



North District Newsletter

Madison Police Department

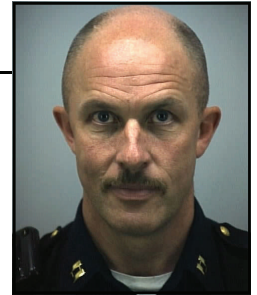


July 2009

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Captain Cameron McLay

This year, we received a significant number of noise complaints related to the use of illegal fireworks. Unfortunately, these noise complaints often do not receive as much attention as they deserve, due to high volume of calls for police assistance. These complaints were heaviest on holiday weekend nights, and this is a time when other calls for police services are at their peak. This results in complaints being received and no officers to service these noise complaints, as they are on higher priority police calls.

In anticipation of this, the MPD collaborated with the Fire Department, and had joint enforcement teams working to follow up on complaints of illegal fireworks. While there were a number of citations issued, the most important aspect of the initiative was educational. The fact remains that most people do not yet understand that most of the fireworks available for purchase are illegal for use without a permit. We will continue to share this message to decrease the scope of this problem in coming years.

In terms of crime trends for the year, we have mid-year call for service totals from which we can make some informed projections. It appears that most crime trends are down from the previous several years, with the exception of Burglaries, Thefts from Autos and Drug Investigations. The Burglaries, while above the averages for the previous several years, are still well below the 2007 high. Thefts from Autos and Drug Investigations are both up from previous years, however, the latter (Drug Investigations) number includes those incidents initiated by our officers doing proactive enforcement. For this reason, that number being up is not necessarily a reflection of an increased drug presence in the North District. These are only projections on previous years totals, and we will not know the exact numbers until the end of the year. These call for service trends are mirrored by the Uniform Crime Reporting figures that are sent to the FBI, showing crime totals down in almost all areas.

I continue to be impressed by the degree of citizen involvement in keeping the community safe here in the North Police District. On July 14th, there was an armed home invasion that occurred on the City's east side. North officers found the suspect vehicle on the Northside. The suspects fled the vehicle in the area of Longview St. While officers and police K-9s searched the area, it was citizen witnesses who sought the officers out to provide information that quickly led to the apprehension of the suspect, and ultimately the recovery of the weapons involved. This is a great example of citizens taking ownership in the safety of their own neighborhoods, by stepping forward to assist police. This is part of the reason I believe the Northside is a great place to work, live and play!



Lieutenant
Trevor Knight
Detective Services
245-3654

Investigative Update

Theft From Automobiles

We have seen an increase in Theft from vehicle/Damage to vehicle reports in the north district as the summer months progress. Although these are occurring all over the district, the areas by East Towne Mall and Cherokee/Wheeler Rd are areas that we see more reports being generated. Some occurred in an underground garage on Wheeler Ct. A majority of the incidents are occurring during the hours of 9pm and 7am. However, the incidents in the East Towne Mall area (Menards, Home Depot) have occurred in the daytime when the lots are busy. District officers are aware of the issues and have been making contacts with suspicious persons and activity when time permits. We remind you to lock your car doors and don't leave valuables in your vehicle especially in plain view. Note that even items placed under car seat can be seen from outside of the vehicle. Also call the police to report any suspicious activity.

The following is a good illustration of citizens recognizing suspicious activity and calling the police. In early July on Utah Ct, the residents heard something unusual in their yard. They looked out to observe a subject going through their vehicle. As one resident called the police, the other confronted the subject and held him down until the police arrived. The suspect was eventually charged with Theft and Disorderly Conduct. Evidence from another nearby vehicle that was also entered was found on the subject.

In late June, we received several reports of damage to vehicles in the area of Lofsgordon and Elka Ln. They were all on the same night. It appears that the suspect(s) were walking down the street and randomly jumping on vehicles then kicking in the windshields. Detectives working this case might have developed some suspect info but its still being investigated.

Graffiti

In mid July, we received several reports about graffiti damage in the Vahlen St. area. There were several vehicles and other property damaged due to graffiti. Spray-painted in black were "C.X.S", "CCC's Niggas", and "CX Nigga".

Areas of Reindahl Park sustained what appears to be gang graffiti damage in blue and white spray-paint. "Mexican Pride", M.P. 13. The exterior wall at 2406 Packers Av was damaged with blue and black spray-paint. The maintenance building at the East Madison Little League Field sustained graffiti damage in blue and black spray-paint.

No suspect(s) have yet to be identified in any of these incidents

Investigative Update Continued:

Burglaries

Although decreasing in totals, burglaries, particularly residential burglaries were still an issue during the months of June and July. The method of entry has been through unlocked doors (garage, patio) and forced entry. Flat screen televisions, tools jewelry are some of the targeted items. As with any other crimes, if you see suspicious activity or individuals in your neighborhood, please don't hesitate to contact police. Lock your doors, even when at home.

Miscellaneous

In early June, a subject went into a business on Lien Rd, grabbed the female clerk in a chokehold and demanded money. He then fled out the door. The alert clerk got a good description and the correct plate of the vehicle he drove off in. With this information, officers and detectives were able to conduct a good investigation that led to the suspect being taken into custody within a few hours and charged with Strong Armed Robbery.

