



# North District Newsletter

## Madison Police Department



February 2012

### Captain's Corner



Captain  
Cameron McLay  
North District

Greetings from the North Police District!

This week the North Police District will again participate in the Department's shift change process, during which officers have the opportunity to select new work shifts and assignments. We have been very fortunate in that we had an excellent staff of employees and supervisor, and are fortunate again this year, in that we have had very little turn over. Our command and supervisors, and Community Policing Team members remain the same, and while there will be a few new faces here, there was comparatively little change in our Patrol and Detective assignments.

I am very pleased and proud of the great work done by our staff in the past year. I also greatly appreciate those of you who took the time to participate in our 2012 North District Survey. The feedback from this survey yielded several positive trends worth highlighting. I was very pleased to see that there was a significant increase in the percentages of individuals how indicated strong agreement to statements such as "The police solve crimes quickly", "I trust the leadership of the Madison Police Department," "The police provide quality service to the residents of my community", and "The MPD act professionally". There was a similar upward trend in the numbers indicating strong agreement with the following statements: "The MPD treat people with respect", "the MPD treat people fairly" and "The MPD have earned my trust". There were some polarizing effects evident on these latter statements however, with some increases in percentages expressing disagreement as well. This tells me that there are some areas in which we have trust-based relationships with our residents, but that there are other areas where we have not yet forged those bonds. We are on the right track; we have much work yet to do. You will note in Lt. Strasburg's article some adjustments we have made to our neighborhood officer assignments that are directed toward this objective. There are adjustments we are making behind the scenes also to improve the quality of our interactions, and the effectiveness of our liaison officer program.

We remain deeply committed to cultivating effective partnerships with community residents and stakeholders so that jointly, we can decrease crime, fear and disorder, and in so doing, improve the quality of life here on Madison's north-side.

Take care and Be Safe....

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## Patrol Services

2012 starts a new year and we are very excited about a couple changes in how we will police the North District this year.

### **NORTHPORT DR. AREA:**

The first is a change of area of responsibility for our Northport/Packer's neighborhood officer. For several years the only neighborhood officer in the North District has been assigned to The Northport/Packer's townhouses. Many of you know for the past several years the officer assigned to this area has been Katie Adler. We now have expanded Katie's area of responsibility further out on Northport Dr. to include Kennedy Heights, Woodland Park, and The Woodland's complexes. Katie will continue to be very involved and connected with The Packer townhouses and we look forward to Katie expanding the many positive things going on with the Packer Townhouses area into her new area. If you see Katie please feel free to say hello to her, she will glad to share with you any new developments, and trends within her neighborhood. Katie can be contacted at: 245- 3679



Lieutenant  
Carl Strasburg  
Patrol Services  
245-3654

### **VERA COURT:**

We are also very thrilled to add Officer Dave Dexheimer as a temporary neighborhood officer to Vera Ct. Dave began this assignment in December and almost instantly Dave began to build connections and work on improvements within the neighborhood. If you don't already know Dave he is a 15 year veteran of MPD and most recently has been assigned to the South District Community Police Team. Dave brings with him a wealth of experience, and expertise with him including problem solving and Police/Community relationships. If you live or visit around Vera Ct. I am sure you either have seen or soon will see Dave patrolling on foot or on bike. Please also feel free to say hello to him! Dave can be contacted at: 209-9813.

### **East High School:**

In September, 2011 The Madison Board of Education approved implementing the use of MPD K9s inside the school for the purpose of detecting drugs and weapons. This will occur at East High School soon, and the Madison Police Department is very pleased to be able to provide this service to our schools with the hopes of making our schools a safe place to learn. The Madison Metropolitan School District also states: "The use of sweeps by the Madison Police k9 unit is only one of the many strategies and tools to keep MMSD schools and student's safe and drug free. For additional information please see: [www.madison.k12.wi.us/dogs](http://www.madison.k12.wi.us/dogs). Or [www.capitalk9s.org](http://www.capitalk9s.org)

