

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

I hope everybody had a great Holiday Season and your backs are not to sore from all the shoveling. The West Police District has been busy planning for 2009 and next month we will identify the Community Policing Team (CPT) officer that will be the Neighborhood Watch Information Coordinator. This officer will be in charge of the **West Police District Neighborhood Watch Information Network**, which has the following email address: **wpdnwin@cityofmadison.com**. This email address will be used by West Neighborhood Watch Groups to share information with each other and with the West Police District. The information that will be shared will be on general crimes, crime patterns, and other safety issues. This address is **not** to be used to report individual crime incidents, but to be used by neighborhood watch coordinators to share what they are seeing and/or hearing in their neighborhoods. The West District will use this system to share information that we feel is important for neighborhoods to know and to share safety information that we hope the neighborhood watch coordinator will pass onto the rest of the neighborhood.

The West District would like to have two contact persons from each neighborhood watch program. Please send me the emails of the individuals to the above email address, so we can start building the network.

Last month I mentioned that the West District would have a K-9 assigned to the West CPT. The dog's name is "Martie" and Martie and CPT Officer Rose Douglas are currently training with each other in a warm southern state (they are the lucky ones!). You will start to see them in the latter part of February.



Martie

Patrol Operations



Lieutenant John Patterson

I hope you all enjoyed the recent holiday season. Calls for service increased during the month of December. During December, officers in the West District responded to **3,596** calls for service. This is an average of just over **116** per day. These incidents included:

2	Sexual Assaults
9	Robberies
5	Weapons Offenses
31	Burglaries
14	Batteries
16	Stolen Autos
520	Motor Vehicle Crashes
85	Retail Thefts
66	Disturbances

A few of the recent and noteworthy incidents:

Robbery, 4902 Verona Road, 12/30/2008 at 8:38 pm, officers responded to an armed robbery at the Speedway Gas Station. The clerk provided the description of the suspect who did display a handgun as a male white with a bandage over his right ear. An MPD officer remembered an earlier call with a male fitting that description and responded to the suspect's address. During the investigation, Francis Cook was found, arrested and charged with attempted armed robbery.

Attempted Suicide, West Beltline Hwy at Gammon Road, 12/29/2008 at 1:01 am, officers were dispatched to the 2500 block of Hwy 12 (west bound lanes) reference a male subject dangling from the overpass above Gammon Road. This call was dispatched at approximately 1:01AM, and there were numerous concerned citizens that contacted the 911 Center to report this alarming event. Police Officers immediately closed down portions of Gammon Road, and attempted to secure a safe area on Hwy 12 (Beltline Hwy) to start communicating with the male. As police attempted dialogue with the subject who was 40-50 feet above Gammon Road. Two officers managed to get close enough to the subject to quickly grasp him as he was partially off the side of the overpass.

Operations Continued...

The distraught male subject fought with officers, but was taken into custody with no injury.

Arrested Person, 6700 blk of Schroeder Road,
12/25/2008 at 1:46pm, Madison Police Officers responded to the 6700 Block of Schroeder Road reference a disturbance. Upon arrival Officers were shown fresh damage to an apartment, which was done by a male suspect. Officers confiscated a large metal pipe that the suspect used to create the damage. Officers immediately moved to a bedroom where the suspect was and gave verbal commands for him to come out of the room. There was no response from the room after several attempts, and the suspect suddenly came out with a 7-inch knife in his hand. Officers were extremely close to using lethal force, but were able to use a Taser to bring the suspect under control. After a lengthy struggle with officers, the suspect was arrested. No injuries were sustained during this incident.

There has been a marked increase in traffic crashes during the past month. Please remind one another to drive cautiously during snowy and icy conditions. It is better to be a little late to wherever you are traveling than to get into a crash! In November, West District Officers issued a total of **356** traffic citations, consisting of **236** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **120** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **91** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of just over **7** citations per officer.

Investigations



Lieutenant Dan Olivas

The West District Detective Bureau will see some change in staff for 2009. While we are sad to see many of our long-time teammates go, it is exciting to see the group of very talented investigators coming into the district.

We are saying goodbye to:

Detective Tom Colby, Financial Crimes (retiring)
Detective Sara Petzold, Financial Crimes (new assignment)
Detective Melanie Palmer, General assignment (new assignment)
Detective Tom Woodmansee, Persons Crimes (promoted)
Detective Clare McCoy, Sensitive Crimes (new assignment)
Detective Julie Johnson, Sensitive Crimes (new assignment)

Investigations Continued...

The District would like to express it's thanks to this outgoing group of Detectives. They have worked very hard to keep the west side a safe place and to help bring a measure of justice to victims of crime. To a one, they are highly professional investigators committed to finding the truth(as are all the Detectives). They go with our gratitude and best wishes.

New Detectives in the District for 2009 are:

Detective Matt Misener, Persons Crimes
Detective Darrell Monroe, Persons Crimes
Detective Shari Nitzsche, Juvenile/School
Detective Greg Kamoske, Persons Crimes
Detective Dan Nale, Sensitive Crimes
Detective Sarah Olson, Crime Pattern Response

We welcome the new Detectives to the district. As I mentioned earlier, this is an extremely talented group of individuals and I am looking forward to working with them.

