Gaylord Police Department

2016 Annual Report

Officer Jeff Milette, Officer Brian Soucy, Officer Karen Zimny, Chief Tony Padilla, K9 Caesar, Officer Charlie Eichten, Officer Ben Nelson, Officer Dan Reich
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Hard to believe how fast 2016 went by. I’m extremely proud of how the officers have engaged our community in support of our community policing effort over the past year.

During 2016 officers volunteered in the following ways. Working at the Sibley County Food Shelf, reading books to kids at school, mowing yards for the elderly or sick, shoveling driveways and sidewalks for the elderly or sick, becoming members of committees that want to seek action in making our town safer, forming a chess club for kids, helping people study for their driver’s license, and helping the elderly or sick remove water from their basement when it was flooded.

We continue to work with our local business owners to make them feel secure and promote future businesses to come to our communities. One technique used to address this issue is to have officers stopping in at local businesses to ensure things are going alright. If the business owners have a problem or concern they will have an open format to address their concerns with an officer.

Finally, officers have been working with landlords to address issues they may be having with renting out their apartments or houses. Assisting them with trespassing people, providing them a networking environment in which they can meet other landlords to talk about problems they may be experiencing as well as solutions.

Through collaborated efforts of business checks, apartment walkthroughs, school visits and developing programs within each respective city, the police department will spearhead the way, making our community a more enjoyable place to live.

Sincerely,

Chief Tony J. Padilla
February 12th was a great day at the office. We received some Valentine’s Day treats and a thank you card.

Many dogs and their humans joined K9 Caesar on May 4, 2016 for the 1st ever doggie parade.

During the course of a May 14th traffic stop the driver of a vehicle was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, drug paraphernalia and illegal narcotics possession. In this instance the vehicle that was carrying the illegal narcotics was also impounded for forfeiture.

National Peace Officers Memorial day was designated May 15 by President Kennedy in 1962. Established by a joint resolution of congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

To show her appreciation, a resident of Gaylord brought treats. Thank you and know that it’s an honor for all of our officers to serve the City of Gaylord.

We are very fortunate to have a K9 here in Gaylord. Because of the K9’s unique abilities, countless hours were saved attempting to locate a guy that decided he would rather try his luck at hiding in the woods than surrender to the authorities.

Although the summer of 2016 brought more park vandalism it was significantly reduced from the vandalism of 2015. We can credit some of this to the diligence of officers checking the park multiple times per shift. This picture is the “tagged” bridge by the lake.

In June the Sibley County Sheriff’s Office requested K9 Caesar to assist them with locating a suspect they believed to be hiding in a heavily wooded area in Gibbon. K9 Caesar was able to locate the suspect and the suspect was ultimately placed in custody.

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Saturday August 13, 2016 Minneapolis Police Officers from the Bike Cops for Kids organization in cooperating with the Gaylord Police Department and...
Gaylord resident, Holden, gave away bike helmets to area children.

A resident of Gaylord opened a package they received in the mail August 22nd and were surprised to see that it was a ½ pound of marijuana. The resident immediately called the Gaylord Police Department and turned it over.

October 14 Gaylord Police Department investigated the third report of a burglary in 6 days. The total loss from the burglaries was over $1,600 in electronics, collectable coins, and cash.

Our officers are committed to providing the best possible service to our community. As an example all full time officers volunteer 2 hours per month to help out in the community that we serve.

In 2016, officers assisted at the food shelf, Sibley East Elementary School, mowing elderly people’s lawns that can’t do it themselves, assisting senior citizens with driving classes, and supporting our local veterans on the hill.

We hope that through our efforts in helping our community, we will be an example for others to follow!

Throughout the year we were touched by the times citizens randomly dropped off thank you notes, goodies, and notes of appreciation. We are fortunate to serve a community so supportive of law enforcement.

On September 30, 2016, Officer Daniel J Reich, with assistance from the Gaylord Ambulance Crew, provided life saving care via an AED, to a person in cardiac arrest.

We hope that through our efforts in helping our community, we will be an example for others to follow!
Surrounding Agencies

Gaylord Police Department

2016 Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>POP.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>2200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaylord</td>
<td>2305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winthrop</td>
<td>1385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibley Co</td>
<td>15,072</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map showing the locations of Arlington, Gaylord, Winthrop, Henderson, and Sibley County Sheriff.
Gaylord Police officers responded to a wide range of calls in 2016.

In 2016 we began tracking more specific calls in certain categories, including those who drive without a valid license, open bottles in a motor vehicle violations, and assistance with Salvation Army donation kettles.

In 2016 more landlords asked for random walk-throughs of their rental properties. Officer presence and walk-throughs are a proactive way to prevent crime.

The same proactive community policing is reflected in the decreased amount of vandalism, but increased number of park checks.

What goes into each of the categories?
Some categories may be more self-explanatory than others. Here are some examples of the types of calls that go into those categories.

911 Hangup – caller dials 911 but hangs up before dispatch can find out why they called. Officers must determine if someone at the address really needs help.

Adult protection – Concern about vulnerable adults being abused or taken advantage of
**Animal** – animal bites, lost, dogs running at large, and found animals

**Apartment Check** – Officers walk through apartment common areas on a preventative basis, quelling potential complaints before they become bigger issues.

**Assist Other Agency** – Officers help other law enforcement agencies with everything from trying to find current addresses on individuals in our city to backing up other officers on unpredictable calls. This category also includes when probation agents request help, child protection visits, background checks for daycares and prospective employees, and victim notifications.