### **Traffic Safety & New flashing turn arrows:**

The construction is over! We are all glad to have 2011's construction behind us and we look forward to a safe traffic year for the North District. With Packer's Av. and Northport Dr. updated many there are many new and improved safety measures. One of the more visible ones is flashing yellow left turn arrows. Studies have found that flashing yellow turn arrows cause drivers to turn left through a intersection left in a more cautious manner, more aware of oncoming traffic and thus less crashes. The Fail to yield law for drivers remains the same **requiring all drivers turning left at an intersection to yield to all oncoming traffic.**

Also with the completion of the construction it is tempting to drive fast on Packers Av and Northport Dr. We have observed this and received complaints. Our officers have been and will continue to conduct speed enforcement in these areas throughout the year. Please keep this in mind during your travels and always drive within the posted speed limits. Speeding citations start at \$88.00 and can exceed up to \$429! Save your money DON'T SPEED !

If you have any questions, comments on how we police the North District please do not hesitate to contact me at 245-3654 or email: [cstrasburg@cityofmadison.com](mailto:cstrasburg@cityofmadison.com)

Lt Carl Strasburg

## Investigative Update

I am excited to be starting my second year as the North District Detective Lieutenant. I have been with the Madison Police Department for 26 years and have been fortunate to supervise detectives for the past three years. The North District has nine detectives that are responsible for major case investigation, and follow-up on cases with investigative leads. The district has a great team of highly motivated veteran detectives with two new personnel assignments (Det. Bernards and Det. Dyhr) this year. I continue to be extremely impressed by the knowledge that the detective team possesses and the dedication they bring to work every day.



Lieutenant  
Tim Strassman  
Detective Services  
245-3653

Detectives are assigned specialties that are in the following categories:

**Person crimes** - Homicides, physical assaults, armed robbery, battery

**Property crimes** - Burglary, theft, theft from autos

**Sensitive crimes** - Sexual assault, child abuse, child neglect

**Financial crimes** - embezzlement, fraud, identity theft, forgery

**Juvenile Crimes** - school related incidents

My position is responsible for supervising major case investigations, making case assignments, coordinating investigative resources, and tracking emerging crime trends. I will continue use the North District Newsletter to share significant cases that occur in our district, and to identify emerging crime trends. I believe we have improved our internal information sharing, which appears to have improved our customer service. I also want to continue to improve the follow-up interaction with victims of crime. Although it is not possible to assign a detective to every case due to limited resources, we have had additional success in assigning officers when possible.

We are currently extremely busy with the continuing investigative needs of the homicide from last fall on Troy Drive. We also have several other ongoing major investigations (attempted homicide, weapons offenses, etc) from last year which require additional attention. The impact of heroin and other drugs continue to tax our resources. New cases continue to come in and we are making every effort to address them as quickly as possible.

Please remember that we rely heavily on all the citizens who live and work in the North District to continue to report the crimes or incidents they observe. Without your assistance the best we can do is react to only those incidents that come to our attention.



## New Vera Ct Neighborhood Officer David Dexheimer



*Officer Dexheimer can be seen riding around the neighborhood on his bike. Stop and introduce yourself!*



### Getting to Know the Neighbors

Madison is fortunate to have a whole host of thriving and active neighborhoods and neighborhood associations. The city supports those associations and lives by the motto, “strong neighborhoods, strong city”. When I began working in a community policing role, I quickly learned that the neighborhoods were one of the best sources of information about citizen concerns and current events. When I transferred to the Vera Court neighborhood from the South Side, one of my first goals was to find those active avenues of communication that are a sign of vital and healthy neighborhoods. I was not surprised to find many active north side neighborhoods listed on the city’s website. If you have not checked out your own neighborhood, I urge you to do so. The link is here, <http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/index.htm>

Many neighborhood associations are hosting their own websites and many sponsor neighborhood email lists. I am now a proud subscriber to several busy and informative lists including Eken Park, Emerson East and NorthsideDiscuss. As a neighborhood intervention officer, I find that the discussions on these lists, even if the issues are not thought to be police concerns, are great indicators of the health of our neighborhoods. The more that folks can utilize these and other means of communication among friends, the more likely we are able to maintain the strong and healthy connections that make for a great place to live.

