Under Cover Deal Lands Three in Jail—

On Monday, April 22nd, agents from the South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) and detectives from the Owatonna Police Department concluded an undercover investigation with the arrest of three individuals. Agents from the SCDIU received information from a confidential informant indicating that he was able to buy heroin from a guy from Austin. A deal was set up to purchase an ounce of heroin and an ounce of methamphetamines in the parking lot of Fleet Farm in Owatonna. As the timing of the deal drew closer, the dealer changed the location of the exchange to the parking lot of Burger King. SCDIU agents and Owatonna detective set up surveillance of the Burger King parking lot and shortly thereafter spotted the dealer’s vehicle. Surveillance officers observed a suspect exit the dealer’s vehicle and enter an undercover vehicle where the deal was consummated. Agents and detectives converged on the undercover vehicle and took the dealer into custody. Other agents and detectives also converged on the dealer’s vehicle which was parked in the Arby’s parking lot and occupied by two other subjects. As a result of the operation, three individuals were taken into custody and transported to the Steele County Jail, where the dealer was being taken into custody in the undercover vehicle, an agent observed the dealer concealing an item in a seat-back pouch; a subsequent search of the vehicle recovered a .22 caliber pistol, $4000 in marked buy money, 15.5 grams of heroin and 7.4 grams of methamphetamines. Jerry M. Brown, age 25, and the dealer in this case was formally charged with (2) counts of 1st Degree Sales of a Controlled Substance, Illegal Possession of a Pistol, and Giving a False Name to a Police Officer. Brown’s associates, Angela M. Caldon-Medrano, age 27, and Tywan T. Clark, age 21, were also formally charged with Conspiracy to Commit 1st Degree Controlled Substance Sale and Aid/Abet 1st Degree Controlled Substance Sale; Clark faces an additional charge of 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance-Ecstasy.

Leadership Owatonna—

On Tuesday, April 9th, the 2012-2013 Leadership Owatonna class visited the Owatonna Police Department as part of their Criminal Justice Day. The group heard a presentation from Chief Keith Hiller, outlining our organization and operations and from Captain Eric Rethe- meier who spoke on the department’s Domestic Abuse Response Program. The group also heard a presentation from a South Central Drug Investigative Unit (SCDIU) agent regarding their operations, from Officer Christian Berg who spoke about gangs in Owatonna and from Sergeant Jason Petterson who spoke about the SCDIU Tactical Team (SWAT) operations. The group finished the session with a tour of the Law Enforcement Center/911 Center and with a demonstration by Sergeant Petterson of a device known as a “flash bag”—or a concussion distraction device used by SWAT officers when making a high risk entrance into a structure.

Cops in the Community—

Chief Keith Hiller was invited to be a guest speaker at OHS this week. He addressed the STRIVE students and spoke about pro social decision making and its ethical impact on our community. The STRIVE program is a mentorship opportunity that the Owatonna Rotary Club adopted in 2004. The program matches a student who needs encouragement throughout his/her senior year with a Rotary member mentor. Throughout the school year students and mentors attend scheduled sessions where community members speak on a variety of topics associated with success after high school and the importance and value of a great education. Police Chief Keith Hiller was also invited to be a guest speaker with Mayor Thomas Kuntz to the students in Ms. Jessica Wagner’s Language Arts class. The class authors letters to city leaders as a form of civic engagement. Instead of exchanging letters, Mayor Kuntz and Chief Hiller have a dialogue with the students in the classroom about current issues and trends.

Animal Control News—

Often times we end up with impounded animals that we are looking to place. To help with this, Community Service Officer Andrew Van Osdale has created an Animal Shelter Facebook page to publicize animal(s) that are available for adoption. To view the page, click on the link to the right.