Domestic Call Leads to Struggle/Arrest—

On Tuesday morning, our officers were called to 421 State Avenue for the report of a verbal domestic. As our officers arrived on scene, one of our officers located a male individual in the north parking lot who was yelling into a cell phone. Our officer intervened and asked the male to get off his cell phone and to step away from his vehicle—instead, the male quickly jumped into his vehicle. The officer began trying to stop the male from securing himself inside his vehicle; it also appeared the male was attempting to start his vehicle. Other officers arrived to assist and were able to get the male to exit the vehicle. As the male exited, he began advancing on an officer with his hands in his pockets and officers were forced to stop his advances at gun point. The male was then taken to the ground where he continued to struggle with officers, refusing to comply with their directions; as he was on the ground, he pinned his arms underneath himself to prevent being handcuffed. Once the individual was handcuffed, a search of him revealed a pocket knife and an unlabeled prescription bottle in his right pocket. Inside the pill bottle was the Schedule II controlled substance Methylphenidate. Damon P. Milton, age 38, was arrested and taken to the Steele County Jail. He was later formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance and Obstructing the Legal Process.

Motorcycle Awareness—

With dry roads and the snow rapidly disappearing, we will soon be seeing motorcyclists about the roadways. Preliminary reports for 2012 showed there were 53 rider deaths—a 26 percent increase over 2011. With that in mind, we offer some warnings for vehicle operators and motorcyclists as they share the road. As operators on our roadways, please consider the following:

Vehicle motorists are advised to watch carefully for motorcycles in traffic and when going through intersections, always look twice before turning or changing lanes and never share a lane with a motorcycle—always give a motorcycle a full lane width.

Motorcycle riders are advised to wear protective gear, travel at safe speeds, pay attention and ride sober. They should also avoid driving in adverse weather conditions, avoid positioning themselves in a motorist’s blind spots and remember to use turn/hand signals for every turn or lane change.

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) advises that riders seek safety training at www.motorcyclesafety.org, and wear high-visibility riding gear.

Stolen City Property Recovered—

In September of 2012, a city facility was broken into where four 800 Mhz. radios were taken amongst other city property. That case has remained open as no suspects had been identified. On Thursday afternoon, our officers were called to 802 22nd Street Northeast in regards to a trespassing complaint. When the officers arrived, they spoke with the home owner and could smell an odor of burnt marijuana emitting from within the residence; the home owner admitted to smoking the previous day. The officers finished their business related to the trespass complaint and removed a male individual from the residence. Due in part to the odor of the marijuana and the admission to smoking the previous day, officers contacted the resident’s probation officer as he was subject to random drug testing and searches. Officers returned to the residence with the probation officer and commenced securing the residence. While doing so, an officer noticed two 800 Mhz. radios in a bedroom. The officer knew similar radios had been stolen from the city and ran a query on the radios serial numbers—both came back as stolen from the City of Owatonna. Dewayne C. Ketchum, age 24, was placed under arrest and transported to the Steele County Jail. He was later formally charged with Receiving Stolen Property—a Felony. The 800 Mhz. radios are valued at $2500 each. Officers conducted a search of the rest of the residence and did not recover any other stolen city property.