



# CENTRAL POLICE DISTRICT

*Building Trust Through Community Partnerships*

November 2007

Volume 3, Issue 11

## PERSONAL PROPERTY INVENTORIES

Due to the increase of residential and non-residential burglaries in the city, I would like to provide you with information that may be helpful in recovering your property in the event of theft or burglary. A burglar's greatest risk of being caught is during the commission of the burglary. The second greatest risk is the suspect being caught with the stolen property. Unfortunately, many items that are recovered by police when a suspect is arrested cannot be tied to a burglary because we cannot determine who is the rightful owner of the property. One reason for this is due to the victim not providing the serial number or other unique identifier of the item to the officer taking the report.

Recent statistics show that 90% of victims of theft cannot immediately provide a serial number of the items taken to the officer taking the burglary report. In addition, 70% of victims are never able to provide a serial number. It is difficult to charge an individual with burglary if we cannot tie the evidence, including the stolen property, to a specific victim. If police cannot determine who is the rightful owner of property items, then they are auctioned by our

property section according to state statutes. You may have heard of the auctions that the department has to get rid of unclaimed property.

Having a serial number or identifying number available is also helpful when checking pawn shops or second-hand shops for items they have purchased.

There are two ways that you can help us recover your stolen property and/or charge an individual in possession of your property. The first is by making a personal property inventory of items that are attractive for burglars. These include cameras, computer equipment, cell phones, televisions, stereo equipment, and other valuable items specific to your home or business. The serial number should be included on the inventory. After taking your inventory, you should put it in a safe location such as a fire proof box. Another way that you could help us is by putting an **owner-applied number** on the item. An owner applied number is a number that you make up and permanently put on your property. This can be done with either a permanent marker or an engraver.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## CRIME OVERVIEW

The following represents an overview of police activity in the Central District. It does not include all cases.

### Person Crimes: Robbery

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
11/18	12:54 am	2100 Blk Linden	As victim was entering his vehicle, he was approached by suspect who first asked for a cigarette, then displayed a handgun and demanded money which victim handed over and suspect fled on foot. Suspect: M/B, late 20s, 5'9", thin, scruffy facial hair.
11/19	7:15 am	1100 Blk Spring St	Male suspect displayed a gun ct the credit union. Suspect: M/B, 5'9", medium build.
11/28	2:30 am	N Mills @ Dayton	Attempt: Victim was approached by suspect. When suspect made a demand the potential victim knocked the suspect down. The suspect then fled. Suspect: M/W, 20-22, 6', 180, medium build, goatee.

**CRIME OVERVIEW CONTINUED****Property Crimes: Burglaries**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Entry</i>	<i>Targeted/Stolen</i>
11/2	1300 Blk Morrison St	Residential	Unlocked door	Laptops, backpack
11/3	500 Blk W Johnson	Residential	"Crashed" a party	Ipods, miscellaneous; 6 suspects arrested.
11/5	600 Blk E Johnson	Residential	Unlocked door	Wallet, Ipod, Laptop.
11/6	100 Blk E Gorham	Residential	Unlocked door	X-Box and games
11/6	600 Blk Fordem Ave	Residential	Unknown	Roommates returned to find suspect inside apartment attempting to steal laptop.
11/7	600 Blk Langdon	Residential	Unknown	Female residents woke up to male in apartment who fled out balcony. Nothing missing.
11/8	900 Blk E Johnson	Residential	Hole in door	Cash
11/8	900 Blk E Johnson	Non-Residential	Window Broken	Items rifled through; nothing missing.
11/8	900 Blk E Johnson	Non-Residential	Door pried	Cash
11/9	1800 Blk Fordem	Residential	Unknown	Stereo/CD player
11/9	1800 Block Fordem	Residential	Unknown	Car stereo
11/9	1600 Blk Fordem	Residential	Patio door	TV, DVD player, other equipment.
11/9	20 Blk N Franklin	Residential	Unknown	X-box
11/9	10 Blk N Franklin	Residential	Screen removed	X-box
11/11	2000 Blk Atwood	Non-Residential	Smashed window	Safe and cash.
11/12	500 Blk W Mifflin	Residential	Unknown	CD; suspect arrested.
11/12	2000 Blk Winnebago	Non-Residential	Window broken	No entry
11/12	2000 Blk Winnebago	Non-Residential	Window broken	No entry
11/12	1100 Blk E Washington	Non-Residential	Window broken	Witness observed suspect breaking window; suspect inside for 10 min; unknown if anything missing
11/13	10 Blk N Bassett	Residential	Unlocked door	Bike, alcohol, TV.
11/13	2000 Blk Winnebago	Non-Residential	Window shattered	Cameras, lenses, credit cards.
11/15	300 Blk N Few	Residential	Forced door	TV, projector, receiver, cords.
11/18	300 Blk S Broom	Residential	Unknown	Cash, cell phone.
11/19	400 Blk N Carroll	Residential	Unlocked door	TV and other electronics
11/21	10 Blk E Gilman	Residential	Unlocked window	IPod, laptops, other electronics
11/25	1800 Blk Fordem	Residential	Unknown	Car in locked basement entered, broken dash.
11/30	1800 Blk Fordem	Residential	Unknown	Victim responds to vehicle alarm, finds 2 male Hispanics with items stolen from victim's vehicle.

