Cops in the Community—
On September 12th, Sergeant Robbe Kniefel presented to a group of community members near Southview in Owatonna. The group of about 20 members had questions about the police department. The members were longing for information regarding the following:

» What schooling is necessary to become a police officer in Owatonna?

» How much more training was necessary for you to become a sergeant?

» Does Owatonna provide continuing education for all officers?

» What are the obvious changes in the OPD from the time you started?

» How much information does dispatch give you enroute to a call?

» How do you mentally prepare for a potentially dangerous situation?

» Do the police officers in Owatonna feel the support of our citizens?

Active Shooting Investigation—On Saturday, September 10th at 11:36 PM, the Owatonna Police Department was dispatched to 150 St. John Drive to investigate a theft. At 11:38 p.m. officers received additional information of an alleged shooting. A confrontation between the occupants of an Oldsmobile minivan and a GMC Suburban occurred in the Mills Fleet Farm parking lot. As a result, both vehicles sustained damage. No one sustained any serious injuries. The investigation is an active and ongoing criminal case. Agencies assisting the Owatonna Police Department are the Steele County Sheriff's Department, Rice County Sheriff's Department, Minnesota State Patrol and the Gold Cross Ambulance.

Second Annual Promoting Peace Conference—A conference aimed at a child-centered response to violence and trauma will take place on September 29, 2016, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, MN. What do children who witness violence experience? How do their experiences impact them? What can we as individuals, professionals and a system do to make a difference? Come join a class that is free to all participates. A free meal is also provided. Register at the site shown below and search for “Promoting Peace”

www.eventbrite.com

Businesses Working Together—Joaquin Benitez Jr, age 23, found himself hungry. During a quick stop at Dairy Queen (DQ), an observant employee determined he was attempting to pay with a counterfeit $50 bill. He was turned away. He did not give up and headed to the Holiday station for $20 worth of gas. The counterfeit $50 bill was initially accepted for gas, and before the employee could get his attention, he headed back to DQ with the change. A conscientious Holiday Gas employee contacted DQ and alerted them of the returning customer. While Mr. Benitez pulled forward to wait for his food, it provided just enough time for law enforcement to arrive. His vehicle was towed and may be forfeited. Joaquin Benitez Jr was charged with Counterfeiting of Currency-Uttering or Possessing, and remained hungry.