Night to Unite v. 2018-

Blue skies finally emerged on Tuesday evening as the Owatonna Police Department sent out a crew of 17 officers for the annual Night to Unite celebration. Collectively, the officers visited the 29 registered Night to Unite block parties and an estimated 1200 community members that were participating throughout the City of Owatonna. Joining our officers were two police chaplains, City Administrator Kris Busse, Mayor Tom Kunz and Council Members Kevin Raney, Jeff Okerberg and Doug Voss and our event coordinator, Pam Roberts. 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 to the community. For the 8th consecutive year, we collected school supplies that will be donated to support the Children’s Remedial Fund.

IRS Scam—

Even though tax season is behind us, we are still seeing on a routine basis many of our community members being targeted by the IRS Telephone Scam. In this rip-off, the scammers will call a victim and purport to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The victim will be told they owe money to the IRS. The victim will be told that law enforcement is on the way and if they don’t pay the amount alleged to be owed, they will be arrested. The scammers ask that the amount owed be paid by a wire transfer to or by a pre-paid debit card. Luckily, very few of our community members have fallen victim to this scam. The IRS reports that they do not initiate contact with tax payers through email or by telephone; they will initiate contact with a taxpayer on a tax issue via the U.S. mail. If you’ve received a call similar to this, the IRS requests citizens to report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. If you’ve fallen victim to this scheme and been defrauded out of your money, please call the Owatonna Police Department.

Fleeing Suspect Apprehended—

Back on July 24th, one of our sergeants attempted to stop a moped on S. Oak for speeding; when the officer activated his red lights, the moped sped off through the parking lot of Hy-Vee and through a gap in a fence. The driver ditched the moped in the street and was last seen running through the neighborhood and we were unable to locate him. Using registration information and a very recent breakfast receipt left behind by the driver, officers identified the driver through surveillance video and an estimated 1200 community members that were participating throughout the City of Owatonna.

Back on July 24th, one of our sergeants attempted to stop a moped on S. Oak for speeding; when the officer activated his red lights, the moped sped off through the parking lot of Hy-Vee and through a gap in a fence. The driver ditched the moped in the street and was last seen running through the neighborhood and we were unable to locate him. Using registration information and a very recent breakfast receipt left behind by the driver, officers identified the driver through surveillance video and h a d b e e n searching for him since. This investigation culminated on August 4th, when the suspect was spotted riding a bike in the 600 block of W. Bridge St. and he was arrested. Kevin M. Raichle, age 35 of Owatonna, was jailed and has been formally charged with Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle—a felony and Driving after Cancellation—a gross misdemeanor.

IRS Scam—

Even though tax season is behind us, we are still seeing on a routine basis many of our community members being targeted by the IRS Telephone Scam. In this rip-off, the scammers will call a victim and purport to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The victim will be told they owe money to the IRS. The victim will be told that law enforcement is on the way and if they don’t pay the amount alleged to be owed, they will be arrested. The scammers ask that the amount owed be paid by a wire transfer to or by a pre-paid debit card. Luckily, very few of our community members have fallen victim to this scam. The IRS reports that they do not initiate contact with tax payers through email or by telephone; they will initiate contact with a taxpayer on a tax issue via the U.S. mail. If you’ve received a call similar to this, the IRS requests citizens to report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484. If you’ve fallen victim to this scheme and been defrauded out of your money, please call the Owatonna Police Department.

Fleeing Suspect Apprehended—

Back on July 24th, one of our sergeants attempted to stop a moped on S. Oak for speeding; when the officer activated his red lights, the moped sped off through the parking lot of Hy-Vee and through a gap in a fence. The driver ditched the moped in the street and was last seen running through the neighborhood and we were unable to locate him. Using registration information and a very recent breakfast receipt left behind by the driver, officers identified the driver through surveillance video and h a d b e e n searching for him since. This investigation culminated on August 4th, when the suspect was spotted riding a bike in the 600 block of W. Bridge St. and he was arrested. Kevin M. Raichle, age 35 of Owatonna, was jailed and has been formally charged with Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle—a felony and Driving after Cancellation—a gross misdemeanor.