Order for Protection Violation Leads to Arrest—

On February 28th, Owatonna officers were called to 107 22nd Street Northwest for the report of a male subject violating an order for protection. As officers arrived on scene, they were able to hear a female, male and child speaking inside of the residence. The officers knocked on the apartment door repeatedly for over 15 minutes, but received no response. Finally, the officer’s efforts were rewarded when a female, holding a child and appearing to be in distress, opened the door and directed officers to a bedroom in the apartment. Officers searched the apartment and located the male suspect in a bedroom; he was placed under arrest without incident. Further investigation revealed the male subject arrived at the apartment earlier in the day and would not leave and was reportedly smoking heroin and marijuana. When the officers arrived, he told the female in the residence and her children to be quiet and not answer the door. The female was finally able to answer the door when the suspect went into a back bedroom. Sergio R. Vargas, age 28, was arrested and transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Vargas was formally charged in District Court with Violating an Order for Protection—a felony. Vargas was previously convicted in Steele County of Stalking and Domestic Assault in September 2011.

Animal Control News—

This past week, the Animal Control facility received a visit from Patty Caron, who is the founder and director of S.A.F.E. Sanctuary in Faribault. Patty donated to the department a microchip scanning device. The scanning device can help with re-uniting found pets whose owners have implanted them with a microchip. Owatonna Police Department and S.A.F.E. Sanctuary have been in partnership for some time in an effort to save impounded dogs from being euthanized. The picture below is Community Service Officer Tony Malepsy and Zeus. Zeus is Patty’s own dog and has been implanted with a microchip. Patty brought Zeus along to use as a “test patient” for our community service officers as they learned how to use the scanning device. Our thanks to Patty and S.A.F.E. Sanctuary! We look forward to a lasting partnership!

Re-purposing Update—

City crews keep plugging away and have begun work on the main floor project. Two new sergeant offices are nearly complete and a third will be close behind. During the early part of next week, it is anticipated that city crews will begin the demolition work to clear the space for the Patrol Division work space. An open work space concept has been developed for the Patrol Division where two officers will be sharing an individual work station. We currently have 20 patrol officers who either work out of one office or a shared report room with the Steele County Sheriff’s Office. Two remodeled restrooms have also been plumbed and drywall has been installed; tiling and fixtures will follow to complete this portion of the project.