

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

This will be my last article for the West Police District newsletter, since I will be assigned to headquarters soon in January. As I stated in the last newsletter, I would like to talk about the accomplishments we have had over the last five years. Since the Badger football team and the Packers did so great this year, it is only fitting to put our accomplishments in football terms. In 2007 we were on our own five yard line, but over the last five years we have moved into field goal range and have made a few field goals. There have been times when we have been sacked for losses, but for the most part we have been moving down the field. We haven't been in the end zone yet, but this is a very real possibility in the near future. In my opinion, here are the top ten accomplishments of the last five years:

1. The community and police working together as one team to make our neighborhoods safer. There have been so many individuals that have spent countless hours working with police and their neighborhood to make them safer and better. A big THANK YOU!
2. Having a CPT officer assigned to the Russett/Balsam area part time.
3. Opening of the Meadowood Community Center and building the New Community Center near the Tree/Flower neighborhood.
4. Assessments/Evaluations of areas in the West District (Russett/Balsam, west end of Schroeder Rd, and south end of Muir Field Rd.).
5. Redevelopment of Allied Dr.
6. Closing of the Highlander Motel.
7. Redesign of the Hammersley and Whitney Way intersection.
8. Obtaining a speed board for the district.
9. Clearing all eleven homicides and a 1994 homicide.

10. Having a safe and fun 4th of July Elver Park Fireworks event for many years.

I know, I have left off many other accomplishments and I could likely fill this newsletter with them. It has been a great ride and I know the progress will continue!



Patrol Operations

Lieutenant John Patterson

I hope you all have had a safe and happy holiday season so far. There have been a number of changes with our staffing in the past few weeks and soon we will go through our annual shift change. During this first week in February, we will see many of our patrol and CPT officers moving on to other assignments and many new staff joining the district. I would like to thank all of the officers who worked in the West District in 2011. I think we did some excellent work last year and I am looking forward to seeing what we can do in 2012.

Our Community Policing Team will be completely changing in 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current team for their work in 2011. This team was relied upon heavily in 2011 and they consistently produced great results. Primarily focusing on drug interdiction, the West CPT made a number of arrests and worked with many of you to resolve drug related issues in your neighborhoods.

Sergeant Lori Chalecki has led the West CPT for the past two years and she has been instrumental in the development and success of this team. She is moving to the South District in 2012 and I would like to thank her for her dedication and work over the past two years. Lori will be replaced by Sergeant Jim Dexheimer, who is coming to us from the South District. Look for an article from Jim in the next newsletter.



Patrol Operations cont'd...

I would also like to specially thank Officer Colleen Michelson and Officer Brian Vandervest. Colleen and Brian were only with our West CPT for one year, but both officers made a very positive impact in two of our neighborhoods. Colleen was the liaison to the Schroeder Road area (west end of Schroeder) and Brian was the Community Liaison to the Balsam/Russett Neighborhood. Both officers were also members of the West Neighborhood Resource Team and made positive contributions to that group.



Both Brian and Colleen frequently worked directly together, so you most likely met them at the same time. I know that many of you were very disappointed to hear that they will be leaving us and heading to the South District in 2012. Both Brian and Colleen will be cross training two new members of the West CPT in the coming days—Officer Kim Meyer, who will be taking Brian's position in the Balsam/Russett Neighborhood and Officer Steve Magyera, who will be taking on a new liaison role in the Westhaven Trails Neighborhood. Look for a future newsletter article from Officer Kim Meyer.



Investigations

Lieutenant Linda Kosovac

WEST DISTRICT EXPERIENCING CUT SCREEN CRIMES

A Westside couple called 911 earlier this week after hearing a sawing or cutting noise coming from their bathroom window. It was around 10:00 p.m., they were in bed, and their house was dark. It was discovered that a would-be burglar had leaned the property owner's ladder against the house and had sliced the window screen. The burglar was scared off.

The above case is not an isolated one. The West District is currently experiencing many cut-screen burglaries, or attempted burglaries. In several cases, the suspect(s) have cut the screens in order to check for windows that are unlocked. Once an unlocked window is found, the suspect(s) enter the residence without breaking a window or breaching a door. Residents are urged to make sure all windows are locked and secure.

Below are some tips to re-freshen your burglary prevention knowledge:

1. **Lock your doors** - Deadbolts locks are best, but whatever type you have - use them, even when you are at home.

In many of our burglaries, there is no forced entry. Someone just didn't lock the door.

2. **Keep garage doors closed and locked** - Once again, burglars are often opportunistic, and an unsecured attached garage can give criminals easy access into homes. Also, lock your vehicles, even if they are inside the garage. Don't leave valuables, like GPS units, laptops etc. in plain view. Bring them inside, or put them in the trunk.

