

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD

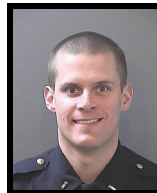


**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

Summer is just about over and it was a busy one! Officers and Detectives did a lot of great work this summer and were greatly helped by the community. The police department received good information from citizens on what was occurring in their neighborhoods and on criminal activity and/or crimes. This information was used by police to prevent crimes and solve them. While there are many positive things that have taken place this summer, we still have much to do to be where we want to be.. The Westside is still experiencing many burglaries and thefts from autos and a very high percent of these crimes the suspect is going through an unlocked door or window. Please lock your doors and do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

We are starting to work on our 2009 staffing plan. We will be receiving another Community Policing Officer who will be responsible for being the district's Neighborhood Watch information coordinator. Because Allied Dr. has seen a reduction in calls for service for two years, we will discontinue the two officer squad in that area which means the afternoon and night shifts will add another beat. Also it looks very good that we will add a beat on the day shift. That means for 2009 all our shifts will have one more beat, which should balance the workload and help us provide better service to the citizens of the Westside.

## Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant John Patterson**

July marked a very busy month for MPD and the West District. Officers in the West District responded to **4,359** calls for service during the month, an average of more than **140** per day. These incidents included:

1	Sexual Assault
7	Robberies
13	Weapons Offenses
87	Burglaries
5	Batteries
19	Stolen Autos
281	Motor Vehicle Crashes
76	Retail Thefts
99	Disturbances
3	

So far in August officers have still been busy. As of August 20<sup>th</sup>, officers have responded to **2,497** calls for service, an average of almost **125** per day. These incidents included:

4	Sexual Assaults
7	Robberies
13	Weapons Offenses
44	Burglaries
13	Batteries
23	Stolen Autos
123	Motor Vehicle Crashes
35	Retail Thefts
58	Disturbances

Traffic enforcement continues to be a priority in the West District. In July, West District Officers issued a total of **421** traffic citations, consisting of **262** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **159** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **131** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of almost **9** citations per officer.

Schools start classes on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, only a couple of weeks away. Please remember to watch for children as you make your daily commutes. Officers will be monitoring the school areas for speeding and dangerous driving behaviors.

## Field



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

The Madison Police Department has seen a significant increase in the number of reported residential burglaries on the west side of Madison this summer. From June 1 to August 24 of this year, the Madison Police Department has received report of 37 burglaries to homes on the west side. This is an increase from the 27 burglaries that were reported during the same timeframe last year, and from the 25 burglaries reported in 2006.

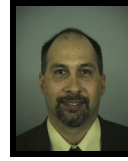
Most of these burglaries are occurring during the afternoon/evening hours, between noon and midnight. The burglars are typically taking a small number of items from the homes, indicating that they may not be spending a lot of time inside. Typical points of entry to the home are open overhead garage doors, unlocked doors, and open windows. In some cases, the burglars have been defeating door and window screens to gain entry to the home. There are several steps you can take to protect your home and property.

The easiest is to make certain that you close and lock your homes doors and windows. Many of these burglaries are occurring during daylight hours, and the suspects would probably not wish to risk being seen or drawing attention to their crime by trying to defeat window and door locks. If you don't like the idea of locking down your home in the summertime, investing in some window stops, or other devices which prevent windows from being fully opened from outside, may be worth considering. Removing incentive by keeping valuables such as wallets, purses, laptop computers etc, out of the view of a burglar could also discourage intrusion.

Giving your home a "lived in" look is another way to deter burglars. If you are gone from home for even a few days, making certain that your mail and paper are stopped, or at least picked up, helps give the appearance that you are home. A simple light timer to turn lights on and off when you are gone is another way to give the impression that you are home.

Most of these suggestions are relatively easy and inexpensive to incorporate, but could make a big difference in keeping your home and valuables safe.

## Investigations

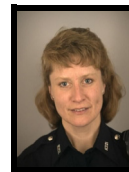


**Lieutenant Dan Olivas**

Thefts from unlocked vehicles and unlocked garages continue to be a problem throughout the West District. Overall numbers of Theft from auto cases reported to the West District has risen each month over the summer, and a significant percentage of these cases involve unsecured vehicles and structures. Again, the good news is that there is something residents can do to address this issue. Please don't leave your vehicles unlocked, try to remember to close your overhead garage doors, and don't leave valuables visible in your car. Following these simple suggestions can significantly impact property crimes in your neighborhoods.

## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

The Allied Drive Redevelopment Project officially started phase 1 with a groundbreaking ceremony on Allied Drive. Speakers at the groundbreaking included: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development (WHEDA) Executive Director Antonio Riley, Alderman Brian Solomon, Community Development Authority (CDA) Chair Stuart Levitan and Allied Drive Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association President Alice Howard. Phase 1 has started with the demolition of three buildings in the 2400 block of Allied. Eventually, a total of 5 building will be built with 48 new rental units. These new buildings will be located near the intersection of Jenewein Road and Allied Drive.

