Department News—

This past week many of our officers have been busy with professional development opportunities throughout the state. Sergeants Josh Sorensen and Tracy DuChene are attending a two-week Supervision of Police Personnel (SPP) course in Bloomington, MN. The SPP course is sponsored by the Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Center for Public Safety. The course is designed to prepare first line personnel for a successful transition from officer to supervisor. Officer Tony Heaser is attending a one-week Crime Scene Investigation School sponsored by the Burnsville Police Department Crime Scene Unit. Topics covered in this course were crime scene photography, evidence collection, evidence processing, new techniques used in evidence collection, court preparation, homicide and death investigation, fingerprinting, casting, blood stain pattern recognition, and fluid collection. The course was attended by 21 officers from various departments in Minnesota including Dakota County Sheriff’s Office, Anoka County Sheriff’s Office, Rochester Police Department, St. Paul Police Department, and several others. The course was instructed by members of the Burnsville Crime Scene Unit, and there was also a segment taught by Dr. Thomas from the Minnesota Regional Medical Examiner’s Office. Finally, Officers Brandon Fandel and Laddie Bata, two of our department’s firearms instructors, attended a one-day Glock firearm armorer’s course which is designed to train our instructors to properly use and maintain our department’s service pistols. The photos to the side are of the OPD Crime Scene Unit and of an evidence technician collecting a latent fingerprint.

From Our Not So Smart Offender Files—

During the early morning hours on Tuesday, our officers were sent to the Associated Church for a suspicious vehicle that was occupied on the east side of the church. Arriving officers located the vehicle and found a male and female seated in the back seat. Both parties located in the vehicle have been frequent customers with our officers and the male was found to be in violation of a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order—meaning, he was to have no contact with the female he was with. Dustin J. Hatchfield, age 28, was placed under arrest and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Hatchfield was charged with Violating a DANCO Order, Driving after Cancellation-Inimical to Public Safety and Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle. The moral of the story—one cannot violate an order for protection even if the other half of the order is a willing participant and one certainly cannot drive to a secluded area to violate the order for protection without a valid drivers license and a properly registered motor vehicle.

Fugitive Flees Owatonna Officers—

On Thursday night, our department received information from a concerned citizen that a fugitive wanted by the Department of Corrections for a parole violation may be at a location in Owatonna. Owatonna officers were deployed to the area of the 400 block of East School Street where they set up surveillance on a residence. An officer in plain clothes was walking past the residence when he observed a red Grand Prix occupied by a black male who matched the description of the suspect. The officer illuminated the subject with a flashlight and positively identified him as the wanted fugitive. The fugitive began rapidly accelerating out of the driveway as uniformed officers converged on foot. The fugitive pulled out onto School Street and rapidly accelerated away, fleeing the scene. A short time later, officers located the fugitive’s vehicle parked unoccupied in the 700 block of Academy St. Officers were able to determine the fugitive was inside of 734 Academy and with the assistance of the resident at that location, were able to take the fugitive into custody without incident. Drew L Schroft-Fuller, age 29, was transported to the Steele County Detention Center. In addition to his outstanding warrant, Schroft-Fuller was charged with Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Driving after Revocation, Reckless Driving and Failure to Stop at a Stop Sign.