Well Deserved Award...
The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers presented former long-time county employee Dave Gisch with a special award. Dave received the association’s “Lifetime Member Award” and was honored for his many, many years in the industry. Dave Gisch was hired as Dakota County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in 1983 and he retired in 2013. Congratulations, Dave, this recognition is well deserved!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month...
October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Our office takes a proactive approach day in and day out to combat the growing amount of domestic assault cases.

The Dakota County Sheriff’s Office manages a grant designed to reduce re-victimization of women and investigate cases of domestic abuse perpetrated via technology. In addition, we examine systems to reduce gaps and barriers. Recently we learned that, together with the courts, we have reduced the time from initial court appearance to adjudication from 311 days down to 132 days.

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On October 17th, our deputies collaborated with officers from the Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Farmington, Hastings, and Lakeville Police Departments for the 2018 National Violence Apprehension Detail. Together they were able to arrest several people with felony charges related to drugs and violence. In addition, more people were located in other jurisdictions. Thanks to all of the men and women that participated in this detail.

Fall Clean-Up Day—Old School Versus New School...
Twice a year we devote a day for some deep cleaning of offices. As we clean and reminisce about how things came to be, we also take the time to invite our retirees back to enjoy a meal. Sharing stories of where we have been and where we are going is an important component of growth. And ohhhh, boy,
Did our retirees have some stories to tell. This year’s Fall Clean-up Day was filled with laughter as we bonded through the stories, food, and friendships created here.

#DCSOSTRONG

Some Things You Can’t Make Up...

Deputy Schepers was following up on a call regarding a “suspicious male.” In an attempt to elude Deputy Schepers, the suspicious male attempted to play “hide and seek” by shutting the blinds and shutting off the lights. After he refused to come to the door, Deputy Schepers began to walk away when he heard a thud on the other side of the house. The male was getting up off the ground. Apparently, he had fallen out of a window. No worries, he is all right. However, after giving a false name and story, Deputy Schepers arrested the male for a predatory offender violation and for giving a false name.

Duluth Bound...

The Dakota County Sheriff’s Explorers participated in the Duluth Explorer Competition over October 19th and 20th at the Fon Du Lac Tribal and Community College. The competition tested the skills of the young men and women in various realistic scenarios judged by active law enforcement officers. Because of their hard work and dedication, the Dakota County Sheriff’s Explorers won First Place in Domestic Crisis Intervention.
Ride-Along on Social Media, What?!?!?
On September 28th, the DCSO participated in the “Virtual Ride-a-Long” initiative on Twitter and Facebook. Deputies broadcasted most of their activities over a 24-hour period while on patrol. Some of the highlights included having “virtual coffee” with the other participating agencies, and evicting an opossum from a chicken coop...the opossum in question was unharmed and set free, but emotions were running high.

Just Hanging Out to Catch Distracted Drivers...
Dakota County deputies, along with other agencies, completed a distracted driving saturation in the City of Apple Valley. Distracted driving continues to be a major focus for law enforcement agencies. On average, one in five crashes is due to the driver being distracted.

During the detail, deputies and officers made 116 stops, resulting in 62 citations for texting while driving, 24 seatbelt citations, eight unlicensed driver citations, and 39 warnings for distracted driving.

Off Into the Sunset...
Congratulations to Commander John Grant who, after nearly 30 years of service to the citizens of Dakota County, has retired. The office will miss his leadership, sense of humor, approachability, and honesty. John accomplished a lot over his career, to include being in charge of the Dakota County Drug Task Force, a member of both the Dive and SWAT Teams, and developing and implementing our TRIAD program for seniors. John has reflected that he likes where the office is now and sees continued success from the leadership that follows him.

John, on behalf of ALL of us at the Sheriff’s Office, we wish you a long and happy retirement!