

Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele

Chief Deputy Scott Hanson

Response to COVID-19

Every day we hear something new or different about this Coronavirus and how we should be responding to it. While we all work through this pandemic our response may not be what citizens are used to. Deputies are still out enforcing laws, responding to calls and protecting the citizens of Steele County. One change you may notice is that we are attempting to limit our in person contact. Calls for assistance may be done by telephone, or at a safe social distance in person.

Citizens coming to the Law Enforcement Center may also notice a difference. If you want to meet with a deputy it will likely be done via the public telephone in the lobby. Please be patient while we all adapt to the recommended changes, and know that the Steele County Sheriff's Office takes everyone's safety seriously.

Special Deputy Swearing In

Richelle Resendez was recently sworn in to the ranks of Special Deputy by Sheriff Lon Thiele on February 13th, 2020. Welcome to the Office Richelle!



Steele County Tip Line

We have established a **TIP LINE** for all Steele County Law Enforcement agencies. That number is: **1-866-878-7964**.

All the information supplied will be investigated to the best of our ability. Please know that the more details you supply us with the better we can follow through on the situation. Leaving your name and number is optional but would be appreciated and kept totally confidential.



March Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Tuesday
- Busiest hour of day: 9 pm
- Total # of events: 1,349
- Average events/day: 44
- Average events/hour: .5
- Average traffic stops/hour: .21
- DWIs for the month: 1
- Permit to carry: 51
- Permit to purchase: 27
- Civil papers served: 115

Motor Vehicle Registration

Minnesotans are able to renew vehicle registrations online at drive.mn.gov and by mail during the peacetime emergency. As such, there are no extensions for expired or expiring vehicle registrations. Minnesotans have until the last day of the expiration month to renew their vehicle registration. They must display their registration stickers by the 10th of the following month.

Steele County Jail keeping families connected

Jail staff recently coordinated with our visiting contractor to provide limited, no cost visits to inmates in order to keep in touch with family members since the stay at home order.



The detention center programs coordinator has also been utilizing Microsoft Teams and Skype to continue programming such as bible study and AA classes that have been affected by the shut down.

Roadway Fatalities - 2020 So Far

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety reports a decrease in traffic of roughly 50% state wide as a result of the Covid-19 shut-down, yet traffic fatalities have been on the rise!

As you may know, speed and carelessness are being cited as the reasons for this increase. Open roads seem to be an invitation for some to release their inner need for speed.

For more information on this and other topics visit: <http://www.minnesotatzd.org>

Construction season is upon us

Spring has sprung and with that comes the start of construction season. Drivers have already started noticing those orange cones and detour signs. As a friendly reminder, please slow down in construction areas and give workers plenty of room to work.



According to the latest preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, 364 people lost their lives in 2019 crashes.

2020 Goal is to reduce traffic-related deaths to 300 or fewer...

YTD FATAL COUNT UPDATE

2020 YTD compared to 2019

89	84
Pedestrians	
14	15
Motorcyclists	
6	2
Bicyclists	
2	0



Coronavirus and Cleaning your car seat

Parents and caregivers are taking even more precautions to provide sterile environments for their children. When it comes to cleaning your child's safety seat there are a few precautions you should take to ensure the seat is still functioning properly. Be sure to follow the manufacturer guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting. If you don't know where your manual is you can always find it on the manufacturer's website. Below are some suggestions from experts in the field:

- To clean the plastic base use mild soap and warm water. Rinse the soap off with clean water and towel dry the base. Or leave the seat outside to dry in the sunlight.
- When it comes to washing the seat fabric, be sure to follow the manufacturer guidelines. Washing the fabric in a washing machine could affect the fabric's flame retardants. Some manufacturers may recommend only hand washing the fabric.
- Harness webbing and buckles should not be put in the washing machine. Also, cleaning products that have an oil base can interfere with proper performance.
- If you are concerned reach out to the manufacturer to ensure the seat is still functioning properly. You may need to buy a replacement part or a new car seat if a cleaning choice affected the seat or it's function.

Safe Kids Week, May 3 – 9, 2020

What is Safe Kids Week? It is a time to celebrate kids, prevent injuries and save lives. To learn how to protect kids from preventable injuries visit: <https://www.safekids.org/safe-kids-week>.

Recreational Boating under Executive Order 20-20



A recent executive order now allows people to be outdoors walking, running, fishing and hunting. There are some guidelines to consider when engaging in these activities.

Click on the following link for information and water safety tips: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/covid-19.html>



STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED

TONY BERRETTA STATEN

DANCO VIOLATION



CARL FRANKLIN SWANSON

PREDATORY OFFENDER



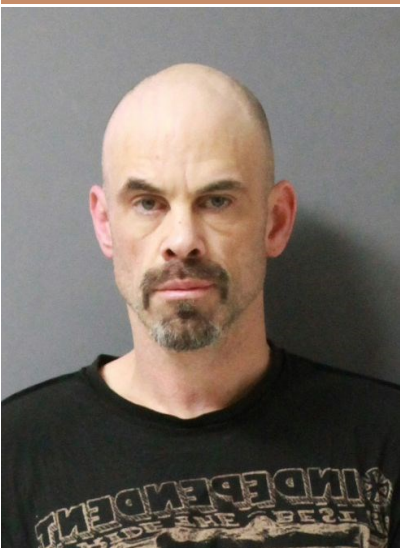
DAMIAN HORTOP ROCHA

1ST DEGREE BURGLARY



JASON OLSON

1ST DEG DRUGS



JASON HORNER

3RD DEGREE DRUGS



DALE WALTERS

POSSESS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

