

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

The Holiday Season is upon us and it should be a happy time of the year. One thing that can really spoil the season is becoming a victim of a crime.

Please do not leave valuables in your vehicle, I know this can be difficult at times during the holiday season, but don't. If you have no other option, lock them in the trunk of your vehicle. Many of your neighbors will be traveling during this time of year, please watch over their homes and call us if you see anything suspicious.

Last month I started to share with you some of the changes the West District will have in 2009. I would like to share a few more changes with you. Many of you know our Community Policing Team (CPT) Sergeant Linda Kosovac by working with her, talking with her, and/or reading her article in the West District newsletter. She has been promoted to Lieutenant and will be assigned to Professional Standards in 2009. She has lead our CPT for the last six years and we will miss her. Sgt. Dave McClurg who is the South CPT Sgt currently will take over on January 12, 2009. Det. Tom Colby who has worked and lived West forever will be retiring in January. He has forgotten more about Financial crimes, than most of us will ever know. Tom is one of the top financial crimes experts in the State and has had numerous cases prosecuted in the Federal system. He has been a great leader in the district and will be impossible to replace. We will be losing a number of other long time West detectives: Det. Tom Woodmansee, promoted to Lieutenant and will be assigned to Training, Det. Mel Palmer going to Criminal Intake Unit, and Det. Sara Petzold going to Criminal Intake Unit.

Be safe and enjoy the season!

Patrol Operations



Lieutenant John Patterson

Officers were very busy in the West District during the month of November. During November, officers in the West District responded to **3,331** calls for service. This is

an average of just over **111** per day. These incidents included:

2	Sexual Assaults
3	Robberies
9	Weapons Offenses
42	Burglaries
30	Batteries
13	Stolen Autos
262	Motor Vehicle Crashes
71	Retail Thefts
73	Disturbances

A few of the noteworthy incidents:

Weapons Violation, 2200 Allied Drive, 11/27/2008 at 10:14pm, officers responded to several reports of shots fire in the area. Callers reported several people leaving the area prior to the arrival of officers. Officers contacted witnesses and located evidence that indicated that at least two different individuals had fired handguns. Officers were unable to locate any injured persons or property damage.

Robbery, 669 S. Whitney Way, 11/25/2008 at 12:00am, Madison Police responded to a robbery at the Mobil Gas Station. A customer was pumping gas when a suspect grabbed her purse and fled east on Odana Road. The suspect was described as a male black, 5'8"-6' tall, average build and wearing a brown "hoodie" with gold and yellow lettering.

Robbery, Mohawk Circle, 11/13/2008 at 5:34pm, a male victim was walking in the area of Mohawk Circle near Mohawk Drive when a stranger approached him. The male suspect produced a handgun and ordered the victim to hand over his wallet. The victim was about to hand his wallet over when he realized that the gun was a pellet gun (the victim owns the same gun). When the victim called the suspect on the ruse, the suspect turned

Operations Continued...

and fled the area. The suspect is described as a male black, 18-21 years old, and 5'8" tall.

Robbery, 688 S. Whitney Way, 11/14/2008 at 10:54pm, Madison officers responded to a report of an armed robbery. Two female victims were walking to their cars when two men confronted them. Both men produced handguns and demanded cash from each victim. The men then fled in a dark colored sedan. The first suspect was described as a male black, 20-25 years old, 6'0", muscular build, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt. The second suspect was described as a male 20-25 years old, 5'9", husky build, wearing a beige hooded sweatshirt.

Officers were out often in October enforcing traffic violations. In October, West District Officers issued a total of **413** traffic citations, consisting of **286** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **127** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **156** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of almost **9** citations per officer.

Investigations



Lieutenant Dan Olivas

In the month of November, WPD Detectives investigated the district's 4th homicide of the year which occurred on November 18 in the 7700 block of Tree Ln. Of the 4 cases, none are unsolved, and all at large suspects identified have been apprehended and are either convicted, or are awaiting trial. All of the district's 14 detectives have been involved to some extent with these cases, as well as detectives from other parts of the city. It is truly a pleasure to work with such a fine group of investigators. Many, many long hours are involved in bringing these cases to a successful conclusion and I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks.

Field



Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

Identity theft occurs when someone obtains and uses another's personal identifying information, such as their name, date of birth, address, or social security number to commit fraud. The following information will help you take measures to protect yourself, and instruct you on what to do should you become a victim of identity theft.

There are several things you can do to help keep your personal information from falling into another's hands. First, never carry your Social Security card or number, birth certificate or passport, unless necessary. Do not put your address, driver's license number, or telephone number, on a credit card sales receipt. Do not put your Social Security number or phone number on checks. You should not provide identifying information over the phone, or on the internet, to someone you do not know. If you are making online purchases, make certain the purchase is processed on a secure server. You should shred all personal documents before placing them in the trash.

There are also several things you can do to help keep your financial information safe. This includes getting a credit report from the three national credit reporting agencies every year (Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union), and checking your credit card statements regularly for charges you did not make. Keep your financial records in a safe place, along with a list of all credit cards and bank accounts. You should carry with you only those credit cards you plan to use. Any credit cards you do not use should be stored in a safe place. Cancel the accounts if you will not use them again, and cut up or shred old credit cards before discarding. Shred financial or confidential information such as credit card pre-approvals, credit card receipts etc. Unless your mailbox is secure, mail payments at the post office, and pick up new checks at your bank.

