Domestic Assault Arrests—

Last Sunday morning, Owatonna officers were called to an address in the 1000 block of Grandview for a domestic disturbance—a female victim was reporting a male suspect kicked in her door looking for money, pushed her down the steps and left. Investigating officers found a damaged door consistent with being kicked in—both inside & outside trim and locking mechanism were damaged. The suspect was located at an address in the 100 block of E. Rice St. The suspect was advised he was under arrest but failed to comply with our officer’s directions.

The suspect charged at an officer and he was Tased and taken into custody. Christopher Prince, age 34 of Owatonna, has been charged with two counts of 1st Degree Burglary, Domestic Assault and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Subsequent to his arrest, a secondary report was filed alleging that on August 15th, Prince had assaulted the homeowner where he was arrested. In that incident, Prince allegedly kicked the female victim in the chest and put the victim in the headlock, choking her. Prince also allegedly told the victim that if she called the police, he would kill, burn the house down and no one would find the body. Prince was arrested again and faces additional charges of Terroristic Threats, Domestic Assault by Strangulation and Domestic Assault.

Night to Unite—

This year will definitely go into the archives as unprecedented—so many of the activities in our lives being postponed or cancelled all together and we’re all Zoom weary! Unfortunately, another community event will be falling victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Owatonna Police Department has made the difficult decision that in the interest of community safety, Night to Unite (NTU) will be cancelled this year. It wasn’t an easy decision to cancel NTU, but safety will always be our No. 1 priority,” said Pam Roberts, who coordinates the community event. “It’s a fun night, but large group gatherings are still discouraged, and we want to keep our community healthy”. NTU is a statewide event that builds and fosters community bonds between residents, businesses and public safety organizations. It also helps neighbors get to know one another, builds neighborhood involvement by bringing police and communities together and brings awareness to crime prevention and law enforcement efforts.

The 2021 Night to Unite will be August 3rd and we look forward to next year’s event.

Grandparents Scam—

We try to report on scams as often as possible in hopes of getting the word out to our community members—unfortunately, victimizations continue and for significant amounts of money. Such was the case this past week with a grandparents scam. A person purporting to be a grandson called to report he had been arrested by the Owatonna Police and needed bail money. A person purporting to be an Owatonna officer then got on the phone asking the victim to get $8200 in cash, wrap the money in wrapping paper, place it between two magazines and send it to an address in Indianapolis. By the time the victim realized the scam, the package had been delivered to a vacant house in Indianapolis and had already been picked up by the perpetrator(s).

The phone numbers used to contact the victim have been also disconnected. Before you act on anyone asking for money over the phone, please verify on your own—call someone you trust or call the Owatonna Police Department and ask to speak with an officer. The Owatonna Police Department will never call ANYONE for money in lieu of arrest, for bail or for any other reason.