Protective Order Violation—

On April 9th, an Owatonna detective spotted a male individual sitting in a vehicle with a female. The detective was familiar with both individuals and was aware of a current Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) in place; the order stipulated the male should have no direct contact with the female. A uniformed officer was summoned to assist and drove by the pair—the uniformed officer could see the male trying to hide in the passenger seat. The car was stopped and the male was placed under arrest. James Williams, age 40 of Medford, was charged with Violating a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order—enhanced to a gross misdemeanor due to a previous conviction for a domestic violence related offense. In addition, Williams was arrested on other outstanding arrest warrants.

New Staff Introductions—

Monday morning brought new life into the Owatonna Police Department as we welcomed a new police officer and community service officer.

Jeremy Katz has been hired as our newest licensed officer. Originally from northern Minnesota, Jeremy is a graduate of Saint John’s University, Collegeville. Jeremy has previous experience working as a security officer in a north metro hospital.

Gabrielle Flemming has been hired as our newest community service officer. Gabrielle is an Owatonna native and OHS graduate. She is currently continuing her post-secondary law enforcement studies to work toward becoming a licensed police officer. Gabrielle isn’t totally new to the OPD as she was a sergeant with the Police Explorers Unit and a volunteer police reserve. Please join us in welcoming Jeremy and Gabrielle to the Owatonna community!

Thank You—

This past week, April 12-18th, served as the National Public Safety Telecommunicator’s Week. The Rice/Steele 911 Center team serve as the critical connection between our community and our police, fire and medical agencies. Each of the Rice/Steele dispatchers are the voices in the dark that work toward helping our community members stay safe until help arrives. Please join us in thanking our great team of 911 dispatchers!!

Wear the Badge—

The Minnesota Chief of Police Association recently released another podcast in their Wear the Badge series. In this episode, our association Executive Director Andy Skoogman talks about some of the measures law enforcement agencies nationwide are taking to attract candidates, such as a Grammy nominated police officer/rapper creating a recruitment video, offering cash incentives to draw in candidates/attract officers from other departments or lowering police officer eligibility standards. To hear more, click on the Wear the Badge podcast logo.