Can You Hear Me Now?

During the early morning hours of June 6th, an Owatonna sergeant was out on patrol in a residential area when he began hearing very loud bass tones coming from a stereo somewhere. The sergeant noticed there was a vehicle behind him and as he let the vehicle catch up to him, noticed the bass tones becoming louder and clearer. He allowed the vehicle to pass and as it did so, he could feel the vibrations from the stereo inside of his squad car; he also noticed the car had a taillight out. The sergeant stopped the vehicle and as he met with the occupants, detected an overwhelming odor of alcohol coming from within the vehicle. The sergeant had the operator step out of the vehicle and after failing roadside field sobriety tests, the operator was placed under arrest for suspicion of drunk driving. Ethan R. Watts, age 19, was transported the Steele County Detention Center where he was later released pending formal charges. This case is an obvious example of why not to drink and drive. However, with the warm weather and many people having their windows open, it also serves as a reminder of the city’s ordinance prohibiting excessive noise from a radio or other mechanical music devises. The ordinance stipulates that no person shall operate on any street any musical devise whose sounds coming from the device can be heard to the annoyance or inconvenience of travelers upon any street or public place or of persons in the neighboring premises. A full definition of the ordinance can be seen at http://www.ci.owatonna.mn.us/city/city-code/405_0.

Summer Cycling Safety—

With students out for summer break, lot and lots of kids will be out and about on their bicycles and we hope to see each and every one wearing a bike helmet. The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association reports that wearing a bike helmet during a crash can reduce the chance of a brain injury by 88% and 75% of all bike-related injuries or death involve some type of head trauma. What to look for when choosing a helmet:

- Meets the specific standards set by the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- Make sure the helmet sits level on the head and has a fit that is not only snug but is also comfortable
- The brim of the helmet should sit 1-2cm above the eyebrows, it is made to cover the forehead therefore, protecting the brain
- Adjust the chins straps so the helmet stays in place if it is tugged forward or side to side
- Make sure the chinstrap is always buckled
- Test the chinstrap buckle so it will not shake open and test it to make sure it will not be ruined by impact
- The helmet should not tilt backwards and should be tight enough that it will not move
- Always replace a helmet that is five years old or has been used during a crash
- Helmets need to be the appropriate size. Measure around the head just above the eyebrows and find the helmet fits accordingly.

Safety Camp—

Steele County will be having a two-day “Kids Safety Camp” on June 14th and June 15th, 2012. The camp is held at the Lake Kohlmeir boat landing and the Steele County Fairgrounds. Camp runs from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM each day. Along with fun and games, the kids will learn about fishing safety, boat/canoe safety, camping/hiking safety, bike safety, firearms safety, first aid, electrical safety, fire safety, outdoor equipment safety, and much, much more. An ice cream social will be held at 4:00 PM on June 15th at the close of the events. This two-day event is for kids entering the 4th grade in the fall of 2012. Detective Joel Hunt will be appearing on the Owatonna Today Show on Wednesday, June 13th to talk more about this year’s Safety Camp.