3. **Secure sliding doors and all windows** - Cut a broom's handle to the length of the bottom track so that the window or door will not slide open when forced.

4. **Vertical sliding windows** - Beyond locks, secondary blocking devices (through-the-frame pins) can keep windows from being opened all the way.

5. **Mark your property** - Mark valuables with an engraver. Using your driver's license number works well. Marking property serves as a deterrent to would-be burglars and it helps police in identifying and returning stolen property. Make a property identification list, or take pictures of your valuables, their identification numbers, and model numbers with a digital camera. Burn the photos onto a flash drive and give it to a trusted friend or relative. Put highly visible warning stickers on doors and windows.

6. **You may want to consider the purchase of a burglar alarm** - A home alarm system can be a very effective burglary deterrent and fit into many people's needs. Remember to test your system monthly. Burglars also often shy away from big barking dogs.

7. **Leave a light on** - When leaving on trips use light timers or leave a light on in the bathroom. In the bedroom, attach a lamp and radio to a 24-hour electric timer set to go on at dusk and off at your bedtime. Close bedroom drapes or blinds.

8. **Use proper exterior lighting** - Motion activated lights work well.

9. **Work together with your neighbors** - When you are going to be away, tell trusted neighbors and ask them to watch your property. Have neighbors maintain your yard and sidewalks. Have someone pick up newspapers and mail, or have it held. Tell neighbors to call police if they notice anything suspicious.

10. **Don't advertise your assets** - Hide laptop computers and other small electronic items when you are not using them. They are frequently the targets of burglars.

11. **Don't post your vacation plans on Facebook or other social media sites.**

Field Operations

Lieutenant Trevor Knight

Even though holiday shopping is drawing to an end, many of you may now be planning future trips for holiday returns. There are still individuals out there that see this as an opportunity to be a Grinch. Make sure that your valuables and other purchases are not visible in your vehicle when parked in the lots. Place items in the trunk of your car. Also be aware of your surroundings as you travel to and from stores.

Detective Eric Vosburg advised that there has been an increase in stolen license plates reports. Commonly only one license plate is stolen. Often times the individuals who commit this type of theft would use the license plate on a vehicle to commit other crimes like gas drive offs.

On a personal note, this is my last newsletter as I will be moving to a new assignment in January. Lieutenant Jane Stoklasa will be assigned here next year as the Field Lieutenant. It has been a pleasure to be part of the West Police District staff that provides service to the community on Madison's Westside.

Hammersley

Officer Brad Ware

As the winter months approach, amidst some undesired acts, there were several events in the last few months to be thankful for. In mid November, as many of you know, the neighborhoods around Falk Elementary were tagged with graffiti. All of the graffiti occurred overnight and did not appear to target one specific person or household. In response to these acts, several residents voiced their concerns and held a vigil on November 22nd. This event included a peace walk through the neighborhood that ended at Falk Elementary. The event was a success and demonstrated the organization that is continuing to develop in this neighborhood.

Also in November, the Hammersley Road traffic safety team, partnered with area residents and children in the neighborhoods around Falk Elementary to complete a photo-mapping project. This allowed kids to take pictures with GPS-equipped cameras to identify area of concerns for them related to traffic safety. The results of this project were presented at this area's first community dinner on December 6th. This dinner was organized both with the traffic safety team and the Hammersley Leaders group and encouraged participants to identify their traffic concerns, in addition to the areas identified by the kids. The dinner was a success in both attendance and progress toward addressing traffic safety

concerns. The traffic safety team will continue to work with the information collected and present the identified concerns to City of Madison Traffic Engineering in 2012.

The overall goal of the aforementioned groups is community empowerment. As a neighborhood officer, I would like to see more participation in these groups by residents of these target areas, not just the surrounding areas. I encourage you to get involved if interested and please feel free to contact me about these working groups if interested.

Russett Road

Officer Brian Vandervest

Over the past few months I have seen more than a few reports of prowlers in the Meadowood area. On occasion suspects are knocking or even attempting to kick in doors in the middle of the night. The residents at households where this has happened have promptly called the police which greatly aids our investigation efforts. With the Holiday season upon us burglaries are always a concern and this year appears no different. As a reminder please make sure all doors and windows are secured, especially at night. Also, check and maintain exterior lighting and never leave any valuables visible in a vehicle, even if it is parked in a locked garage. Many people travel over the Holidays so keep an eye on your neighbors' property. Be aware of your surroundings and, in particular, watch for people walking through back yards, going door to door late at night, and cars idling on the roadway for an extended period of time.