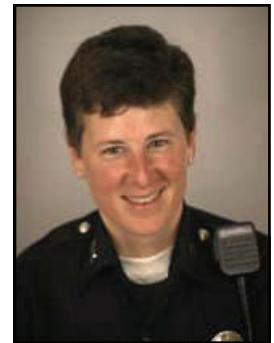
In late June, officers responded to 1500 Blk. Trailsway for a disturbance. The subsequent investigation by officers revealed that one of the residents became upset that her dog was barking so she grabbed a knife and stabbed the dog. She was arrested and charged with Mistreatment of an Animal. The dog received medical attention and was taken to the Humane Society where it has recovered.

From The Northport/Packers Neighborhood Officer

The summer has gone fairly well so far even with the lack of real warm weather. There continues to be a lot of juveniles out and about on the Northport Apartment complex. I've been able to walk at night with the manager of Packer Townhouses on a regular basis and have done so occasionally with an employee of Northport Apartments. This has been a great way to solidify my relationships with the stakeholders of the property. I've also have adjusted my work hours to assist third detail Officers with the calls for service and it gives me an opportunity to walk the properties with the beat Officer.

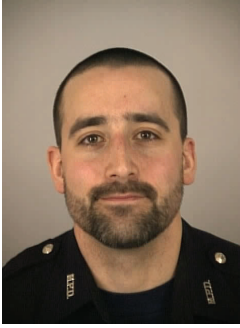
The most advantageous thing that comes from the warm weather has been my contacts with the very young children whom I'm able to contact more often because of this.

To conclude, I will tell you a little story about the simple things in life like, sharing a sliced apple. Approximately 3 months ago I was in my squad car getting ready to leave for lunch. I had a small child ask me what I was eating in my car and I told him "an apple." The small child asked me if he could have one of my slices of apple and I gave him one, soon I had several children asking me for a slice and then it was gone. Approximately a month ago this same little guy said, "Adler do you have any apples?" I told him I did and gave him a slice. The child asked if his brother could have one and I gave him one. Obviously I wasn't sure if the brother was old enough to have an apple but I gave him one anyway which he bit a piece off and spit it out. I told the young boy that I needed to go and asked him if he'd like another slice before I left and he said "yes." I gave him an apple slice and left. It's the small things in life that make a difference.



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

From The North Community Policing Team



Sergeant
Jason Freedman
Community Policing
Team
243-0542

In late July of 2009, the North District Community Policing Team (NCPT) executed a search warrant on a residence near Mendota Mental Health. 255 marijuana plants were recovered, along with sophisticated equipment for growing and cultivating the plants. The estimated 'street value' of the seized contraband is in excess of \$300,000. The residents of the property are facing multiple felony charges for maintaining a drug dwelling, possession with intent to deliver, and others.

A series of minor concerns led the property manager to contact police (which resulted in a successful search warrant). NCPT used a team approach incorporating patrol, detectives, K-9, and Task Force resources to affect a successful outcome. Despite the expertise of personnel, and the hard work of all, this major seizure would never have occurred if a property manager had not 'listened to their gut'.

The manager observed that the residents paid in cashier's checks, and were reluctant to allow any one into the residence to work on the furnace, attach new fire alarms and etc. Staff told the manager that blinds, blankets, or plastic sheeting covered every door and window of the exterior of the residence. Finally, the manager noted that the electric bill for the address was 4-6x normal. All of these issues might have been easily ignored—the manager told me the rent was always paid on time, the exterior was kept up, and the neighbors had no complaints or concerns. Yet the oddity of the situation was not dismissed, and police were contacted.

Very rarely does a citizen tip result in such a dramatic seizure—however, the police would never have known about—much less had an opportunity—to look into this complaint; yet it is such complaints, sometimes seemingly innocuous, that can lead to significant arrests and investigations. Although minor things are usually just minor things, I would much rather have to sift and sort through a lot of information to find solid leads than have little or no information with which to direct resources or efforts.

MPD is developing and expanding our use of data to identify trends, and quality of life and crime issues. NCPT uses this data to focus on areas where concerns exist or are developing, such as Kipling Dr, Brentwood, Ridgeway, and North St. Much of that data comes from people who reside or work in the district. If you are observing activity that your gut tells you is suspicious or unusual, listen to your gut and call us—it may be nothing, or something significant, but neither you (or us) will ever know if you don't call.

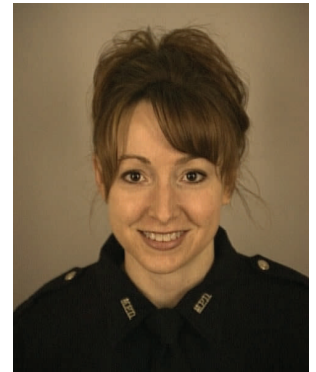
Brentwood Neighborhood

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer, especially as we are approaching the beginning of a new school year. I have been getting to know more residents and children in the neighborhood, due to the warm weather. Many of you have probably seen your children coming home with "Madison Police Department Junior Police" stickers plastered all over their shirts. Many want more than one sticker, as they are proud to wear them! It is quite refreshing to have the neighborhood kids run up to me for a hug. I just want to thank the residents in the Brentwood Neighborhood for making it a safe and enjoyable summer. Please continue to be vigilant and practice personal safety. As you know, often times crimes are crimes of opportunity!