**Person Crimes: Sexual Assault**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Details</i>
11/3	1700 Blk Fordem	Victim went to a party with a friend and was assaulted by a male at the party. Another guest intervened on her behalf and suspect wasn't seen again.
11/17	800 Blk Regent	Heavily intoxicated 18-year-old male is picked up and indicated he was sexually assaulted.

## CRIME OVERVIEW CONTINUED

### Person Crimes: Disturbances, Others

Date	Time	Location	Details
11/2	2:19 am	100 Blk Proudfit	Female reported being hit in the forehead with a paintball, and her boyfriend hit on the backside. Three suspects were arrested and charged with Party to a Crime of 2nd Degree Reckless Endangering.
11/10	10:30 am	600 Blk W Washington	17-year-old female victim on her way to a credit union is followed by a male who wants "5 minutes in the car." After leaving credit union, he follows her again and grabs her arm, victim snatches it back and goes home. Suspect: M/B 25-35, 5'8", goatee, stocky build, slight belly, gold ring with 4 diamonds on right hand.
11/10	1:56 pm	400 Blk W Dayton	Victim contacted suspect regarding returning missing property and suspect, who was holding a pool cue, threatened to kill the victim. Suspect was arrested and charged with Reckless Endangering.
11/15	4:00 am	400 Blk W Johnson	Ongoing domestic resulted in arrest of suspect for Disorderly Conduct While Armed after suspect threw a hammer against a wall, knocking over a shelf.
11/20	3:00 am	100 Blk E Gilman	Ongoing domestic resulted in arrest of suspect for Domestic DC, Bail Jumping, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
11/24	8:00 pm	900 Blk Williamson	Female pulled knife on sisters and mother. Juvenile arrested and charged with 2nd Degree Reckless Endangering.
11/25	2:00 am	100 Blk State St	Suspect and friend got kicked out of bar; bouncers tried to separate them, but they continued to fight. Suspect then pulled out a knife and slashed at the bouncer, butting him in the lower abdomen. Suspect was arrested and charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon and Reckless Endangering.

### Person Crimes: Batteries

Date	Time	Location	Details
11/1	8:56 pm	500 Blk State St	Victim was outside a restaurant having a cigarette when she was approached by an acquaintance who demanded her purse, battered her, and fled. Suspect arrested and charged with Battery, Theft, Disorderly Conduct, and Probation Hold.
11/4	1:54 am	500 Blk N Lake	Suspect was involved in an altercation with bouncers who were attempting to remove him from the property and bit one of them in the ear. Suspect was eventually apprehended and charged with Battery and Disorderly Conduct.
11/4	9:33 pm	200 Blk S Bassett	Domestic altercation which involved the suspect choking the victim resulted in suspect being arrested and charged with Domestic Battery and Domestic 2nd Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety.
11/11	2:07 am	300 Blk State St	Victim was on State Street eating a slice of pizza when one suspect knocked the pizza out of his hand. Victim confronted one suspect and was punched by several people. Suspects were black males, late teens to early 20s. Victim needed 8 to 10 stitches for injuries.
11/13	4:40 pm	W Doty/Bedford	Victim picked up two women on Park Street, drives them and is battered by one in the face from behind. Two suspects arrested and charged with Substantial Battery.

