SCDIU Stays Busy in Region—

The South Central Drug Investigation Unit (SCDIU) is a regional task force, meaning they often investigate drug crimes occurring in our neighboring communities. One such investigation recently culminated in the City of Waseca that resulted in a significant methamphetamine seizure. On June 15th, SCDIU agents utilizing an undercover officer, made arrangements to purchase six pounds of methamphetamine. The undercover officer met with the targeted seller and later two females. The undercover officer and the targeted seller drove to a business in Waseca where the seller retrieved a backpack from a vehicle driven by the females and entered the business with the undercover officer. Once inside, the targeted seller showed the contents of the back pack to the undercover officer—the contents were several packages which appeared to be methamphetamine. Assisting SCDIU agents moved in and arrested the targeted seller. The contents of the backpacked ended up being 7.44 pounds of presumptive methamphetamine. Luis C. Barrios, age 47, was arrested and charged with 1st Degree Sales of a Controlled Substance.

Argument Leads to Drug Charges—

On Wednesday morning our officers were called to the Best Budget Hotel for the report of a woman screaming. Responding officers found a woman who indicated she was in an argument with a male who had left the scene. The identity of the male and a description of the car he was driving was learned which revealed two outstanding arrest warrants. Officers kept an eye on the hotel and a short time later observed the male’s car was back. They re-connected with the female and found the male with her in her room; he was arrested without incident. When retrieving personal property for the male, the officers located a bandana wrapped tightly around a pipe and two baggies that contained presumptive methamphetamines. During the arrest, the female consented to a search of a bag—inside the bag, the females ID was located along with a pipe and presumptive methamphetamine. In addition to the warrants, the male, Brian Warn, age 51 & the female, Kathryn Lundstrom, age 34 , were arrested and charged with 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Pending DWI Forfeiture—

On Saturday night at bar close, an officer observed a vehicle traveling through the W. Vine alleyway onto N. Oak Avenue which turns into Hoffman Drive. The vehicle accelerated rapidly and made his way to North Street then south on N. Oak Avenue around the road construction and out to Cedar Avenue. Once the officer had the vehicle stopped, he walked up to the car and could smell the odor of alcohol from the vehicle. While speaking with the driver, the officer confirmed the odor was coming from the driver, who was identified as Mark Fielding. The officer observed many signs that Fielding was impaired but Fielding said he had nothing to drink. The officer administered roadside sobriety tests to Fielding which he failed. The officer learned that Fielding had a “B” card restriction—meaning that due to a previous DWI record, any amount of alcohol invalidates his driver’s license . Fielding was arrested and brought to the jail for further processing where a breath sample from Fielding revealed an alcohol concentration of 0.12. Fielding was charged with a misdemeanor level DWI offense, and a gross misdemeanor level “B” card restriction. As a result of these two factors, Fielding’s vehicle was seized under MN forfeiture laws. This is the only instance where law enforcement can forfeit a vehicle for a misdemeanor level DWI offense.