**City Ordinance** – uncut lawns, junk in yard, parking on grass, no numbers on houses.

**Civil Matter** – contract disputes, custody issues

**Community Policing** – walking through athletic games, developing relationships with business owners, walking through schools, checking on the Aquatic Center, patrolling the new school construction site

**Directed Patrol** – patrol on problem (or complaint) areas such as chronic school bus arm stop violations, speeding through certain neighborhoods, etc.

**Escort** – funeral homes, retail workers concerned about amount of cash or suspicious people when closing

**Informational Only** – sometimes notes about activity that isn’t criminal, but may be useful in future calls, individuals and companies requesting reports and crash information, lookout for lost property, landlords giving information about buildings, repair, and concerns, stalled vehicle updates, information on wanted persons, information about public and private events happening in our city
Gaylord Police Department

**Juvenile Trouble** – unruly children, bullying, truancy, children fighting

**K9 Activity** – training, exhibitions, certifying

**Park Check** – Officers drive though the parks many more times than they “record” looking for suspicious activity

**Predatory Offender Info** – ensuring predatory offenders are compliant with registration

**Public Assist** – Informing individuals about open garage doors, dome lights on in vehicles, lights left on in vehicles. Answering questions about parking, ordinances, laws, HRO’s; Contacting people in person for other family members when phones aren’t available, giving directions,

**Residence Watch** – Checking on people’s homes when they are away

**Salvation Army** – transporting Salvation Army Red Kettle to the bank and replacing it

**Traffic Detail** – similar to directed patrol, but most often certain stop signs, stretches of road notorious for speeders, etc.

**Traffic Hazard** – something in the roadway that is a hazard for motorists. Officers try to remove and resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

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**High Volume Calls**

![Graph showing high volume calls by category and year](image)

**Calls For Service**
Gaylord Officers were called upon 264 times in 2016 to assist other agencies.

One of the “other agencies” includes other city departments. City workers may request officer presence when shutting off utilities at a home or other call where safety may be an issue.

Other law enforcement agencies may request Gaylord officers attempt to locate a person, either because they are a witness or suspect in another jurisdiction’s case. Law enforcement agencies close to our city may request back up at a particularly volatile call, just as Gaylord officers rely on those peace officers to assist them if needed.

Human services and law enforcement most often go together to home visits where a report of neglect or abuse has been made. This eliminates the need for separate visits as well as providing protection for social workers.

It is important in a smaller, rural community, all departments and agencies rely on each other to safely get the job done.
Officer performed 1,575 traffic stops in 2016.

Traffic stops are an important part of keeping a community safe. Sometimes a driver may not be aware there is an equipment violation such as a tail-light or headlight out. Other times, it is simply a good reminder to slow down.

Drivers may be stopped for one violation, such as not dimming their headlights, but an officer may find the driver is under the influence.

No matter the reason for the stop, officers’ ultimate goal is to make the roads and community safer for everyone, motorists and community alike.
An officer’s goal in a traffic stop is to change the driver’s behavior to a safer behavior. Most of the time, as you can see from the chart, the officer feels a verbal warning will do. Contrary to popular belief, citations are not major revenue generators. Unfortunately, verbal warnings are not always effective and a citation may make more of an impact.
The total number of city ordinance violations in 2016 was 419. These included animals at large, illegal dumping, illegal fires, parking, and failing to take care of property.

Usually, the first step in getting property owners to resolve issues is a warning letter. There is a set number of days to take care of the problem, depending upon the violation. If the owner fails to resolve the issue, then a citation is issued.

Sometimes a complaint is called in by a citizen, other times the officer observes the violation and initiates the call.
Types of Parking Violations

- On Grass
- General
- Winter

Types of Animal Violations

- General
- Abuse/Welfare
- At Large
- Barking
- Bite/Scratch
- Kennel
- Lost
- Multiple
October 12 was our second annual open house. Fun was had by all and the food was great. Here are some of the pictures.
Gaylord Police Department participated in POST board mandated training each year as well as other necessary training.

In 2016 officers completed Datamaster, Firearms Instructor, Chemical, and attended the MNSCIC Conference.
Yearly Weapons Qualifications Required by Peace Officer Standards and Training Board
August brought Eggstravaganza, this year’s theme, “Rally Around Education.”

Eggstravaganza includes a 5K, parade, music, games in the park, and much, much more! Officers provide security and have fun in the community they serve.

In 2016, the bike helmets were given away in the park during Eggstravaganza.
Gaylord Police Department generated $55,052.94 in revenue in 2016. As you can see, this is from court fees, diversion charges, forfeitures, and state aid among other things.
K9 Caesar was joined in our area by new K9s serving McLeod County and Carver County. Both new K9s are dual purpose K9s in the area of patrol and narcotics. While K9 Caesar has been requested in the past to assist McLeod County, they are now returning the favor by allowing their K9 to come into Gaylord and assist at times when K9 Caesar is not working.

Through these partnerships with other agencies that have K9s, we will always be assured K9 support.

This year K9 Caesar’s biggest accomplishment was apprehending a man that was wanted in connection with a crime that occurred in Gibbon. K9 Caesar was called out as Deputies were unable to locate the suspect in a heavily wooded area in Gibbon. K9 Caesar located the suspect as he was hiding in the woods trying to elude capture. Because K9 Caesar located the suspect, he was brought to jail and charged with the crimes that he had allegedly committed.

K9 Caesar is always the highlight of our open house and this year was no exception. K9 Caesar demonstrated his capabilities in the area of narcotics and apprehension. People are always excited to see K9 Caesar work.

K9 Caesar has begun his 6th year of service. K9s on average work about 9 years before retirement. If you would like to see K9 Caesar or would like to have us come out for a demonstration, please call GPD at 507.237.2265.