



THE OWATONNA POLICE
DEPARTMENT
EST. 1909

The Owatonna Police Department is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community through partnerships, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. Policing excellence through our People, our Work, and our Relationships

Just the Facts

June 11, 2021

Volume 12, Issue 25

Caught in the Act—

Catalytic converter thefts have been wide-spread and a hot topic in the media of late. This past week, we can chalk one up to the good guys thanks to a wary witness who caught a would-be thief in the act. Last Sunday morning, a concerned community member heard someone sawing metal outside her home. She headed outside to investigate and saw a male suspect laying on his stomach underneath a vehicle. The suspect spotted our witness had left the area. Our witness got detailed description of the car and its license plate number—the car was spotted shortly thereafter by a sergeant traveling northbound on I-35. The suspect vehicle was stopped, and the driver arrested—inside the car and under the front seat was a cordless hand-held sawsall. In an interview, the suspect admitted to attempting the theft. Lar Wah, age 32 of St. Paul, has been charged with Attempted Theft—a felony.



Lar Wah

Silver Theft—

The Owatonna Police Department is currently investigating a silver theft that

took place at Viracon. On June 2, 2021, at approximately 3:30 AM, a male suspect, wearing blue jeans, a Carhartt style jacket, blue face mask, blue t-shirt, black sunglasses and a black beanie style hat, entered a Viracon building and stole approximately 40 pounds of scrap silver. The value of the silver was estimated at approximately \$18,000. Surveillance video captured an image of the suspect—the image of the suspect is shown below. The Owatonna Police Department is requesting assistance from the public with identifying the suspect. Anyone with information or leads is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Andy Drenth at 507-774-7207. You may remain anonymous.



Cops in the Community—

This past year, our very own, Pam Roberts, was selected as a Minnesota Big Brothers Big Sisters School Site Big of the Year! On Monday afternoon, Big Brother Big Sisters staff and her little surprised Pam in the lobby of the LEC to formally recognize her with this achievement. We're proud of you Pam!!



Bikes—

It's the time of the year when we start getting lots of calls of abandoned bikes and end up picking them up—most are probably stolen, but we have no way to return an unreported, stolen bike. If you are the victim of a stolen bike, make certain to call and speak with a community service officer; it's possible your stolen bike has been recovered. Also, we do get calls from people looking for a bike to be donated—we're not allowed to donate to individuals, but throughout the year we do dispose our accumulated supply of unclaimed bikes by donating to non-profit organizations.



Our Team

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Police Chief Keith Hiller
Captain Eric Rethemeier
Captain Jeff Mundale

Sergeants

Jason Petterson
Andy DeVinny
Andy Drenth
Josh Sorensen
Tracy DuChene
Jason Matejcek
Zack Schumaker

Detectives

Christian Berg
Ben Johnson
Steven Bowman
Valerie Satre
Travis Ardolf
Derrick Quinlan

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Brady Vaith
Matt Oeltjenbruns
Andrew Van Osdale
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Alan Callahan
Alexandra Vogel
Casey Martin
Luke Selvik
Travis Johnson
Benjamin Metcalf
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Anna Martin
Zachary Plein
John Van Alstine
Jeremy Katz
Brandon Fandel
Michael Brein
Anthony Malepsy
Kyle Martin

Community Service Officers

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Gabrielle Flemming
Julia Hansen

Canine

Vegas

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Pam Roberts
Wendy Gasner

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Brent Carlson
Nancy Deetz
Loren Olson

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Bill Traetow
Julia Hansen
Steve Wrede
Gabrielle Flemming
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Asberry Thoreson
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Records Staff

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