

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

The planning for the West Police District police beats for 2009 have been completed and the planning was mostly done by the officers and sergeants that work the street. They were given a little direction, the data (calls for service and call types) and time to work on the plan. They brought the knowledge of the street to the process and produced a great plan. Attached are the maps of the beats for each shift, so you can identify what beat you live. I would like to recognize Officer Tom Kiesow of First detail, Officer Kathy Peterson of Second detail and Officer Bob Veatch and Sgt Galen Wiering of Third detail for taking the leadership role in this planning process. What is also new for 2009, is that the West Community Policing Team (CPT) will have a K-9 unit assigned to the team. This will be a great addition to the team! In 2009, we will have CPT member working almost everyday and one will be assigned as a Neighborhood Watch Information Coordinator. More changes to be announced next month.

## Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant John Patterson**

October has been a fairly busy month for officers working in the West District. As of October 30th, officers in the West District have responded to **3,497** calls for service.

This is an average of just over **116** per day. These incidents included:

3	Sexual Assaults
10	Robberies
9	Weapons Offenses
59	Burglaries
20	Batteries
18	Stolen Autos
190	Motor Vehicle Crashes
83	Retail Thefts
93	Disturbances

A few of the noteworthy incidents:

**Robbery, 1700 Rae Lane**, 10/30/2008 at 4:25a.m., Madison Police responded to an armed robbery in the 1700 blk of Rae Lane. The victim was returning home and while in her garage, was approached by an unknown suspect armed with a knife. After a struggle, the suspect grabbed the victim's purse and fled. The victim suffered minor injuries. The suspect was described as a male, white, 5'6"-5'8", medium build, dark pants with a dark coat.

**Robbery, 1253 John Q. Hammons Drive**, 10/30/2008 at 2:17am, Madison Police responded to a robbery at the Comfort Suites Hotel. The suspect appeared in the hotel lobby and had a brief conversation with the clerk. He later demanded money and the clerk refused to hand any over. The suspect then implied that he had a weapon and the clerk handed over cash. The suspect, a male, white, 35-40 years old, 5'10" - 6', average build, dark colored hair and wearing a gray suit, fled in an unknown direction.

**Robbery, 6202 Schroeder Road**, 10/28/2008 at 10:02pm, officers responded to a robbery of the Stop 'n Go store at 6202 Schroeder Road. The clerk told officers that a male, black, mid 20's, 5'10", 180lbs, wearing a

## Patrol Operations Continued...

white hooded sweatshirt, black pants and white shoes, entered the store and confronted him with a knife. He took cash from the store and fled on foot from the area. No one was injured.

**Battery, Memorial High School**, 10/16/2008 at 9:11am, several Madison officers responded to the school for a large fight. The fight involved two groups of students. One student was knocked to the floor and was believed to have lost consciousness. A number of teens, ranging from 14 to 17 years old have been charged for their roles in the incident. One 17-year-old female was charged with Substantial Battery.

**Battery, 4687 Verona Road**, 10/10/2008 at 10:12pm, officers responded to the McDonald's restaurant for the report of a battery. A 15-year-old African American male reported that a white male driving a green pick-up truck had made racial slurs toward him. The victim says he and the man exchanged words, and that the man ended up getting out of the truck. He said the suspect pushed him to the ground and punched him several times. A friend of the victim pulled the suspect off of the victim. A 31-year-old male was arrested by officers for Physical Abuse to a Child, Disorderly Conduct, Operating a Motor Vehicle under the Influence and other charges.

**Residential Burglary, 2000 Westbrook Lane**, 10/6/2008 at 4:10pm, a Madison woman was in the basement of her home watching TV when she heard noise coming from the upstairs. She went to investigate and saw two suspects crawling out of a bedroom window. She had left it open to let the fresh air in. The woman yelled at the suspects and they ran off, leaving some of her family's stereo equipment just outside of the window. Several officers swarmed the area and were able to locate and arrest both suspects. A 17-year-old male and a 14-year-old male were both arrested and charged with the burglary.

During your travels in the coming weeks, keep an eye out for deer in the roadway, especially on the far edges of the city. The breeding season for deer is starting soon, which causes many deer to move across streets and highways. There were 5 vehicle crashes involving deer already during October in the West District.

Keep an eye on your speed this month too! Officers were out often this month enforcing speed violations near our schools. In September, West District Officers issued a total of **525** traffic citations, consisting of **357** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **168** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **148** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of almost **11.2** citations per officer.

## Investigations



### Lieutenant Dan Olivas

October remains a very busy month for the West District Detective Bureau. We began the month with a murder/suicide investigation which occurred on Kottke Drive. We are very thankful for the assistance of several South and Central District Detectives who have been assisting with this case, in addition to all the West Detectives and Patrol Officers who helped out (I should also mention the Uniformed Investigators, our evidence specialists-they do a great job).

