Click it or Ticket seatbelt enforcement mobilization begins May 23, 2011 and runs through June 3, 2011; it will include around 400 participating Minnesota law enforcement agencies. The May Click it or Ticket mobilization is another important opportunity for law enforcement agencies to demonstrate their dedication to reducing preventable traffic deaths. Enhanced seat belt campaigns have been very successful in increasing seat belt compliance. Despite law enforcement’s success in lowering the annual traffic death count, there are still far too many unbelted deaths on Minnesota roads. During this enforcement mobilization, the Owatonna Police Department will have extra officers on the roadways to enforce seat belt violations.

It not too early to start planning

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 2nd. The Owatonna Police Department is proud to participate in the Night to Unite program and 2011 will be no different. In the coming month, we will be posting information on our website for how residents in Owatonna can register their block party with the department. Night to Unite is designed to heighten crime and drug awareness, generating support for and participating in local crime suppression efforts, strengthening neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and sending a message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!!!

Distracted Driving-

Distracted driving kills thousands of people each year and injures hundreds of thousands more. Between 2007-2009, there were 303 total distracted driving related crashes in Steele County, including 109 injury crashes and two fatality crashes. Distracted driving includes any activity a driver engages in that could shift his/her attention from driving. There are three main kinds of distractions

- **Visual**-taking your eyes off the road
- **Manual**-taking your hands off the wheel
- **Mental**-taking your mind off of the task of driving

Driving safely is every driver’s responsibility. It requires giving your full attention to your driving, being alert and ready to respond to the unexpected and being in the proper physical and mental condition to drive.