Caught in the Act

On Sunday, April 10th, Officer Mike Schneider was conducting routine business checks in his patrol district when he discovered a van parked outside of Northland Farm Systems. Officer Schneider investigated further and found the van was occupied by two male subjects from Rochester and the van contain equipment that appeared to be stolen from the business. Officers were able to identify the equipment in the van as stolen from Northland Farm Systems and from Mike’s Repair. John T. Thomforde, age 31 and Nicholas R. Garson, age 30, were arrested and transported the Steele County Detention Center. Thomforde was formally charged in District Court with Theft, Possession of Stolen Property and Possession of Burglary Tools. Garson was charged with Possession of Stolen Property and Aiding and Abetting theft. All charges are felonies. The van, a 1995 Chevrolet, was seized and being held for forfeiture for being used during the commission of a felony.

Leadership Owatonna

On Wednesday, April 12th, the 2010-2011 Leadership Owatonna class visited the Owatonna Police Department as part of their Criminal Justice Day. As a part of the day, the class heard a presentation from Chief Keith Hiller outlining our organization and operations. The group also heard a presentation from South Central Drug Investigative Unit Commander Joel Welinski, Agent Andy Drenth and Former Agent Scott Hanson about task force operations and Tactical Team (SWAT) operations. Officer Sean Cooper and Corporal Mark Edel finished off our portion of the day by describing gang related investigations. The group concluded their day at the Steele County Detention Center and were treated to a canine demonstration by our Canine Officer Brandon Fandel and his partner Bullet and Steele County Canine Officer Brian Bennett and his partner Chaos.

Animal Control

The following services are performed by the animal control officer; provide traps for catching cats, pick up animals caught, impound loose dogs, vaccination tag enforcement, investigate cruelty and barking complaints and enforce the dangerous dog ordinance. Animal control collected $4,342 in funds in 2010.