Night to Unite—

Perfectly hot and humid weather was on the menu along with beef brisket, pulled pork and every imaginable baked good for the Night to Unite celebration which was celebrated on Tuesday evening. Together as a community, 32 neighborhood block parties were held throughout our community and attended by over an estimated 1,300 of our community members and at least one visitor from as far away as Saginaw, Michigan. To help celebrate and to continue to develop our community partnerships, we sent 15 squad cars, a SWAT van and a crew of 17 police officers, 2 community service officers, 2 reserve officers, 3 police chaplains, City Administrator Kris Busse, City Council Members Les Abraham, Jeff Okerberg & Kevin Raney out to visit with our fellow Owatonnaans and had a great time doing so! Night to Unite offers our department the opportunity for our officers to develop and strengthen relationships with our community stakeholders—you! It also offers us the opportunity to evaluate how we’re doing in the eyes of the community and where we can make improvements in our level of service. For the sixth consecutive year, this year’s event also allowed our community the opportunity to support the Children’s Remedial Fund by donating school supplies/funds that will go to disadvantaged residents living in Steele County.

Sex Toy Bandit Apprehended—

On July 13th, an Owatonna officer investigated a robbery call from the Lion’s Den—it was reported that a male Hispanic had entered the store and tried walking out with some adult merchandise. When confronted by an employee, the suspect told clerk to let him walk out or he’d punch her in the #@(& face. Armed with only a suspect & vehicle description and a surveillance video, our officer sent photos of the suspect to our neighboring police partners in hopes of identifying him. Success was struck when a Faribault police officer was able to ID the suspect—the ID was later confirmed with the suspect’s probation agent. On July 28th, our friends with the Kenyon Police arrested the suspect and he was transported back to Owatonna and jailed. In a later statement, the suspect admitted to the incident and did it for someone else and while operating a suspected stolen vehicle. Manual Ramirez, age 33, was formally charged with Simple Robbery, Motor Vehicle Theft—felonies and Theft.

Cops in the Community—

On Tuesday morning, Community Officer Colton Ryg and Police Officer Derrik Quinlan visited Kid’s Corner Educare Center. The officers visited the center and gave squad car tours, handed out Jr. Police Badges, posed for pictures and answered a bunch of questions from the kids.

The Owatonna Police Department is accepting applications for a part-time Community Service Officer through August 10, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Click here for further details.