Burglary Suspect Apprehended—

Back in June, we reported in Just the Facts a string of residential burglaries occurring in the northeast section of Owatonna. We are pleased to announce that we have made an arrest of a subject believed responsible for some of these cases. During the early morning hours on July 30th, patrol officers came into contact with a suspicious male subject parked in a residential area. Based upon that contact and property observed inside the vehicle, detectives were able to secure a search warrant for the male’s residence and vehicles. On Wednesday, July 31st, detectives executed a search warrant at 1541 Hemlock Avenue where property was recovered related to the string of burglaries. Andrew A. Buzzard, age 18, was arrested and brought to the law enforcement center for questioning. During the course of the questioning, Buzzard admitted to committing a number of burglaries in the northeast section of the city. Buzzard was later transported to the Steele County Detention Center and held; he was later charged in District Court with 8 separate counts; including 1st Degree Burglary, 2nd Degree Burglary, Possession of Stolen Property—all felonies. Buzzard has also been a previous contributor to this newsletter as we reported on him back in April for committing and being arrested for residential burglaries.

Night to Unite—

What a night!! On Tuesday night, the Owatonna Police Department celebrated Night to Unite with 31 different neighborhood groups and an estimated 1200 community members. Night to Unite is one of the most important community outreach programs we participate in during the year. This year we were joined by many of our government officials in the festivities, including Council Members Les Abraham, Nathan Dotson, Greg Schultz, Kevin Raney and City Administrator Kris Busse. Night to Unite offers the opportunity for our officers to reach out to many citizens in an informal setting so that we can work together in collaborative efforts to strengthen our neighborhoods and community partnerships. It also gives the department an opportunity to see how we are doing in the eyes of the community and what we can do better in an effort to continue to deliver outstanding police services to the citizens of Owatonna. For the third consecutive year, this year’s event also allowed the community the chance to support the Children’s Remedial Fund by donating school supplies/funds that will go to disadvantaged families residing in Steele County. The photos below highlight some of this year’s event.