lives of so many.