As I have occasion to post comments regarding events related to the Vera Court Neighborhood I will be sure to put them up on the NorthsideDiscuss email list. (Look for news about neighborhood bike rides coming this spring and summer.) I learned of this discussion group while checking out another great connection, the venerable *Northside News*. You can join the discussion by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/northsidediscuss/join> The email list and *Northside News* are projects of the Northside Planning Council.

Of course there is no substitute for communication that takes place in person, face-to-face. I’ve already had some terrific opportunities to meet a lot of folks in the Vera Court neighborhood and will continue to make the rounds on foot or on bike. Don’t hesitate to flag me down when you see me out and about. If you would like to contact me or any of the other officers of the North District, you can always reach us via email. Email assures that your message will not be overlooked by officers like me who work odd hours and have variable schedules. It’s one of the best ways for us to make sure we don’t miss your message regarding concerns that do not need an immediate response. My address is [ddexheimer@cityofmadison.com](mailto:ddexheimer@cityofmadison.com) Some officers also have cell phones with them while on duty. My number is 209-9813. Of course if it’s an emergency, the number is 911.

## Northport Corridor Neighborhoods



Police Officer  
Katie Adler  
Northport/Packers  
Neighborhood Officer  
245-3679

Webster's dictionary defines "responsibility" in one of the following way. 1) The state of being responsible, accountable or answerable. 2) That for which anyone is responsible or accountable, as, the responsibilities of power. Synonyms: obligation and duty. As well Webster's gives several words that are related to responsibility. These are just a few I chose: accountableness, action, answerability, assignment, commitment, empowerment, entrusting, stability, trustworthiness, dedication to duty.

We should know the Madison Police Department values trust based policing under citizen involvement. The Madison Police Department believes all members of our community are responsible for public safety. We strive to educate our community about the capabilities and limitations, while empowering them to have a voice in public safety.

For the last 4 years I have had the opportunity to build strong community partnerships, as the Neighborhood Officer, with the Northport Apartments, Packer Townhomes and Kipling Dr. I will remain the Neighborhood Officer for these areas but will also have my boundaries extended to include Woodland Park Apartment complex, Woodlands Apartment complex and Kennedy Heights. It is my hope to build strong relationships and mutual accountability with community members, individuals and relevant stakeholders. I also plan to engage the community through partnerships for collaborative problem solving, empowerment and hope to build strong relationships and mutual accountability. The health and well being of our neighborhoods and the people that live in the community rests on all of us.

I want to extend my appreciation to all of the citizens I contacted in December regarding the completion of the surveys I hand delivered. I am pleased to report I had a good completion rate in the neighborhoods I was able to get to with limited time. I want to thank all the citizens in the Northport Apartment complex, Packer Townhomes and Woodland Park Apartments. This was a good way for your voices to be heard.

My contact information is as follows:  
Neighborhood Officer Katie Adler  
(cell) 577-5624  
(work) 245-3679



# Madison Police Department

*"Policing in Partnership with our Community"*

## About the North Police District

The North Police District Newsletter is distributed electronically to district employees, area alder persons and other elected officials, business associations, school principals, media, North Side Planning Council members, neighborhood association leaders, North Neighborhood Resource Team members, East Neighborhood Resource Team members, interested citizens and staff of the Madison Police Department. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide information about incident reports and criminal cases as well as community events and activities occurring in the North District.

There are 25 neighborhood associations and 3 business associations represented in the North District. Some of the information shared in the newsletter is intended to serve as feedback to those associations on enforcement or problem solving efforts in the community. We are always open to improving the services we provide to north side residents. Your comments can be e-mailed to me or, if you wish to speak in person call me at 245-3652.

The North Police District is one of five geographic areas served by the Madison Police Department. The North District is bounded by Lake Mendota and Maple Bluff to the west, E. Washington Ave. and Highway 30 to the south, and I-90/94 to the east. It also includes the area east of I-90/94 and north of Highway 151 to the Sun Prairie border. You may see the boundaries of the district by visiting our website: [www.ci.madison.wi.us/police/north.html](http://www.ci.madison.wi.us/police/north.html). You will also find prior newsletters posted at this site.



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