## WINTER DIVING

We have gotten a good dose of winter wonderland so far this year with piles of snow. While I like the feel of the snow under my cross-country skis, I do not particularly like that feeling under my vehicles tires. We have all heard the winter driving advice; the most important to me is *patience*. At a time when many are traveling to enjoy time with family and friends, take a deep breath, slow down, and yield to other vehicles; enjoy the season and the traditions of your family.



## PROPERTY INVENTORY CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

The same number can be put on all of your items and recorded on your inventory. The owner-applied number should be not be a single string of zeros or alpha characters. The number should be 2 to 20 characters and **should not** include special characters such as !@#\$. You should note the location of the owner-applied number and give that to the police officer.

How does this help us out? When a police officer takes a burglary report, the officer will ask what was taken. If the officer is given a serial number or owner-applied number along with the name of the item, it is entered into a database that can be queried by officers. If a suspected burglar is caught and has property in their possession which is believed to be stolen, the officer can “run” the serial number and/or owner-applied number through the database. If there is a match, the property can be returned to you, and the person in possession of the property can charged with a crime.

Marking your property makes it more difficult for a criminal to re-sell property taken in thefts. It also allows us to connect a suspect to a burglary if the person is found to have stolen items in their possession. Marking your items and/or providing officers with a serial number increases the odds that your property will be returned to you if it is recovered by police or lands in a second hand shop. It also greatly increases the chance of charging a suspect with a crime.

Some people may own property items that they do not want to mark for fear of decreasing the value of the property. Photographing these unique items, along with recording of serial numbers, can be helpful in recovering these items.

Do not hesitate to call if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood, or discuss your concerns with your Community Police Team officer.

Special thanks to contribution from Capt. J. Wheeler and Capt. J. Klubertanz.

specifically the guide, *Burglary of Single-Family Houses, Guide No. 18* (2002) by Deborah Lamm Weisel. The full guide can be viewed at: [www.popcenter.org](http://www.popcenter.org).

The information comes from a review of other research on burglars.

Most burglars are motivated by the need—sometimes desperate—to get quick cash, often for drugs or alcohol. Some offenders, particularly younger ones, are motivated by the thrill of the offense. A small number of burglars are motivated by revenge against someone such as an ex-girlfriend or employer.

Studies suggest that drug and/or alcohol use and financial problems contribute to offending. Many burglars use their gains to finance partying, which may be characterized by frequent and heavy use of drugs and alcohol and a lack of regular employment.

Drug abuse, particularly heroin abuse, has been closely associated with burglary. In fact, some suggest the decline in U.S. burglaries during the 1990s was at least partly due to the rise in cocaine users and to their tendency to commit robbery rather than burglary. Heroin and marijuana users are more likely to be cautious in carrying out break-ins, while cocaine users may take more risks.

Burglars do not tend to think about the consequences of their actions, or they believe there is little chance of getting caught. Drug and alcohol abuse can impair their ability to assess consequences and risks.

Burglars often know their victims, who may include casual acquaintances, neighborhood residents, people for whom they have provided a service (such as moving or gardening), or friends or relatives of close friends. Thus, offenders have some knowledge of their victims, such as of their daily routine.

## WHO IS THE “BURGLAR”?

I think we all have preconceived ideas on who may be responsible for burglaries in our neighborhoods, and even ideas on why they enter our homes to steal.

The following information on burglars is from the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing website,



### Madison Police Department

Central District  
City-County Building  
211 S. Carroll St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone: 608-266-4022  
FAX: 608-261-9248  
[www.madisonpolice.com/central](http://www.madisonpolice.com/central)

Mary A. Schauf, Captain  
[mschauf@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mschauf@cityofmadison.com)

Joseph A. Balles, Lieutenant  
Patrol Services  
[jballes@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jballes@cityofmadison.com)

Mary Lou Ricksecker, Lieutenant  
Detective Services  
[mricksecker@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mricksecker@cityofmadison.com)