Due to the recent calls for service in the Brentwood Neighborhood, I have seen that police have responded to a dramatic increase in domestic violence incidents. As a result, I am devoting my next Brentwood Neighborhood Community Police Newsletter to Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS). This program provides information and many services to help you sort out your options and decide what is right for you. The program offers support and advocacy for you and your children. It also offers an emergency safe house for you and your children, including food, clothing and trained staff to help you seek legal, medical and social services. If you are in need of help, please contact the 24-hour help/crisis line at 251-4445 or 1-800-747-4045. Please take advantage of the social services and resources available to you.

I am still waiting for a neighborhood representative or block captain to come forward and initiate a **Brentwood Neighborhood Watch Program**. In order to create a better quality of living in our area, we need citizens like you, to be a leader in your community and encourage residents to become vigilant and create a neighborhood watch program. If you are interested in helping your community, please contact the Madison Police Department Crime Prevention Office at 266-4238 to create a watch meeting. The Crime Prevention Officer will provide the neighborhood representative or block captain with neighborhood watch meeting invitations and pamphlets. The program may also provide presentations and trainings on personal safety. The information provided may also be tailored to seniors and children. Let's fight crime together. It is a collaborative effort by police and the community!

Enjoy the rest of your summer and be safe!

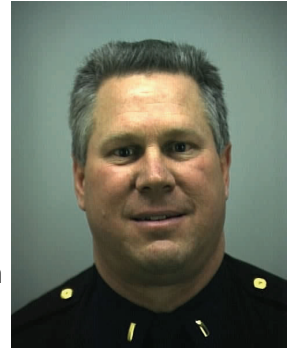


PO Susie Gonzalez
Brentwood
Neighborhood
Intervention Officer
576-9708

North District Operations

Drug House in a Residential Neighborhood Chronic Nuisance Ordinance- A Success Story

During the spring and summer of 2008 a problem house in the 2600 block of East Lawn Court was brought to the attention of the Madison Police Department. Neighbors reported that they were seeing what they believed to be illegal activities in and around the residence. The activities they reported included vehicles and people coming to and from the residence at all hours of the day and night. People were seen going into the residence for a few minutes, and then leaving either on foot or in vehicles. This appeared consistent with short-term drug activities. Neighbors also reported seeing several females walking up and down the street 2600 East Lawn Ct. Neighbors reported seeing one female in particular in and around the residence, who was often seen with heavy makeup, often making contacts with vehicles driving up and down East Lawn Ct. This appeared consistent with what we believed were prostitution activities. Neighbors reported that the address was posing serious quality of life issues for the surrounding neighborhood and reported that they were woken up in the middle of the night by cars and people yelling in and around the address.



Lieutenant
Brian Ackeret
Patrol Services
245-3653

The house was flagged as a problem solving address for patrol officers and the North District Community Policing Team. Officers responding to calls for service associated with the residence were made aware of the problem and took enforcement action whenever appropriate. Surveillance of the area was conducted and confirmed drug use, drug sales and prostitution activity.

The homeowner of the problem house was contacted. There were communication issues as the owner had suffered a severe brain injury from a previous automobile accident. During the analysis of the problem it was determined the owner was involved in drug use, however, others involved in drug use, prostitution, and drug dealing, had taken advantage of his hospitality, and were using his house for illegal activity. The owner promised to cooperate and stop the illegal activity at his residence.

Unfortunately the problems with the house continued, and began to escalate as word spread through the drug user community that it was a place where drugs could be obtained and used. The City of Madison Chronic Nuisance Ordinance was used as a tool to solve the drug and prostitution issues associated with this address. Patrol Officer and CPT Officers aware of the problems associated with this residence took enforcement action on different calls for service making arrests or issuing citations for disruptive behavior during fights or disturbances, noise violations and citations for open intoxicants on the sidewalk for guests visiting this house. The homeowner was notified that his property was declared a chronic nuisance under the City Ordinance.

The homeowner was served with a Chronic Nuisance declaration letter requiring him to attend a meeting at the North District Station that was attended by City Attorney Jennifer Zilavey, North District Police staff, and the homeowner and his caseworker. A correction plan was implemented to stop the illegal activity associated with the residence. The Chronic Nuisance declaration required the property to meet and set up a plan to correct the nuisance. The ordinance allows the City to bill the property owner for police services if the nuisance activity continues.

Patrol Officers and Community Policing Team Officers began working with the now cooperative homeowner to deter unwanted guests from entering or using his house for illegal activity. The property was posted with No Trespassing signs and unwanted guests were no longer allowed to use the property.

There were few if any calls for service to this property in the past year and the property owner has not been fined or billed under the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance as the nuisance has been abated.



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. You will also find prior newsletters posted at this site.



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