Welcome Home Arik—
On a cold Monday morning, many hearts were warmed when Waseca Police Officer Arik Matson was flown to the Owatonna Degner Regional Airport for his return home. Law Enforcement officers from many jurisdictions across the state sent officers to welcome Arik and his family. As Arik’s flight landed, taxied and his family debarked the plane, they were greeted by an array of flashing squad car lights and cheers from the multitude of law enforcement officers, EMS workers, family and well-wishers in attendance.

Knife Wielding Suspect Arrested—
On Saturday evening, our officers were summoned to the Just One More bar for the report of a male who had been knocked out. The investigating officers soon learned the knocked-out victim was actually the suspect in this case. Witnesses reported the male approached a male and his wife, harassing them and picking a fight. The suspect prodded the victim to come outside and reached around his side and produced a knife. The victim punched the suspect, knocking him to the ground. The suspect continued swinging the knife at the victim’s wife; the victim kicked the suspect in the face, knocking him out. Eloy Tarango, age 41 of Owatonna, was arrested and jailed. Tarango has been charged with two counts of 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon. A green folding knife was recovered at the scene.

Toward Zero Deaths—
On October 6th, Officer Joel Hunt represented the Owatonna Police Department in the annual Southeastern Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) regional photo shoot in Winona. The OPD is a proud supporter of the TZD program whose mission is to create a culture for which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are no longer acceptable through the integrated application of education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency medical and trauma services.

Cops in the Community—
On Thursday, October 8th, Community Service Officer (CSO) Brian Shaw and his partner, McGruff the Crime Dog, made a special appearance at a home daycare. CSO Shaw talked to the youngsters about Stranger Danger and then gave the kids a squad tour and siren demonstration.