

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

The Madison Police Department (MPD) is committed to providing citizens access to information, and utilizes many avenues to facilitate the flow of information to citizens. MPD is committed to being as transparent as possible, and will routinely review policy and procedures, which relate to the release of information, to ensure best practices are being utilized.

CrimeReports.com is one tool that the MPD uses to share information by displaying Calls for Services (CFS) geographically.

In 2008, MPD handled over 190,000 calls for service. Not all crimes may be reflected in CrimeReports.com.

It is important to note that CFS data can change over time as this data goes into the MPD records system and cases are reviewed and potentially assigned for follow up. The change occurs when a call for service is updated to reflect the accurate title of the incident, which occurred. For example, a caller may report a theft when actually the incident was a burglary.

I hope everybody is having a fun and safe summer.

Patrol Operations

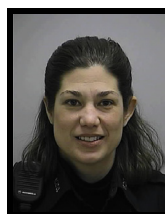


Lieutenant John Patterson

This month I would like to give a send off to Neighborhood Officer Mike Hanson and introduce our new Hammersley Road Neighborhood Officer – Justine Harris. Justine was selected to replace Officer Mike Hanson, who was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Mike has done a tremendous job during his time as a Neighborhood Officer and I am sure he will be missed by many of you. Mike truly helped build more of a sense of community and brought people together through his leadership in activities like neighborhood safety walks, the neighborhood block party and the drop-in basketball program for juveniles. Fortunately when he starts his new assignment at the beginning of September, he will still be assigned to the West District. Mike will be supervising a very talented group of patrol officers on the Night Shift for the remainder of 2009.

Justine Harris has been with MPD since 2005 and brings with her solid experience and knowledge of community building and organization and youth programming. Justine was previously employed with United Way as an Assistant Director, Briarpatch as a Youth Programs Specialist, Partners in Prevention as a Youth Involvement Specialist, and as an English teacher at a middle school in Missouri.



Justine has worked in the West District since she was hired in 2005, is currently our Mental Health Liaison and has been working in the Hammersley Neighborhood and Park Ridge Neighborhood in patrol on the afternoon shift in 2009. Justine was also the liaison to the Orchard Ridge Neighborhood. She hopes to make a smooth transition into her new role. Please stop and introduce yourself when you see her out walking in the coming days.

July was rather busy in the West District. During July, patrol officers responded to **4,218** calls for service. That is an average of **136** per day. These incidents included:

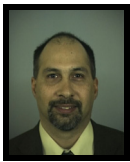
- 11 Robberies
- 15 Weapons Offenses
- 46 Burglaries

Patrol Operations Continued..

34	Batteries
15	Stolen Autos
212	Motor Vehicle Crashes
109	Retail Thefts
164	Disturbances

In June, West District Officers issued a total of **460** traffic citations, consisting of **275** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **185** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **125** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of over **9** citations per officer.

Investigations



Lieutenant Dan Olivas

The Amcore Bank at 4702 Verona Rd was robbed on July 24th, 2009. All suspects in this case were armed and the robbery would be classified as a "take-over" robbery in that the suspects aggressively brandished firearms and took control of the people in the bank to accomplish the crime. Madison Police Detectives, Officers, and staff worked very closely with the Madison Office of the FBI and all 4 suspects (Arlandis Issac, Marty Taylor, Wayner Black, and Larry Price) in the armed robbery were arrested within one week.

Our Detectives work extremely hard to create and maintain strong working relationships with all area law enforcement agencies, and these positive relationships continue to pay large dividends for the Madison community.

Field



Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

The Westside of Madison has again been experiencing an increase in the number of burglaries to residences over the past several months. This is typical of a pattern that we've been seeing for several years- as the weather warms and more people are out and about, more windows, doors and garages are being left open. This increases the number of opportunities for burglars, and correspondingly, burglaries increase.

On the positive side, the rate of residential burglaries, compared to last year at this time, appears to be down approximately 50%. While this is certainly good news in general, it is small comfort to those whose homes have been targeted. Here are a few suggestions to help you keep your home secure and your property safe.

The most commonly targeted areas for entry to your home are unlocked or open doors, windows, and garage doors. A screen over an otherwise open door or window serves as only a minor barrier to a motivated burglar. It is much safer to keep your doors, windows and garage closed and locked. If you find the thought of having your home closed up in the summertime objectionable, it might be wise to install window stops in your window frames, which prevent windows from being fully opened. This allows air into your home, while also making intrusion more difficult. Regardless, if no one is going to be home, I would recommend closing and locking all doors and windows.

Another measure homeowners can take to help prevent a possible burglary is to remove temptation. Do not leave your valuables out and in sight of someone who may be stopping at or passing by your home. Keep your wallets, purses, jewelry and small electronic devices off of counters and tables and out of plain sight. A burglar is unlikely to risk breaking into your home if they aren't aware of what is inside. This is also a good rule of thumb with regard to your automobile.

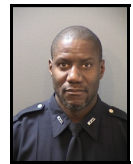
These are fairly simple and painless measures that you can take to increase the security of your home and property. I hope you are all enjoying a safe and pleasant summer.

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Carren Corcoran



Officer Samuel Ward

The Revival Ridge apartments on Allied Drive are now open and have residents moving in and living there. There are approximately five families residing at 4711 Jenewein and two families living at 2313 Allied Drive. These two buildings have multiple apartments (approx. 18) in them and an underground parking garage. Jennifer Carter is the on-site manager who will also reside on the property. Jennifer has been very active with working with the Allied neighborhood officers and shows genuine concern with wanting to make the community safer.