*The following information comes from press releases put out by the US Attorney dated October 15, and October 23, 2008. West District Detectives were involved in all of these investigations. These kinds of cases require a significant time commitment on the part of the investigators but obviously are important to the community.*

#### \*FOUR CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ARMED BANK ROBBERIES

Corey J. Thomas, 28, Madison, Prince P. Beck, 25, Madison, Jarrell A. Murray, 23, Chicago, and Lamar Liggons, 21, Chicago, are charged in a four-count indictment with conspiracy to commit armed bank robberies; the robbery of Bank Mutual on Odana Road in Madison on May 9, 2008; the robbery of US Bank in the Town of Blooming Grove, Wis. on May 21, 2008; and with using a firearm, a semi-automatic pistol with an extended magazine, during a crime of violence on May 21, 2008.

#### \*MADISON MAN CHARGED WITH SIX BANK ROBBERIES

John Kowal, 22, of Madison, is charged in a superseding indictment with six bank robberies. The indictment alleges that he committed the following robberies:  
 March 19, 2008 - Amcore Bank, Odana Road, Madison;  
 April 11, 2008 - State Bank of Cross Plains, 8301 University Avenue, Middleton;  
 May 7, 2008 - State Bank of Cross Plains, 6300 University Avenue, Middleton;  
 June 17, 2008 - M&I Bank, Monona Drive, Monona;  
 August 14, 2008 - State Bank of Cross Plains, 6300 University Avenue, and;  
 September 16, 2008 - Anchor Bank, Westfield Road, Madison.

**Investigations Continued...**

\*Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Amanda Ferch, 37, Brooklyn, and Randy Ruth, 37, Madison, both pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison. Both defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy to embezzle money from Dane County Title Company through the use of forged company checks.

According to Madison police, the scheme lasted from December 2005 to July 1, 2008, and involved 139 forged checks totaling \$478,614.

**Field**



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

With the holidays fast approaching, families will soon begin their seasonal migration to relative's homes. As you prepare to load your family into the car for the journey, to help ensure safe travels, I want to review the Child Booster Seat Law which went into effect June 1, 2006.

The Law states that, in general, children must be properly restrained in a child safety seat until the age of 4, at which time a booster seat should be utilized until the child has reached the age of 8. The new law includes the following four step progression to ensure child safety when riding in vehicles:

A rear facing child safety seat (positioned in the back seat) is required when:

- The child is less than 1 year old, or
- The child weighs less than 20 lbs.

A forward facing child safety seat (positioned in the back seat) is required when:

- The child is at least 1 year old, but less than four years old.
- The child weighs at least 20 lbs. but less than 40 lbs.

A booster seat is required when:

- The child is at least 4 years old but less than 8 years old.
- The child weighs at least 40 lbs. but less than 80 lbs.
- The child is less than 57 inches tall.

**Field Continued...**

A safety belt is required when:

- The child is 8 years old or older, or
- The child weighs 80 lbs. or more, or
- The child is 57 inches or taller.

The only exception to the Child Booster Seat Law is for children whose body size, physical or medical condition make safety restraints unreasonable.

Penalties for violation of the Child Booster Seat Law range from \$58 to \$83. Please take the time during this busy time of year to ensure that your children are safe during your holiday travels.

**Neighborhood Officers**

**Allied Drive**



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

On October 24, 2008 Madison Police sponsored the Allied community meal served at the Boys and Girls Club. The Cajun meal was Jambalaya, red beans and rice, cornbread, and bread pudding. The delicious food was by New Orleans Take Out located at 1517 Monroe Street. Owner Ken Kopp was happy to assist and donated the bread pudding dessert. A big thank you to Ken and crew. The weather was cold and wet yet did not deter the ap-



proximate 80 people who attended. A thank you also goes out to the Boys and Girls Club for allowing us the use of the kitchen.



## Hammersley



### Officer Mike Hanson

October was a busy month in the Park Edge neighborhood. In the beginning of the month, the West Community Police Team set up operations in this neighborhood to monitor traffic, stop cars and conduct drug investigations. Recently there was a search warrant served in which arrests were made in conjunction with drugs being seized. This was an important arrest in the neighborhood by the Drug Task Force. Also in the neighborhood there have been a few arrests for burglaries committed in this area. This past summer there was a rash of burglaries in which suspects entered residence, via open windows, unlocked doors, etc and stole items ranging from large televisions to computers, money and jewelry. As these burglaries continued to mount, there was increased frustration and fear in then neighborhood. Through old-fashioned police work and the help of detectives and other officers, justice is being sought for the individuals who live in the area and are suspects in these burglaries. Since these arrests, this neighborhood has seen a drop in the frequency of burglaries . . . knock on wood.

Generally the police department has an increase in retail thefts and bank robberies during the holiday months. Please keep this in mind when you are out shopping and be a good witness for officers!

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## Wexford



### Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

The new Lussier Community Education Center is finally open. They officially opened their doors on October 18<sup>th</sup> with an open house that included a drum parade from the old Community Center on Flower Lane to the new Center across the street on Gammon Rd. This center is a labor of love on the part of the residents of Wexford. I believe this will be an incredible addition to the Westside of Madison.

