National Bike Month

May is National Bike Month and in honor of this, the Steele County Statewide Health Improvement Program’s Bike Coalition encourages citizens to join in the Bike or Walk to Church Event on Sunday, May 15th, 2011. The Owatonna Police Department encourages citizens to be aware of pedestrians and bicyclists at all times and especially the morning of Sunday, May 15th.

Where’s the Beef?

On Monday, April 25, Owatonna officers responded to Hy-Vee regarding a shoplifting in progress call. Officers were notified that employees from the store were pursuing the suspect(s) and had detained one of them near the Four Seasons Centre. Investigation revealed that two male subjects came into Hy-Vee and specially ordered 17 steaks be cut and packaged. Upon receiving their meat bevy, the subjects calmly walked past the check-out counters and exited the store without paying. Hy-Vee employees took notice and followed the suspects out of the store. One of the suspects got into a vehicle and left while the other fled on foot and was caught by employees. The suspect who left in his vehicle was eventually located and he admitted to his involvement. All told, the suspects attempted to leave with 17 steaks valued at $298. Richard Rocha, age 24 and Mark Cruz, age 20 were each charged by citation with theft. The steaks were returned to Hy-Vee.

School Resource Officers

With over 5000 students enrolled in the Owatonna Public School District, the School Resource Officers are assigned to help maintain a safe, secure, and uninterrupted learning environment for the students, staff, and parents in the district. The liaison officers, one assigned to the senior high school and the other assigned to the junior high and elementary schools, serve as a resource to prevent crime in the schools as well as investigate incidents that occur on school property. The liaisons also serve as an education resource by bringing their experience and expertise as guest instructors in certain facets of educational curriculum.