Allied continued...

There was a dedication ceremony for the Revival Ridge Apartments on Thursday August 6, 2009 and this officially marked the opening of the new apartment buildings. The Revival Ridge Apartments' name is one of inspiration, meant to add to the actions / efforts of the community and police to improve the quality of life for those living on Allied Drive.



There are monthly safety walks being conducted by the Allied / Dunn Marsh Neighborhood Association. NPOs Corcoran and Ward were unable to attend the walk on July 31st due to other obligations, but PO Thomson stepped up in their place. The walk was productive, as more adults have joined in and with more participation as time progresses the quality of life on Allied Drive will continue to improve.



Hammersley

Officer Mike Hanson

During the month of August I will be leaving my neighborhood position as I have been promoted to Sergeant. My supervisors are committed to making a smooth transition with the new neighborhood police officer, Justine Harris, who will be taking my place. Justine is an excellent officer who has the right attitude toward community policing. During August she will be cross training with me and will be at various meetings. You may recognize Justine as she has been working in the West District for several years and particularly covering my neighborhood as a beat officer.

I am leaving this position while I still feel positive about the neighborhood and the progress that has been made. Although it is still a fragile neighborhood it has been rewarding to see residents begin to take ownership, come together as a community and volunteer for various events we accomplished. Specifically there are two things that I will take out of this position. First are the friends I made with both the residents and the stakeholders in and around the neighborhood. Second would be the amount of people that have come together to either help solve crime or become community activists. Since the series of shootings and homicide I have met weekly with informal and formal leaders in the African-American community who are "tired of being tired" with violent issues surrounding the neighborhoods and young people. Unlike other meetings I attend, these meetings are productive and focus on the real issues at hand.

There is still a lot of work to be done and help needed in the community. Thank you for your help, patience and support.

Wexford



Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

Connections 2009 is poised to be the best yet! August 27th, 2009 is the date and a group of dedicated volunteers and sponsors eagerly await the start. This will be the fourth year, and every year it is bigger and better. The premise of this event is to build positive connections with neighborhood children, their parents, and the community at large.

This year's event will be primarily focused on Fire safety. There was a significant fire in Wexford in June. This fire completely destroyed 2 apartments and 6 others were significantly damaged. In the midst of this tragedy, a hero emerged. A man who lives in the neighborhood heard the cries for help and responded. There were 4 people trapped on a second floor balcony. Stan Robinson responded to assist. There was no way for these people to exit as the hallways were completely filled with toxic smoke. The adult in the second floor apartment dropped his 3 children from the balcony into Robinson arms. This event will also be recognizing Robinson for his heroic act.

There are several activities planned as well. PO Tammi Droessler from the Fischer/Baird Neighborhood plans to have a table for children to make their very own hula-hoops. Also in the mix will be a big jumping castle, 3on3 basketball, free throw contest, double dutch jump rope contest, and a sidewalk chalk-drawing contest. MPD K-9, MPD Mounted, and The Madison Fire Department will also visit us. Our very own Daniel Steinbring from the Lussier Community Education Center has agreed to offer music for a portion of the event.

I would like to recognize some of the sponsors that have offered generous assistance for the event. Flad Development & Investment Corp., Cub Foods, McDonalds, Rocky Rococo, Meridian inc., John Deere Credit, a grant from Project Safe Neighborhood, the Madison Police Department and all the volunteers both within the neighborhood and people in neighboring neighborhoods. Without the generous support of all the above, this event would not be possible.

'We must not in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.'

-Marian Wright Edelman

Russett Road

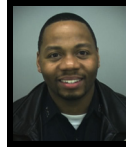


Officer John Amos

Calls for service are down for the Balsam/Russett area. School is coming so an upsurge in the juvenile population may create an increase in calls toward the end of the August. I'm meeting with the Toki principal at the beginning of August to see if MPD can assist in any way with security issues.

A search warrant was executed recently at 5817 Balsam Rd for drugs and a drug abatement letter was sent to the landlord. I am following up with landlord to come up with a solution for this property. The West Community Policing Team and patrol units have been doing some high visibility patrols on Balsam/Russett and wrote 4 citations on Saturday September 1st for nuisance issues on Balsam in only a few hours time.

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

Well, the summer will be winding down soon and the start of school is quickly approaching. Officer Dan Murphy (ERO – West High School), and I have had the opportunity to contact a rather large number of students from our schools. The parents have been surprisingly more receptive than we anticipated.

We've had the opportunity to visit with Judge Koval in the Municipal Court, and bring with us a juvenile and his father. It was a great opportunity to explain to the juvenile that citations cannot simply be ignored, or the result is a trip to the Judge's chambers with your parent accompanying you.

Officer Murphy and I also managed to give the first of additional JRC tours to a student that has been very active with inappropriate behavior. We showed him the road that his continued actions will take him down. I hope that this experience has really provided him the chance to see the "road" before he continues his journey.

Ultimately, the summer has been quite busy, and as we've worked with the members of the Gang Unit and the Community Policing Team. In doing so we've still managed to have constant contact with the students from both West and Memorial High School.

Until the next article, have a safe and enjoyable summer.