Other West District Detectives for 2009 (remaining in district):

Detective Dave Parrell, Sensitive Crimes
Detective Jeff Twing, General Assignment
Detective Deb Plantz, Financial Crimes
Detective Michelle Riesterer, Sensitive Crimes
Detective Joel Peterson, General Assignment
Detective Denise Armstrong, Financial Crimes
Detective Kristine Acker, Sensitive Crimes
Detective Paige Valenta, Persons Crimes

Field



Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

The Internet has opened up the world to those who own or have access to a computer. Unfortunately, it can also open up your home to people looking to take advantage. As disturbing as this is, it is even more so when children are targeted. Here are some tips to help keep your children safe from predators while using the Internet.

First, explain to your children that once they are on the Internet, they are not alone. Other people using the Internet can find out who they are, and can even tap into information in your computer. Set aside time to explore the Internet together, visiting areas that have special sites for children.

There are several tools available to screen material found on the Internet, but the best tool is your child's own mind.

Field Continued...

Talk with your children about exploitation, pornography, violence, hate literature, and other issues that concern you, so they know how to respond when they see this material. Tell your children to let you know immediately if they find something threatening or disturbing on the internet.

Another way to screen Internet material is to subscribe to an online service that offers parental control features. These features can block material or contact that is not appropriate for children, prevent access to chat rooms, news and discussion groups, or can block access to the Internet entirely. Another option is to purchase blocking software on your own and design your own safety system.

Monitor your child when they are online, and the amount of time they spend online. If your child is on the computer and becomes uneasy or defensive when you walk into the room, or when you are present in the room, this could be a sign that they are visiting a forbidden site.

One of the most important things you can do to prevent your child from being victimized is to talk to them. Tell them never to give out their name, address, phone number, passwords, school name, or any personal information. Tell them never to agree to meet face to face with someone they have met online, or to send a picture of themselves to anyone without your permission. Get to know your children's friends and their parents. Ask the parents what rules they have established for their children's use of the Internet, and if they monitor their children online.

Lastly, if you should discover that your child has received threatening or solicitous emails, or pornographic material, save the offensive material and contact the Internet service provider and the Madison Police Department.

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Carren Corcoran



Officer John Messer

Welcome 2009. The past year has been very interesting on Allied Drive. Some buildings have come down while others have filled with new tenants. I have attached a summary of calls for service for the entire year. I am

Allied Continued...

proud to see weapons offenses have, over the past 2 years, dropped -76 %. Clearly the neighborhood is moving in the right direction, in no small part to the hard work of the Madison Police Department.

2008 --- Total 1,800

2007 --- Total 2,325

2006 --- Total 3,826

Percent Change - 1 year = -22%

Percent Change - 2 year = -52%

Specific call type yearly comparison:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Weapons Offense	63	36	15
Battery	75	41	39
Drug Incident	193	118	40
Disturbance	326	203	134
Domestic	204	171	98
Suspicious Person	74	39	26
Check Person	244	184	138
Traffic Incident	37	11	97
Noise Complaint	127	69	60
Parking Private	180	93	50
Information	306	142	83
Adult Arrest	290	280	114

Hammersley



Officer Mike Hanson

The neighborhood has been very quiet lately (as I am knocking on wood). One event that was a huge success was the annual Z104 Toy Drive. As in years past, hundreds of toys were donated to local law enforcement agencies to distribute to families in need during the holidays. It was great to see such generosity from those who donated. It was also fun having parents come to select toys for their children, knowing that they were very appreciative.

I am excited about 2009 as I am starting to plan ahead for the spring/summer months with various goals. On Betty's Lane, Theresa Terrace I will directly partake in the trash clean up. Specifically I will work on a program with

Hammersley Continued...

the tenants that will "motivate" them to clean up the trash littered all over their property. I will also be requesting more trash barrels from the city on those two streets. Again, I would like to continue with a 4th of July Parade and neighborhood pot-luck picnics for then neighborhood. I will also be working with W-CPT's in the spring to conduct traffic enforcement focused on the juveniles who obstruct traffic by walking down the middle of the road. If we are out early enough and write tickets based on zero-tolerance, then maybe we will make some progress in this annoyance.

Wexford



Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

Toy Give Away 2008 was a big success!! This year, as in past years, I collaborated with the *Gialamas Company* to purchase toys for the children of Wexford Ridge. The employees of the *Gialamas Company* purchased, packaged, and delivered the toys that I was able to distribute on December 18th. With their generosity, we were able to give over 200 toys to neighborhood children. This is the 3rd year in our partnership with this event and I am grateful for their continued support. *Meridian Inc.* donated the space I used to distribute the toys. The space used this year is the former space used by the Wexford Neighborhood Center. This offered enough room for parents and kids to be inside while they waited their turn. While the families waited, they were treated to pizza donated by *Rosati's Pizza*. This event would not happen without the generosity of the *Gialamas Company*, *Meridian Inc.* and the new participant, *Rosati's Pizza*. Businesses such as these are taking a stake in our vulnerable neighborhoods, which proves to be extremely important and valuable.

