School Bus Safety Reminder—

Back in August, just before the start of the school year, we featured information on school bus safety and a driver’s responsibility once the flashing red lights come on and the stop arm gets extended by a school bus. Unfortunately, since the start of the school year, we’ve conducted eleven investigations (on average two per week) involving motorists passing a school bus preparing to load/unload student or loading/unloading. To help protect our children, or to prevent you from getting a traffic ticket, we are posting this in hopes of getting the word out to our motorists:

- Drivers are required to stop at least 20-feet from a school bus displaying flashing red lights and stop arm.
- No person may pass or attempt to pass a school bus in a motor vehicle in the right-hand, passenger’s side of the bus when the school bus is displaying the pre-warning flashing amber signals.
- Drivers operating on a separated roadway (divided by a safety island or safety zone) are not required to stop their vehicle when approaching or meeting a school bus that is on a different roadway.
- Penalties for violators can either be a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor.

Shooting Update—

On September 13th, we reported on a shooting occurring at 525 S. Cedar Ave. At the time, several .380 rounds were found in the driveway to that residence. During this investigation, information was received from an individual who was scared for their safety regarding the shooting, including information about a wanted male who was seen with a gun. With knowledge of that information, an officer spotted a male believed to be the subject of the information near the home. Consent to search the home was granted from the concerned individual and during the search, the wanted male was located inside the home and arrested. During a search of the home, officers located a Jennings .380 handgun and two brands of .380 ammunition inside the garage. A review of the .380 casings recovered at 525 S. Cedar showed there were two different brands fired at or toward the home. The .380 rounds found during the search matched the two brands found at the shooting scene. Juan Carrasco, age 42 of Owatonna, has been charged with Dangerous Weapons Drive by Shooting Toward a Person, Occupied Vehicle or Occupied Building & Illegally Possessing Ammo/Firearm—both felonies. Carrasco remains in custody.

2018 Owatonna Police Department Annual Report—

On behalf of the staff at the Owatonna Police Department, I am proud to present the 2018 Annual Report. Our team takes great pride in serving you! We accomplished many things this past year and owe our community a great deal of gratitude for helping us along the way. When you close or “flip” the last page, I hope you share the same passion as the team at the police department about the state of our city! Chief of Police Keith Hiller

To read the annual report, please click on the report graphic.