Night to Unite Recap—

The 2012 edition of Night to Unite went off splendidly on Tuesday night. In all, our officers visited 40 local block parties that were attended by an estimated 1600 people. Night to Unite is one of the most important community outreach programs we participate in during the year. 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 and exceed our community’s expectations. For the second consecutive year, this year’s event also allowed the community the chance to support the Children’s Remedial Fund by donating school supplies that will go to disadvantaged families residing in Steele County. The photos below highlight some of this year’s event.

Welcome Josh—

On August 6th, we welcomed Josh Federly into our community service officer (CSO) ranks; Josh is replacing the recently departed CSO Galen Thompson who took a position as an instructor at the Austin Community College. Josh is a Steele County native, growing up in Medford. His career before law enforcement included working in the construction industry and serving in the United States Marine Corps. Josh is currently seeking a position as a police officer, but in the meantime, we are excited to have him as part of our team!

Texting and Driving—It Doesn’t Pay—

On Tuesday, August 1st, an Owatonna officer was on patrol near the Walmart store. He was waiting for a vehicle to pass before entering the roadway. As the vehicle passed his location, he observed the operator was texting on her cellular phone. The officer stopped the female driver and later learned her driving privileges had been cancelled due to three DWI convictions since 2009. Kayla E. Sartori, age 24, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. She was formally charged with Driving after Cancellation—Inimical to Public Safety—a gross misdemeanor and Use of a Wireless Communication Device (Texting) in Traffic—a misdemeanor.

Warrant Arrest Leads to Additional Charges—

On August 1st, an Owatonna officer spotted a male subject with an active arrest warrant as a passenger in a motor vehicle. The officer stopped the vehicle and placed the wanted subject under arrest. A search of the arrestee revealed methamphetamine in his pocket. Following the discovery of the methamphetamines, a State Patrol narcotics detection dog alerted to controlled substances within the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a billfold belonging to a female passenger who was inside the vehicle; the billfold contained additional methamphetamines. Two people, Matthew J. Winkleman, age 29 and Laura B. Adams, age 25, were arrested and formally charged with 5th Degree Possession of Controlled Substance—felonies.