This fall has also seen an increase in juvenile fights and disturbances. Gang affiliations appear to be a significant factor in many of these incidents and they have involved youth of both genders. Patrol Officers, CPT, Gang Officers, and the High School Education Resource Officers have been working to identify the key players and have utilized a number of strategies from intervention with parents to arrests. We are often alerted to these disturbances by members of the public. Fights erupt near bus stops, transfer points, and other areas where juveniles congregate. Sometimes the incident turns out to be nothing more than "play fighting" but it is very difficult to tell so please contact us if you see groups of juveniles pushing, punching, hitting or otherwise acting in an extremely aggressive manner.

Finally, I will be joining the South Community Policing Team in February so this will be my last newsletter update. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the Balsam/Russett Liaison Officer and I hope that I, along with Officer Colleen Michelson, have made a positive impact. The community is filled with dedicated stakeholders that are working exceptionally hard to make things better for residents, children, visitors, and business owners. Officer Michelson and I strove to make connections with all

Russett Cont'd...

members of the community and provide assistance, where needed, with the efforts to improve the neighborhood. Although I look forward to a new opportunity in the South District I will certainly miss being part of the Meadowood initiatives and community events. Best of luck in the new year!



Wexford Ridge

Officer Kathy Peterson

The holiday season is upon us, and the kids are enjoying a break from school. The Wexford Ridge neighborhood has been relatively quiet, with the majority of calls being domestic disturbances, thefts, noise complaints and calls to check on people and property. The majority of drug complaints were for the odor of marijuana smoke.

The annual toy drive sponsored by 96.3 Star Country, Anchor Bank, Farm & Fleet and Two Men and a Truck was again a success this year. Area law enforcement agencies partnered in the toy drive, and delivered the toys around Dane County to families in need. Anchor Bank held a month-long toy drive during November, collecting toys and monetary donations. 96.3 Star Country then aired live broadcasts at the two area Farm & Fleet stores at the beginning of December, and shoppers donated toys while shopping at the stores. Two Men and a Truck loaded all the toys and stored them at their warehouse so that officers could come after the radio-thon and collect what they needed for their communities and neighborhoods. All of the Madison Police Department neighborhood officers participated in some way, either by coming out during the radio-thon or by distributing some of the collected toys within the neighborhood they work in.

I want to thank all of the Joining Forces for Families workers around Madison and Dane County and the various community centers who are assisting with distributing the toys to families in need. The Lussier Community Center (55 S. Gammon Rd.) received many of the toys I was able to collect during the toy drive, which were then matched with the children and youth who reside at Wexford Ridge.

I also want to thank the Community of Hope Church (7118 Old Sauk Rd.) and Park Bank for making generous donations so that we could provide toys and gifts for all the older youth and teens in the Wexford Ridge neighborhood and the surrounding community. Unfortunately, this is an age group that is often forgotten during the toy drives, and it was wonderful to be able to provide them with gifts this season.

With all the shopping that happens this time of year, I think it's important to remind everyone to keep your valuables safe when you're out at the malls and stores. Always remember to lock your car doors! Thieves can enter your car, steal your

things and be gone in less than 20 seconds. I would also encourage you to remove anything of value from your car before you set out on your shopping trip to discourage anyone from wanting to enter your car in the first place.

When walking to your car with bags, it's a good idea to have your car keys out and in hand. Be aware of your surroundings and the people walking near you when you reach your car, as we have had several reports already this season of subjects targeting people who are busy carrying or loading items and stealing a purse or bag when the person is distracted. A theft of your wallet or purchased gifts could negatively affect your holiday cheer, so please take a few extra precautions this season!





West CPT

Sergeant Lori Chalecki

In October a resident called the West Community Policing Team to report a suspicious vehicle in their neighborhood. According to the resident, not only was the vehicle a little "pricey" for the neighborhood income level but the occupants would park the vehicle and walk out of the neighborhood or be picked up by another vehicle to leave the neighborhood. The suspicious vehicle would also sit for a number of days before anyone would return and drive it out of the neighborhood.

W-CPT tried a number of different investigative tools in an effort to determine the direction of our suspicious vehicle investigation, to no avail. A casual conversation with an officer from the Crime Prevention and Gang Unit brought about the identity of the operator of the suspicious vehicle. This information took our investigation in a entirely new direction. The subject had felony warrants and was alleged to be a high level heroin distributor in Dane County.

Once we obtained this person's identity, we were also able to determine their address. We then began to work with US Marshal's and Federal Probation and Parole to pursue our case.

On November 2, 2011, US Marshal's made contact at the wanted subject's residence on Manitowoc Pkwy. With subjects known to be inside, the US Marshal's rammed the door when they observed the subjects inside fleeing downstairs. W-CPT, Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force, and Federal Probation and Parole responded in to assist at the Marshal's request.