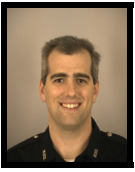


The Allied Drive Neighborhood Police Office has moved due to the construction. Our new office is located at 2351 Allied Drive #128. Our number has remained the same – 288-6150.



On August 22, the Madison Police will be sponsoring a Community Meal at the Boys and Girl's club. The Community Meal is a monthly event sponsored by various organizations and put on by the Neighborhood Association. It is usually held on the last Friday of the month. However, due to the holiday weekend the August meal has been moved up one week. We have once again retained the cooking talents of area resident Felicia Greer to cook the meal. Look for results in the next newsletter.

## Hammersley



**Officer Mike Hanson**

The neighborhoods have been active again with a lot of people coming back for the upcoming school year and with kids finishing their summer programming. Overall, this summer has been without major drama or violence associated with the more challenged neighborhoods. A large reason for this is due to the added attention these neighborhoods have received publicly and with services given to this area.

On Saturday 8/23 we are having a "block party" at Lucy-Lincoln Park for the Prairie Hills Neighborhood Association. As I am on foot patrol my stomach growls at all the good cooking in the neighborhood, so having a potluck will be a great way for these cooks to show off what they have. In addition, there will be plenty of games and prizes for the kids. The buzz in the neighborhood has been total excitement for this event as people really want to have a fun time and meet more neighbors. For those of us with kids, YOU MADE IT, with school being just around the corner. . . hang in there  
Stay safe!  
Mike Hanson

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## Community Policing Team



**Officer John Amos**

The neighborhood has been steady for calls for service with no significant incidents. The upcoming school year at Toki begins in September and I plan on being there during the first week to provide support for the staff and the environs. Toki had some security upgrades during the remodeling this summer and has a comprehensive camera system in and around the building.

The Madison Metro bus stop in front of the Meadowood library and Anchor bank that has been problematic with juveniles causing disturbances and damage to vehicles after school has a solution. Madison Metro is willing to move it a little to the west in front of some vacant land with the consent of the owners of the shopping center.

The proposal for a community center in the Meadowood shopping center is progressing, but the programming plans are still being formulated. We are still looking for a home for a farmer's market. Toki principal Nicole Schaefer is willing to host it but needs approval from MMSD.

## Wexford



**Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen**

As we round the corner to the end of summer, the calls for service in Wexford continue to be on the rise. 74 calls for service in July and the first half of August; there have been 43 calls for service.

Fights and disturbances have been the focus of patrol officers and myself. There are complexities in these issues making the investigations more drawn out than what my be typical. In some of these disturbances, the involved parties are multiple women who are involved with the same man. Love triangles can quickly turn bad, particularly when the involved parties live in close proximity to each other.

There continues to be a large number of reported noise disturbances. This is an ongoing problem, especially when residents have their windows open with the music turned up. I am beginning to receive complaints reference loud car stereos. This type of problem can be addressed through the 'boom ordinance'. I have issued 3 citations to vehicles that have been reported to have their car stereos excessively loud. Training on the boom ordinance can be arranged. This is a report that is entirely completed by the citizen who witnesses and is disturbed by the loud car stereo.

The new Lussier Community Education Center construction is nearing completion. The projected timeline for the old center to move into the new center is the first part of September. There will be an open house in October to celebrate the grand opening. Also as part of the new center, a new stoplight will be in operation as of the start of the school year. This light will be at the intersection of Gammon Rd. and Tree Lane.

## Community Policing Team

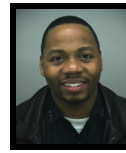


**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

As promised in our June newsletter, we have continued monitoring our West District Parks. I am happy to report that our complaints of vandalism and disturbances were down. On a recent weekend night, we had officers in plain clothes and bikes patrolling our area parks. Everything was quiet until we watched a group of six arrive in Hoyt Park at approximately 11:30 pm. There were 3 females and 3 males ranging in ages from 15 to 19 years of age. They started taking different items out of the trunk of a car including a can of acetone. One of our officers watching from behind a tree, observed the group lighting the different items now soaked with acetone and throwing these items around. Within seconds, we swooped in with squad cars and arrested the group before any dangerous fires could be started. Ironically, each of the teens was sober, had no alcohol or drugs on them and some were even college students. Each were eventually cited and released with a municipal charge after a tough lecture on what it would be like to have a criminal history if we had chosen to pursue a misdemeanor charge.

New information was just received this week about problems occurring during the weekends at High Point Park. We will therefore begin to focus our efforts at this park.

## Memorial High School



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

It's just about that time again. Students are packing their book bags and many are finishing up some last minute school supply and clothes shopping. School will be starting soon, and freshmen report for the first day on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. All students will be in attendance on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and I'm looking forward to meeting all the new students attending Memorial.

This summer has been filled with excitement and lots of students attended a summer school program. The first order of business will be to make sure that students are acclimated back into the school lifestyle, and the expectations that come with attending high school.

The staff and I look forward to a successful and rewarding school year. I also look forward to communicating with you further later this school year.