

PUBLIC INFORMATION RELEASE

**Owatonna Police Department
204 East Pearl Street
Owatonna, MN 55060**



For Release Immediately

Friday, December 04, 2009

**Shaun E. LaDue
CHIEF OF POLICE**

For Further Information Contact

Sergeant of Investigations, Joel T. Welinski

507-774-7213

Crime Alert-Property Damage Spree

The Owatonna Police Department is requesting citizens to be alert in observing and reporting suspicious activity during the evening and nighttime hours.

Within the past two weeks, there have been several reported incidents of spray paint and graffiti vandalism reported to the Owatonna Police Department. Property damage has been directed toward the outside walls of downtown area businesses, retaining walls adjacent to city park walk paths, and under bridges near the walk paths.

There is little or no suspect information at this time.

What you can do:

- Be alert to suspicious or unusual activity, especially in isolated public areas and city park property. Do not hesitate to call 911 to report it. This includes strangers walking or loitering in your neighborhood, juveniles out after curfew, and vehicles or pedestrians you don't recognize.
- Record descriptions of suspicious persons or vehicles and obtain license plate numbers if possible.
- If you locate discarded spray paint cans or other suspicious items that may be related to acts of vandalism and property damage, please do not touch the items and contact law enforcement.

These incidents are under investigation by the Owatonna Police Department. Anyone with information regarding these destructive acts is urged to contact the Owatonna Police Department-Sergeant Joel Welinski @ 507-774-7213. You may be entitled to a monetary reward for information that leads to identification of the suspect(s) and successful prosecution in court.