Earlier in December, while visiting a senior resident on a cold afternoon, I noted that the resident had come to the door in socks. I hatched an idea of trying to provide slippers to as many senior residents as I could. I talked with a local faith community, *Madison Christian Community*, about my idea. The idea was received with great enthusiasm. On December 16th and 17th, I was able to distribute over 35 pairs of slippers to the seniors of Wexford Ridge. Captain Lengfeld also recommended that I also hand out blankets to these residents. The slippers were both store bought and hand made and *Lands End* donated the blankets. The residents were delighted and extremely grateful

Wexford Continued...

for the extra warmth during the cold spells that Madison was experiencing. This is another example of the community coming together to help in our vulnerable neighborhoods. *Madison Christian Community* also works with the Wexford Ridge children on summer gardening projects.

The above collective projects, I believe, go to the wider vision of a collective community taking care of each other. In times like these, this is exciting.

There were some incidents that occurred in Wexford that continue to affect the quality of life. There were a total of 51 calls for service in the month of December for the Wexford Ridge apartments. Top billers include disturbances, noise complaints, 911 disconnects, and domestics. There were a few significant calls that I will briefly highlight.

- On December 23rd, there was a home invasion on Flower Lane that is currently under investigation. This was a completely isolated incident and there is no threat to the community.
- On December 14th, there was an armed robbery in a Gammon Rd. Apartment. There is a known suspect that is currently at large.
- On December 6th, there was a large disturbance in a Flower Lane apartment involving multiple people. The main suspect ran from Police and is currently at large.

Russett



Officer John Amos

Calls for service have declined in the Balsam/Russett area as the cold has set in. The MSCR has agreed to manage the community center in the Meadowood shopping center if a lease gets signed. The space being looked at is adjacent to the Meadowridge library in the mall and will have to be remodeled before opening. As soon as I have information on programming and hours I'll put it out.

West Community Policing Team and myself set up surveillance on two separate evenings on Russett Rd to look for suspected drug activity. The good news to report is no short-term drug activity or prostitution was observed. I will again be the neighborhood liaison officer next year.

Community Policing Team

Sergeant Linda Kosovac



As law enforcement officers, we are easily identified by the uniforms we wear. We wear these uniforms to perform our daily duties, but at the end of the day we are like everyone else in our commu-

nity. We laugh, play and participate in the same activities as the citizens that we serve. For my final CPT newsletter, I wanted to share with you some personal things I have learned about each of our team members.

DID YOU KNOW:

That Dao Xiong came to the U.S. with his family as a Hmong refugee from Laos. His father had been a high ranking military official fighting for our country. Dao spoke no English as a child, yet eventually learned our language and culture and graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree. He now has served at the Madison Police Department for 10 years. He remains active in the Hmong community.

DID YOU KNOW: That Chris Kobinsky is an avid cyclist and runner. He competes in triathlons and in 2004, successfully completed his first Ironman competition.

DID YOU KNOW: That Josh Acker is married to a Madison Police Detective. His father is a retired Madison Fire Department Firefighter. Josh likes to fish, and can be found on our area lakes throughout the year when he is not at work.

DID YOU KNOW: That John Amos was a U.S. Marine (machine gunner) and started working for the City of Madison as a parking monitor. He enjoys British humor and keeps our team laughing throughout most of the day. I don't understand this, but he also claims to like Japanese cinema through the years of 1945-63.

DID YOU KNOW: That Eric Vosburg was employed by the University of Wisconsin Hospital as a Nuclear Medical Technologist prior to coming to our department. He enjoys woodworking in his spare time and claims some say "he is the best". (Chuckle)

DID YOU KNOW: That Dave Wixom was previously employed as a Town of Madison Police Officer. He played high school and college football as a quarterback, but unlike Vosburg, does not claim to have been the best. Dave also has volunteered at West High School as a football coach.

Community Policing Team Continued...

DID YOU KNOW: That Linda Kosovac lives on a small farm and raises alpacas in her spare time. She likes participating in sprint triathlons, but unlike Kobinsky, she is neither fast nor good.

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

The month of December was cut short by the long awaited Winter Break. Students were released from school on December 19th due to the snow day and return on January 5th.

The Winter Break is a time for the students to recharge their batteries and spend time with family and friends during the holidays. I hope that everyone has a safe and productive 2009 as well.

The last month of 2009 was seemingly quiet, and lots of time was spent hanging with students during passing time and wishing them Happy Holidays.

There were a small amount of issues that needed to be addressed in regard to truancy, but those students learned an important lesson about being in class during the school year.

I had an opportunity to walk West Town Mall during the school day as well, and noticed three students shopping. Now, I know how important it is for us to show our loved ones appreciation with gifts, but it's probably not a good idea to do it during science or health class.

Those students were advised to return to school with their JC Penny and Sears shopping bags in tow. The season of giving has had an obvious impact on our student's ability to focus on class.

Welcome back to all the Memorial students and parents for the New Year!