Three subjects were located inside. W-CPT observed numerous items in plain view that are used in the manufacture and distribution of illegal drugs. W-CPT wrote and applied for a search warrant which was granted. At the end of the search warrant we seized heroin, methamphetamine, and a gun. Charges on two subjects from the residence are pending.

New Legal Info

Act 108 took effect December 20, 2011 and restricts municipalities from placing certain limitations on landlords. Below is a summary of this new act.

2(a) No city, village, or county may enact an ordinance that places any of the following limitations on a residential landlord:

1. Prohibits a landlord from, or places limitations on a landlord with respect to, obtaining and using or attempting to obtain and use any of the following information with respect to a tenant or prospective tenant:
 - Monthly household income.
 - Occupation.
 - Rental history
 - Credit information

- Court records, including arrest and conviction records, to which there is public access.
 - Social security number or other proof of identity.
2. Limits how far back in time a prospective tenant's credit information, conviction record, or previous housing may be taken into account by a landlord.
 3. Prohibits a landlord from, or places limitations on a landlord with respect to, entering into a rental agreement for a premises with a prospective tenant during the tenancy of the current tenant of the premises.
 4. Prohibits a landlord from, or places limitations on a landlord with respect to, showing a premises to a prospective tenant during the tenancy of the current tenant of the premises.

(b) No city, village, town, or county may enact an ordinance that places requirements on a residential landlord with respect to security deposits or earnest money or pre-tenancy or post tenancy inspections that are additional to the requirements under administrative rules related to residential rental prac-



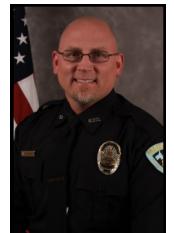
Memorial High School

Officer Shannon Blackamore

Greetings, this is one of my final newsletters as the Educational Resource Officer for Memorial High School. As my 5 year tenure in this position comes to an end, I wanted to pass along some great news and information to you as it relates to Memorial High School. I recently participated in interviews with the West Police District Command staff and Memorial High School administration to select the next officer to fill this position.

As you may know, the Educational Resource Officer position is a 4-year assignment with the option of the Chief to extend the term an additional year. Since my extension is coming to an end, it was important to fill the position with someone that had a sense of passion toward working with juveniles and continuing the tradition of keeping Memorial a safe and secure learning environment. There were outstanding candidates that applied and a final decision was made in the hiring of the next officer.

Police Officer Greg Hanson will be taking over for me here at Memorial on February 5, 2012 and I know that he will do an excellent job and work great with the Memorial High School students and staff. I look forward to his article in the next few months at which point he will introduce himself to you personally.



I hope to provide an overview of the past few years and the programs that we have implemented during the

Memorial Cont'd...

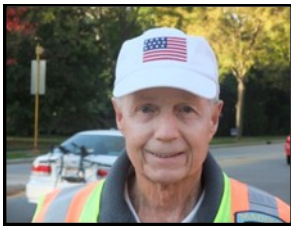
past few years next month. I have really enjoyed working with the students and staff of Memorial High School, and now look forward to joining the rest of my colleagues in the North District. I also want to thank you all for the support and consideration you have shown to Memorial High School's students and staff over the years.

School Crossing Guards

The Madison Police Department Adult School Crossing Guard program continues to play an important role in meeting the Department's primary goal of providing public safety and education. This program has a direct impact on the safety of school-aged children walking to and from school.

The second week of January has historically been declared "Adult School Crossing Guard Recognition Week" by the State of Wisconsin and partnering agencies; a wonderful time to say thank you to the women and men who devote a couple hours daily to keep our children safe. Talking with any one of them, you will see that they love working with children and are extremely dedicated to their work. Despite the weather we experience in Wisconsin, on any morning and afternoon during the school year, you will still find your neighborhood crossing guard enthusiastically waiting to cross your children, usually with a big smile and a wave for the motorists as well.

Here is an opportunity to meet the friendly faces of the crossing guards in your district:



Jim—Nakoma Road/Seminole Hwy



Diane—3800 Nakoma Road



Don—Hammersley/Theresa



John—Whitney Way/Russett Rd



Mary—Whitney Way/Russett Rd



Audrey—Gilbert Rd/Flad Ave

How can you recognize and show appreciation for your neighborhood crossing guard? Slow down; approach cautiously as children may be at or near the crossing. If a crossing guard raises their stop sign to stop traffic, stop at least 10 feet back from the guard and **remain stopped until the children AND the crossing guard have reached the curb.** Everyone can do their part by slowing down in school zones, being alert, putting cell phones away while driving and simply by sharing a friendly wave and a smile. If you have an opportunity during the week of January 9-13, 2012, please STOP and show your appreciation for the tremendous job the crossing guards do!

