In the Crosshairs—

Friday is the first OHS home football game meaning autumn is just around the corner and with it brings unique dangers to our motorists. First, minutes of daylight are taking flight each day making visibility less. Secondly, deer are out in droves making vehicle/motorcycle encounters with a deer a greater possibility—even within the city. Unlike squirrels or other smaller wild animals, deer are big, creating targets that are harder to miss. They are also wild, unpredictable animals and when one decides to wander in your path, it is impossible to know which way they’re going to go—if they go at all. Please remember, as we drive within our community or on our rural roads, along with all the other distractions we have to be wary of, please keep an eye out for deer along our roadways.

Cops in the Community—

On Wednesday evening, Officer Andrew Van Osdale was at the Owatonna Country Club where he met with a group of policy holders in Federated’s Risk Management Academy. We’ve been partnering with Federated for the past few years at their risk management academy to discuss driving related issues, including drinking and driving, that the attendees, as policy holders, can take back to their individual businesses and share with their employees.

Click it or Ticket—

Seventy-eight people. That’s three classrooms full of students. That’s an entire NFL football team and their staff. That’s how many unbuckled motorists were killed last year in Minnesota. To remind motorists that seat belts save lives and it’s the law to buckle up, the Owatonna Police Department, along with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across the state, will be focusing in the statewide Click it or Ticket campaign Sept. 17-29. Most Minnesotans are making the life-saving decision to buckle up. According to the 2018 Minnesota Seat Belt Survey, 92.4 percent of front seat occupants are wearing their seat belts. Unfortunately, that means more than 7 percent of motorists continue to risk their lives and the lives of those in the vehicle by failing to buckle up.

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must be buckled or seated in the correct child restraint. Officers will 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.