Department News—

Congratulations to Brandon Fandel. Brandon has been appointed to the Detective Bureau to take over the spot vacated by sergeant-in-waiting Andy Drenth. Detective Fandel has been an officer with the department since 1999 and is probably best known as our former canine officer with his canine partner Bullet. Brandon has also served the department as a use of force instructor, firearms instructor, South Central Drug Investigative Unit (SBDIU) tactical team member and was recently appointed to the Field Training Unit. Congratulations Brandon!!

We have initiated a hiring process to replace the recently retired Tim Hassing and Deanne von Wald. The application period has closed and we have received applications from over 100 candidates; we expect a competitive process from many highly qualified applicants. Interviews for these two positions will begin in the coming weeks.

Summer Cycling Safety—

With students out for summer break, lots and lots of kids will be out and about on their bicycles and we hope to see each and every one wearing a bike helmet. The Minnesota Crime Prevention Association reports that wearing a bike helmet during a crash can reduce the chance of a brain injury by 88% and 75% of all bike-related injuries or death involve some type of head trauma. What to look for when choosing a helmet:

- Meets the specific standards set by the CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission)
- Make sure the helmet sits level on the head and has a fit that is not only snug but is also comfortable
- The brim of the helmet should sit 1-2cm above the eyebrows, it is made to cover the forehead therefore, protecting the brain
- Adjust the chinsstraps so the helmet stays in place if it is tugged forward or side to side
- Make sure the chinsstrap is always buckled
- Test the chinsstrap buckle so it will not shake open and test it to make sure it will not be ruined by impact
- The helmet should not tilt backwards and should be tight enough that it will not move
- Always replace a helmet that is five years old or has been used during a crash

CSOs in the Schools—

This year’s pilot project of placing community service officers (CSO) in the school has been well-received and certainly achieved its goal of enhancing our student’s safety in the junior and senior high school. With school out, the CSOs assigned to the school will be taking on different duties in the community over the summer months while still focusing on building relationships with our communities youth. The CSOs will be regularly visiting different school sites during the day where students and other community members are present. They’ll also focus a lot of their energies in our park system, community events such as the marching band festival and youth summer camps. In their spare time, they’ll be supporting our traditional CSO corps.

Save the Date—

With summer upon us, we’re beginning to start the planning for this year’s Night to Unite event. Night to Unite will take place on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, and will celebrate neighborhood and community partnerships. If you or someone in your neighborhood is interested in participating in Night to Unite, Pam Roberts can be reached at 507-774-7200 for more information.