Social Host Enforcement—

Late Tuesday evening, the Owatonna Police Department received an anonymous tip of an underage drinking party occurring on 19th Place NE. Our officers responded to the tip where they encountered a vehicle parking on the street. Inside the vehicle, a female occupant to the suspected residence on 19th Place was located. The female brought the officers to her residence to speak with her mother, who gave consent to search the home. Inside the residence, officers found evidence of a drinking party taking place and numerous underage drinkers. In all, 10 underage persons were cited with charges related to underage consumption of alcohol. One other individual was charged with possession of a small amount of marijuana and possessing drug paraphernalia. In addition, the resident female initially located in the vehicle was charged with violating the City of Owatonna social host ordinance; her mother was not charged. As a reminder, the Social Host Ordinance stipulates the following—

It is unlawful for any person(s) to—

Host or allow an event or gathering;

At any residence, premise, or any other private or public property;

Where alcohol or alcoholic beverages are present;

When the person knows or reasonably should know that an underage person will or does consume any alcohol or alcoholic beverage—or posses any alcohol with intent to consume it; and

The person fails to take reasonable steps to prevent possession or consumption by the underage person(s).

The Owatonna Police Department is a proud partner of the Steele County Safe and Drug Free Coalition whose mission is “Dedicated to keeping our community and its youth free from the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and tobacco abuse”.

Erratic Driver Lands in Jail—

Shortly after midnight on Friday morning, our officers were called to the area of the Budget Host Inn for a suspicious vehicle—it was reported a white truck had been going back and forth through the Budget Host Inn parking lot and had also driven over an embankment in the lot. Our officers located the suspect vehicle parked in the O’Reilly Auto Parts parking lot and occupied by two males. In speaking with the driver, officers noted he was showing signs of impairment and admitted to smoking methamphetamines. The driver performed roadside field sobriety tests which he failed. The driver was placed under arrest and told officers he had a bag of dope in his pocket—searching incident to arrest, presumptive positive meth was in his right front pocket. Christopher James Braun, age 21, was transported to the Steele County Jail and formally charged with 4th Degree DWI—Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, 5th Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Car Prowlers—

The department continues to field reports of vehicles being broken into, or rather entered, as most victims report leaving them unlocked. No specific area is being targeted, but data trends show the majority of the reports are coming from the areas south of Main Street and east of Grove Avenue. What can you do?

• Lock your car!!

• Don’t leave valuables visible and unsecured in your vehicle.

• Consider parking your vehicle in a well-lit area.

Night to Unite—

Time is running out to register for this year’s Night to Unite (NTU). This year’s event will be held on Tuesday, August 5th. Click on the NTU logo to register your event or contact Pam Roberts at 507-774-7200.