Stolen Car and Foot Chase Puts Two in Jail—

On July 31st, an Owatonna officer was patrolling near the Owatonna High School when a vehicle passed him that was operating with no license plates or temporary registration. The officer made a U-turn to follow the vehicle with intentions to stop the vehicle. The vehicle pulled into an alley and as the officer followed, the vehicle sped off at a high rate of speed; the vehicle then pulled into a private drive. As the officer caught up to the vehicle, he observed the driver’s door was standing open and a black male was fleeing the area on foot. As the officer was giving chase to the suspect, concerned citizens were giving him updates on the direction of the suspect. Assisting officers arrived in the area and were able to locate and take the suspect into custody on Mill Street near the Steele County Courthouse. Officers returned to the suspect vehicle and found an adult female and two children walking away from the vehicle. It was determined that these three individuals were also in the vehicle. Officers later learned the suspect vehicle was stolen out of the city of Minneapolis. Irving W. Madison, age 22 and Jonelle S. Hill, age 31 were arrested in connection with the stolen vehicle and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Madison was formally charged in District Court with Motor Vehicle Theft and Receiving Stolen Property while Hill was charged with Aiding and Abetting Receiving Stolen Property and Motor Vehicle Tampering.

Cops in the Community—

On Sunday, July 29th, Officers Kyle Parr and Kayla Perkins visited the Families against Bullying event that took place in Manthey Park. Approximately 200 people attended the event. The event was organized to raise awareness and to put an end to bullying. In the picture below, Officer Kayla Perkins is giving a squad car tour to some children who attended the event.

From our friends at the MN Chief’s of Police Association—

Minnesota residents are being targeted by bogus text messages designed to scare them into paying money to quash warrants that do not exist. Judicial Branch courts have fielded numerous calls from citizens who received phone text messages telling them that a warrant for their arrest had been issued for failure to appear in court. The message directs recipients to call a phone number to address the warrant. Upon calling the number, recipients are told they can pay $500 to quash the warrant. Some have been told the warrant was issued in response to their failure to appear for jury duty; others have been given no reason for the warrant. PLEASE BE AWARE: These text messages are not coming from the Judicial Branch. Minnesota state court personnel do not contact jurors by text or e-mail for failing to appear for jury duty. The best way to handle such texts is not to reply but to contact local law enforcement to report the bogus text.

Jostens Honors Two—

On Wednesday, August 1st, Jostens continued with their distinctive tradition of recognizing Owatonna police officers who have served the community for at least twenty-five years by honoring Sergeant Deanne von Wald and Corporal Investigator Mark Edel during a ceremony at the Gainey Center. Both officers were joined by many of their former and current co-workers, family and friends as they were presented with a 25-year anniversary ring by Jostens representative Jeff Dauffenbach. The photo below is of De and Mark receiving their rings from Dauffenbach. Congratulations Deanne and Mark and thank you Jostens for continuing to honor our officers!

The second photo shows all former and current officers in attendance who have received a 25-year anniversary ring from Jostens.