Gun Incident I—On May 18th, officers were attempting to serve a warrant for Stearns County on Joseph Mork at 146 E Rice Street. Officers observed Mork at the rear of the house walking toward an SUV and they began to approach him. Mork ignored arrest commands and began to move toward the house to elude arrest. A sergeant grabbed Mork by the arm before he got into the house. At this moment, Mork pulled a 9 mm pistol from a holster and threw it in the house through the open door. The backup officer saw this happening and alerted the arresting officer. Officers fought with Mork and managed to get him into handcuffs. As more back-up officers arrived, they secured Mork’s firearm, which was found to be loaded. Officers also arrested Cassandra Britt on probable cause check forgery case that also involved Mork. Mork was convicted of a crime of violence in Hennepin County in 2007 for Aggravated Robbery and therefore, cannot possess firearms or ammunition. Mork was convicted of a Felon in possession of a firearm, a 1st Degree possession of a controlled substance.

Gun Incident II—At 01:40 on Sunday morning, an Owatonna Police Officer stopped Joshua Kempe on West Bridge Street for many observed driving violations such as crossing the center line, weaving and improper turns. While speaking to Kempe, he appeared nervous, his speech was soft and mumbling and pupils were dilated. Kempe had outstanding warrants in Steele and Rice counties. As Kempe got out of the car, the officer smelled marijuana. After searching the car, the officer found a loaded .380 semi-automatic pistol and extra bullets in the glove box, along with 27 grams of meth and 3.65 grams of marijuana. Kempe is a convicted felon from a 3rd degree controlled substance crime in Rice County. Kempe was held in custody and charged with a Felon in possession of a firearm, and a 1st Degree possession of a controlled substance.

Girl Scouts Tour—In May, we had the opportunity to give a tour to several Daisy Girl Scouts. It was an opportunity to help these girls along their journey as G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) Scouts to experience and discover the career of a Police Officer. They were able to see the inner patrol areas of the Law Enforcement Center along with a squad vehicle. As they learn in Girl Scouts “It’s Your Story – Tell It...” who knows, maybe someday their journey will bring them back here as an officer.

Mayor & Chief Visit

Chief Hiller and Mayor Kuntz visited Ms. Wagner and Ms. Gendron’s high school classes this week. As part of the class, the students write letters to government officials as a way to voice their suggestions, gratitude and/or concerns. Some of the discussions related to new restaurants, condition of roads, a community center, race relations, traffic, drug abuse, parking, and abandoned buildings. The students were engaging, thoughtful, and respectful in the discussions. It was a wonderful opportunity to seek input from our most valuable assets in our community.

Memorial Day Holiday—In observance of the Memorial Day Holiday, police records and police administration will not be staffed on Monday, May 29, 2017. Regular and emergency police services will continue during the holiday.