Disturbance Leads to Two Felony Charges—

During the early morning hours on August 20th, Owatonna officers were called to 604 South Oak Avenue for the report of a disturbance. Arriving officers met with a 33-year old female victim who was at the residence for her former boyfriend’s birthday; the current girlfriend was also at the party. While the birthday boy, Gregorio Soto, left to go the bars, some drama developed between the two females and Soto was called back to the residence. When he arrived, he was alleged to have back-handed the former girlfriend across the face. Soto’s 24-year old brother then intervened in the disturbance and tried to get Soto away from the female victim. Soto responded by allegedly punching his brother three to four times on the left eye, knocking the brother to the ground. Officers arrested Soto and he was transported to the Steele County Detention Center. He was later formally charged with two counts of Domestic Assault—both felonies. Court records indicate that Soto has been convicted four previous times for domestic related offenses.

Generous Donation Aids Reserve Unit—

The Walser Chevrolet/Buick parking lot that was donated to the Police Reserve Unit during the week of the Steele County Fair netted a grand total of $5,184.26. The parking lot was staffed by volunteer police reserve members as a fundraiser to help offset expenses for uniforms, equipment and training. The police department is very thankful for this opportunity and to Jack Lucking at Walser Chevrolet/Buick for reaching out to our department and offering this opportunity to the Reserve Unit.

On a related note, Reserve Sergeant Kevin Knopick received a Commendation Award for his outstanding performance for a single event as he donated more than 100 hours of personal time to plan, staff and manage the Walser / reserve unit parking lot. Thanks to Kevin and all of the reserve officers who staffed the lot and for their service to the community.

Congratulations Tony—

August 17th served as the last day of employment with the Owatonna Police Department for long-time Community Service Officer Tony Malepsy. Tony has been with us since February of 2010 and has been a dedicated servant to the community—he has been a recognizable face in animal control related calls, downtown parking as well as many other areas serving the city. Tony will be beginning a new chapter in his law enforcement career as he has been hired as a detention deputy with the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. Congratulations Tony and we wish you all the best.

DPS Traffic Safety News—

- In 2012, 28,418 people were arrested for DWI
- The overall average alcohol content level for all DWI arrests was .154; the legal limit is .08
- For first time offenders it was .148
- For repeat offenders it was .164