Mineral Spring Park Narcotics Arrest—

During the early morning hours on August 30th, an Owatonna sergeant patrolling Mineral Springs Park came across a vehicle parked near the pavilion. The sergeant investigated further and located six individuals associated with the vehicle, including four juveniles. While speaking with the driver of the vehicle, the sergeant smelled an odor of marijuana coming from the passenger compartment. He was given consent to search the vehicle and located a bag inside the vehicle that contained presumed marijuana. The bag was later identified as belonging to one of the vehicle occupants, an 18-year old male. Another responding officer interviewed one of the subjects associated with the vehicle; that individual indicted he had just purchased $25 worth marijuana from the 18-year old and had concealed it in his backside to avoid getting caught. Another individual associated with the vehicle also gave a statement to corroborate the marijuana sale taking place. Officers arrested the 18-year old male, Troy J. Lembke, and transported him to the Steele County Detention Center. He was later formally charged with 5th Degree Sale of Marijuana—a felony.

Keen Observation Leads to Arrest—

On Monday afternoon, an Owatonna officer was on routine patrol when he observed a subject driving a motor vehicle that he knew had a suspended driver’s license. The officer stopped the individual and during the course of their conversation, the driver told the officer he was on the telephone with a female subject who was the owner of vehicle he was driving. Court records showed that there was a current Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) in effect between the suspended driver and the female owner of the vehicle. The order stipulates there is to be no contact between the two parties, including by telephone. Further investigation revealed the suspended driver had placed three calls to the female. The driver was subsequently arrested for the driving violation, the DANCO violation and transported to the Steele County Jail. Richard Rocha, age 26, was formally charged with Violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order—a gross misdemeanor and Driving after Suspension.

Department News—

This month we have been partnering with the Steele County Attorney’s Office to conduct in-service training session related to legal updates and civil aspects in law enforcement.

Citizen’s Police Academy—

The Owatonna Police Department is hosting an eight week Citizen’s Police Academy at the Owatonna Police Department beginning on September 25 - November 13, 2013. The Academy will meet Wednesday evenings between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The academy will give citizens a unique opportunity to participate in presentations and to learn from the officers, supervisors and specialized units what knowledge and skills are necessary to serve their community. Citizens must be 18 year of age and reside or work in Owatonna. An application must be submitted no later than September 16, 2013. For more information, applications and brochures are available on the police department web page by visiting www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/police.