

Behind the Steele Star

Sheriff Lon Thiele
Chief Deputy Scott Hanson



20 years of dedication



February 27th, 2021 marked 20 years that Renee Babcock has been serving the Steele County records department.

Records staff surprised Renee with balloons, decorations and cake to mark the special occasion!

Congratulations Renee, thank you for your service!

Congrats on retirement!

Steele County Detention Center employees recently celebrated Steve Kaspers' Retirement.

Thank you Steve for your 32 years of service. You will be missed. A very well deserved retirement!



February Highlights

- Busiest day of week: Wednesday
- Busiest hour of day: 10:00 pm
- Total # of events: 1,572
- Average events/day: 56
- Average events/hour: .43
- Average traffic stops/hour: .33
- DWIs for the month: 6
- Permit to carry: 78
- Permit to purchase: 14
- Civil papers served: 76

Wal-Mart social media scam

There is a new social media scam using Wal-Mart that can infiltrate your personal information. Click on the following link to learn more. [Walmart scam](#)

April Distracted Driving campaign

Extra patrols will be out on Minnesota roads from April 5th through April 30th focusing on distracted driving. This is a great time to refresh your knowledge on the MN Hands Free law. If you have a smart phone, open your camera and put it over the QR code at the right. No need to take a picture, it will take you to the webpage.



Sheriff's Blotter

- A 33-year-old Owatonna woman was arrested for a felony probation violation warrant and violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO). The protected party to that order, a 22-year-old Albert Lea man, was also arrested for violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order. Both parties have orders against each other and were arrested for violating the orders.
- A 31-year-old St. Paul man was arrested for driving while impaired (DWI) speed 103 mph in a 70 mph zone and no proof of insurance.
- A 20-year-old Owatonna man was arrested for DWI, possessing liquor under 21 years of age and speeding. He submitted a blood alcohol sample of .18.
- A 38-year-old Twin Lakes man was arrested for driving while impaired and driving after revocation. His blood alcohol content was .33.
- A 62-year-old Ellendale man was arrested for DWI and violations of a restricted driver's license. He provided a preliminary breath test (PBT) of .21.

Spring load restrictions in effect

Thursday, March 4th, 2021 marked the start of spring load restrictions on Steele County Highways. Maps showing the load postings is available on the Steele County website at:

https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/road_restrictions.php

For updates on load restrictions or other Steele County Highway construction projects visit:

https://www.co.steele.mn.us/divisions/public_works/transportation/index.php.

Motorcycle Safety

As spring weather approaches more motorcycles will be out on our roadways. About half of all motorcycle crashes involve a collision with another vehicle. Look twice for motorcyclists before pulling out at an intersection or changing lanes, especially in blind spots and mirrors.



According to preliminary numbers from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety, 395 people lost their lives in 2020 crashes.

2025 Goal is to reduce traffic-related deaths to 225 or fewer...

YTD FATAL COUNT UPDATE

2021 YTD compared to 2020

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 75 | 68 |
| Pedestrians | |
| 9 | 12 |
| Motorcyclists | |
| 1 | 0 |
| Bicyclists | |
| 1 | 2 |



Did you know?

Giving Peace Officer False Name

Minnesota Statute 609.506 makes it a misdemeanor to give a fictitious name other than a nickname, or give a false date of birth, or false or fraudulently altered identification card to a peace officer.

If you provide the name and date of birth of another person to a peace officer, you would be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Posse Changing of the Guard

Joe Schwering is stepping down as captain of the Steele County Mounted Posse but intends to continue to be an active member. Taking over for his father as the captain of the Posse is Tony Schwering, who was voted into that position in January of 2021. Tony became a member of the Posse in May of 1991.

Joe became a member of the Posse in July of 1980 and took over as captain from Leon Kamrath in January of 1992. Joe has 40 years with the posse, 29 years as captain.

The Posse has been involved with security at the Steele County Fair as far back as Joe has been a member. One of his favorite fair duties was riding their horses to the beer garden at closing to help the stragglers on their way. Occasionally someone would challenge one of the horses, but they would gently be urged to leave peacefully.

Two memories that have always stayed with Joe are the search for little Jessica Swanson in Goodhue County in 1995 and the search for Sheri Osborn in Faribault County in 1998. Joe has always said the cooperation between the various law enforcement agencies was amazing during those two searches. Joe said he has always appreciated the support the

Steele County Sheriff's Office has given the posse over his years as captain.

We at the Sheriff's Office extend our true appreciation to Joe for his many years of service and leadership. Joe has always been cooperative when we have enlisted the Posse's assistance and through the many trainings and drills that the Posse has taken a part in over the years. We also look forward to working with Tony in the future.



Submit your questions and concerns

Do you have a question you've been wanting answered? Or a concern you want to address? Send them in, they might even become a topic in a future newsletter.

[E-mail them here.](#)





If you have information pertaining to the current whereabouts of any individuals pictured below, please call 507-451-8232. Do NOT confront these individuals.

STEELE COUNTY'S MOST WANTED



Hector Delgado

DOB: 07/10/1956

Wanted for: HRO Violation

Height: 5' 6"

Weight: 193

Hair color: Black/Grey

Eye color: Brown



Jesse Keith Moe

DOB: 09/03/1986

Wanted for: Failure to Register

Height: 6' 2"

Weight: 220

Hair color: Brown

Eye color: Blue