If you do become a victim of identity theft, you should take the following steps. Notify all creditors and financial institutions, in writing and over the phone, that your name and accounts have been used without your permission. Carefully monitor the account activity on your statements and report fraudulent activity to the issuing company immediately. The Fair Credit Billing Act is a federal law that limits a consumer's responsibility for fraudulent charges to \$50.00. Also, keep records of all correspondence with your creditors and the agencies you contact.

You should also immediately file a police report with your local police agency. Provide as much documentation as

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possible. Credit card companies, banks and credit reporting agencies often require you to file a police report to support your claim that a crime was committed. In addition, you should report the crime to the Federal Trade Commission, and to one of the three national credit reporting agencies. Have a fraud alert placed on your credit report to help prevent new fraudulent accounts from being opened. The agency you contact will notify the other agencies to place a fraud alert in their files.

Hopefully, you will find the above information helpful, in the event that you, or someone you know, become the victim of identity theft. Have a safe, and happy, holiday season.

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Carren Corcoran



Officer John Messer

The Allied Drive community continues to make great strides in the correct direction. In November calls were down 7% over a one-year period and 41% over a two-year period. The neighborhood has greatly increased its population over the last year with the 2300 block of Allied and Carling Drive buildings now accepting tenants and some at capacity. Despite this influx of new residents calls for police service continue to fall or remain at levels when the buildings were empty.

The Thursday night Drop-in basketball program continued in November. Although the program has been a success we have not seen the number of participants we did last year.

The construction continues in the neighborhood. The building at 2014 Allied Drive has been torn down. This is not part of the redevelopment program but rather a long-term State project dealing with future expansion of Verona Road. Happy Holidays to all.

Hammersley



Officer Mike Hanson

Some residents have been calling the 911 Center for perceived gunshots in our neighborhoods. By all means, please do not hesitate to call 911 when you believe shots have been fired. When this occurs multiple police officers respond to this area to look for evidence, anyone wounded or witnesses to complete the on-scene investigation. Unless we substantiate the call through witness accounts, evidence, etc these are sometimes difficult to figure out who is responsible. We need the community's help when this occurs by sharing with us information on who was involved. Although these can be difficult cases, progress has been made in some recent shootings (where no one was injured) as we have been able to identify some of the players involved. It is interesting to note that in most of these cases, those responsible do not live in the neighborhood.

I recently attended a meeting at Falk School with their staff and staff from MSCR. It is so neat to see their programs working and helping the community. "Open School House" on Tuesday nights has been a major success. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. any family can go to Falk for a variety of education resources: open library, computer lab, Play & Learn, English classes and meals are served. Falk received a \$10,000 grant and they are able to staff these events each Tuesday. If you haven't attended, stop by as it is impressive!

Also, on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. there is open gym basketball for middle and high school students. This program has grown since October as about 25 youth are enrolled to play. Any opportunity to provide some sort of event or program for our youth only enriches and helps our community.

As you enjoy this holiday season, please keep in mind some of those who hurt physically and financially right in our own neighborhoods. Any service you can provide to a family in need goes a long way. You would be amazed!!

Happy Holidays!

Mike Hanson
Madison Police

Wexford



Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

Winter is here! As is typical, calls for service drop as the temperature drops. This allows officers to catch up. That includes Neighborhood Officers. The difference between October and November calls for service is significant. October had 92 calls for service and November had 66 calls for service. The calls continue to be quality of life issues, batteries, domestics, noise complaints, disturbances, and burglaries.

This year, as last year, I am teaming up with the Gialamas Company to provide toys and gifts to the Wexford children. This has been very successful in past years and I look forward to the continued success. Meridian Management is also donating space for this event, scheduled for December 18th. In the past, we have been able to provide over 200 toys to the neighborhood children. I am hopeful, even with the current economic slump, that we will still be able to provide for the kids.

Russett



Officer John Amos

One of the main problems in the neighborhood is unsupervised juveniles causing crimes and creating nuisances. When I arrived in April of this year it was evident that the summer would be problematic and myself and neighborhood Officer Mike Hanson scrambled for options. We were told by agencies that provide programming for youths that the December/January months are optimal for applications to be turned in. During the next month I will be canvassing the neighborhood and trying to get kids signed up for the summer for any programming.

The MSCR, Boys and Girls Club, and the Wisconsin Youth Company all provide some form of summer activities. Transportation to and from activities is often provided. Application fees and tuition often can be waived due to economic hardship. The Wisconsin Youth Company and Boys and Girls Club also provide year round activities. Pickup and drop-off for the Boys and Girls Club is at Meadowood shopping center parking lot near the Walgreen's. Calls for service in the neighborhood are down which is attributable to the colder weather which drives everyone inside. West CPT and myself did a surveillance operation on Russett Road on suspected drug activity but I am pleased to report there is no open-air drug dealing and we mainly wrote traffic tickets.

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

Soon the students at Memorial High School will be leaving for the Christmas break. This takes place from December 22nd until January 5th 2010.

During these last few weeks of school before the break, we will continue to keep the students on track, and focused. Many of the students are eagerly awaiting this break, and a few view the last few weeks before the break as an opportunity to create problems.

Ultimately, each student is responsible for his or her own actions. I have seen an increase in the number of students that tend to skip classes and hang at West Town Mall. I've been making periodic visits to the mall and contacting students that are visiting and skipping classes.

The students realize that by remaining on campus and skipping, they run the risk of being contacted by school staff or police. This creates a need to escape into the nearby neighborhoods and businesses.

I'm asking that parents keep an account of their children's class attendance and make prompt contact with the school when they receive those "skip calls" from the school.

I will continue driving in the nearby neighborhoods, and visiting the mall during peak "student" times, to make sure that contact is made with students skipping out on their education.