Soon the Neighborhood office will be moving to the space vacated by the old Community Center. This new space for the neighborhood office will be a collaborative space utilized by a number of service organizations. Specifically, Joining Forces for Families and the public health nurse. I have also contacted the YWCA and discussed with them the possibility of having 'Job Options' made available to the residents. Other opportunities for the new space are a collaboration effort with the Domestic Violence Intervention Services, free tax services, and support groups. The space is an exciting undertaking on the part of the Madison Police and other

## Wexford Continued...

Service organizations. I look forward to getting it started. I am told the space will be made available the first part of November, as soon as the space is completely vacated by the new Center.

October has been a trying month in Wexford. The types of calls for service have become of growing concern. The rise in disturbances, domestics, noise complaints, and 911 calls have me concerned about the overall quality of life in the neighborhood. Numerous residents have commented to me on the level of violence that has transpired both reported and non-reported. I have a growing concern that there are many disturbances that go unreported to the Police. **It is absolutely critical that reports are made to the police when there are issues that concern the general health and welfare of the neighborhood.** I remain dedicated in my service to the Wexford community. I also believe that it is not the police alone that can solve this issue. There must be a collective group of people that have a desire to take responsibility for the neighborhood and in essence, take the neighborhood back from those who have driven it down in the past months. I would welcome feedback and persons of interest to contact me.

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## Russett



### Officer John Amos

A new trend in residential burglaries is spreading through the area. A suspect will carry a yard tool up to a home and knock on the door and wait for an answer. The suspect will then use the tool to pry or break in to a door or window if no one comes to the door. Many burglars are able to enter homes because the door is unlocked or window open with a screen and no one home. With winter the window issue should be negated but be vigilant for unlocked doors and suspicious people in the area.

Calls for service are up when school lets out at 235pm.the problem of unsupervised youth causing disturbances and damage in the Meadowood area is still the main source of complaints besides traffic issues. I have been trying to "shoo" children away from the Walgreen's entrance where young children and older juveniles loiter. There is no place for the juveniles to hang out so they congregate where activity is. There are programs in place where juveniles could go for activities where they are picked up and dropped off close to the neighborhood. Engaging families can be tough at times. JFF at 5810 Russett Rd has applications and information on how to sign up for the different programs.

## Memorial High School



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

Earlier this month we experienced an incident here at Memorial involving two groups of students. Some of our Latino and African American students were involved in a significant disturbance and fight. This fight was the result of disparaging racial remarks made by an African American student, which was followed up by the same type of disparaging racial remark from a Latino student.

Since this incident, a number of individuals were arrested, and some face prosecution for a Hate Crime. Some of the students that attend Memorial felt unsafe for a period of time, and so the police presence was increased in order to maintain security and bring the school atmosphere back down to a comfortable level.

There are some students who feel that they need to take "sides" because of the incident. I've been speaking with students individually to impress upon them the need to make good decisions and not to fall prey to peer pressure. I want to assure parents that the decisions made here at Memorial are done to keep the students, staff, and school safe. We have continued to keep the lines of communication open, and answer questions as they arise. Please take some time to speak with your children about race relations and the importance of respecting the diversity of others. If we work together in partnerships, we can develop an understanding with today's youth about respect, and the importance of appreciating diversity in our culture.

## Community Policing Team



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

This summer Capt. Lengfeld was able to purchase new surveillance equipment through the Federal Weed & Seed Grant. This equipment included a camera that records video activity through a pin-hole sized lens that is easily hidden. The camera came to good use when, information came to our unit alerting us that an employee of a local pharmacy was likely stealing large amounts of prescription medication while at work and then selling the pills from her home. We first "tested" the information by making controlled buys of the prescription medication from the suspect's home. CPT Officers from the West District were then trained on the camera usage and the camera was set up at the pharmacy with the cooperation of the pharmacy owner. Within one day, the employee was caught on tape stealing drugs. Officers Vosburg and Xiong then wrote a search warrant, which was served on the employee's home. Over 1200 prescription pills including Hydrocodone (Vicodin), Viagra, Morphine and Diazepam were located in the residence along with a small amount of marijuana and cocaine. The suspect gave a full confession of stealing the pills from the pharmacy over a several month period and admitted the thefts were for the sole purpose of re-selling the pills for profit.

This initiative while on paper appears to be quite simple, is actually very time intensive and requires numerous officers working as a team. The Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force provided us with surveillance vehicles and cash to make controlled pill buys. Additional officers were called in to safely carry out the execution of the search warrant and we again were assisted by the Task Force with funds to offset overtime costs.

Planning, covert surveillance, meeting with the pharmacy owner, processing the pills for evidence and court, writing a search warrant and conducting subsequent interviews and completing reports, required a great deal of individual and team skill. Thanks to the addition of our new technology, a complete package was presented to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

# West District Beat Re-alignment

