

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



### About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

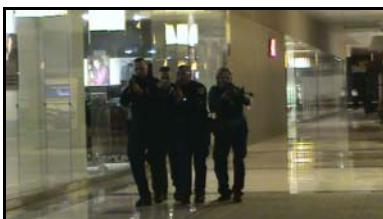
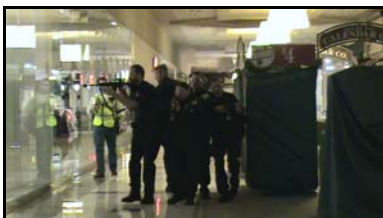
Last year was a busy year for the West Police District, but we saw some improvements in many different areas of the district. We saw commercial burglaries go from 34-35 per month in January and February to 5 per month the last three months of 2008. A number of our neighborhoods saw an improvement in quality of life issues and we have seen an increase in our youth participating in youth programs. The staff of the West Police District looks forward to building on the progress we made last year into this year.

Officer Dave Wixcom of the West Community Policing Team will be our Neighborhood Watch Information Network Coordinator and a remainder to Neighborhood Watch coordinators to send us your email address to [wpdnwin@cityofmadison.com](mailto:wpdnwin@cityofmadison.com), so we can add you to the group email.

This program will start February 8<sup>th</sup>.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of this year, the West District held our annual district in-service trainings for 2009 staff. A major portion of each training day took place at West Towne Mall. At the mall, officers attended two different tactical reality based scenarios and debriefings, a police canine exercise and an Officer Involved Shooting discussion and video. Not

only was this great training for West District personnel, but the Dane County 911 Communication Center, Mall Security and MPD K-9 unit also received valuable training. The West District would like to thank Paul Matyas (Mall Manager), Judy Theama (Mall Security Supervisor), Tom Selbo and Dave Page of Sears, and the 50 citizens that were actors that made this great training possible.



### Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant John Patterson**

With the first month of 2009 behind us, we are preparing for our annual shift change. This will be the last week for some of our staff in the West District, as they are preparing to move on to other assignments. February 8<sup>th</sup> is the actual day that our officers, sergeants and detectives will change assignments. Although a large number of our staff from last year will remain, we are preparing to welcome some new sergeants, detectives and officers to the West District in 2009.

We'd like to recognize to the following uniformed staff who will be leaving the West District for other assignments: Sergeant Will Quast, Sergeant Galen Wiering, Allied Neighborhood Officer John Messer, TEST Officer Angie Kamoske, Officer Scott Favour, Officer Tom Grosse, Officer Matt Nordquist, Officer Matt Olson, Officer Anthony Hornung, Officer Mike Richardson, Officer Alex Bol, Officer Trent Scanlon, Officer Dan Perez, Officer Kelly Powers, Officer Chark Vang, Officer Jim Dexter and Officer Brandon Mortenson. Good luck in your new assignments and thank you all for all the work you did in 2008!

The new sergeants and officers joining the West District in 2009 are: Sergeant Lori Chalecki, Sergeant Tim Radke, CPT Sergeant Dave McClurg, CPT Officer Rose Douglas and K-9 Martie, TEST Officer Jerry Briesath, Officer Mike McCoy, Officer Alex Berkovitz, Officer Jen Mundt, Officer Trish Niedo, Officer Cary House, Officer Adrian Alan, Officer Wade Gummin, Officer William Needelman, Officer Zachary Haggerty, Officer Charles Warren, Officer Eric Fuhremann, Officer Marine Yoo and Officer Sarah Mackesey. These officers, along with our returning staff make up a very talented and hard-working group. We are excited to see what we can all achieve in 2009.

Later in our newsletter, you will see the last article from Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer John Messer. John has been promoted to detective and will be solving crimes in

### Operations Continued...

the Central District in 2009. John has done some great work in the Allied Neighborhood during his time as the neighborhood officer. Thank you again John and good luck!

With John moving on, a new neighborhood officer will start next week. He is Officer Samuel Ward and he isn't a stranger to the Allied Neighborhood. Sam is coming from our Night Shift in patrol and was a part of the two-officer patrol car that responded to calls for service in 2008 in the Allied Neighborhood. Sam has been with MPD since 2006, and he has past law enforcement experience as a detective with the Harvey Police Department (Harvey, Illinois) and as a police officer with the University of Chicago Police Department. Sam will work with Neighborhood Officer Carren Corcoran, as John did, so please welcome Sam to his new assignment when you see him.



Sam Ward

Calls for service increased during the month of January in the West District. During January, officers in the West District responded to **3,613** calls for service. This is an average of just over **116** per day. These incidents included:

- 1 Sexual Assault
- 9 Robberies
- 4 Weapons Offenses
- 29 Burglaries
- 17 Batteries
- 16 Stolen Autos
- 522 Motor Vehicle Crashes
- 87 Retail Thefts
- 78 Disturbances

Traffic crashes were still too common of an occurrence in January. Please remember to drive slowly and be cautious when the roadways are snow covered. In December, West District Officers issued a total of **242** traffic citations, consisting of **171** "hazardous" citations (speeding, following too close, etc) and **59** "non-hazardous" citations (defective equipment, registration violations, etc). Officers also issued **82** municipal citations (trespassing, retail theft, etc). These numbers total an average of just over **5** citations per officer.

## Investigations



### Lieutenant Dan Olivas

Here are the 2008 Commercial Burglary Year End Statistics: These numbers are for internal tracking within the West District and may be slightly different than UCR reported numbers. You will notice a significant drop at the end of the summer. WPD Officers and Detectives worked extremely hard to identify and apprehend suspects involved in these crimes. West District Detectives have also referred charges related to several Church burglaries on the West side to the District Attorney's Office.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of West District Non Res Burglaries</u>
Nov 2007	43
Dec 2007	61
Jan 2008	34
Feb	35
March	24
April	24
May	16
June	30
July	20
August	16
September	15
October	5
November	5
December	5

A position added last year to the district was the "Crime Pattern Response" Detective. In 2008 the CPR Detective spent a large portion of the year supplementing our District's response to the sudden increase in Business Burglaries which had started at the end of 2007, and was one of our district representatives in the Dane County Burglary Task Force. The CPR Detective has been instrumental in working with the City Attorney to update Ordinances related to the problem of Metal Theft in Madison, and is one of several Detectives working on projects to improve the Department's response to the burglary problem. The CPR position also carries other district case assignments. The West District hopes to continue to make innovative use of this position.

## Field



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

Over the past year, the Madison Police Department has undertaken a campaign to educate vehicle operators reference pedestrian safety, and has taken a more proactive approach in enforcing such violations. As our goal is to both enforce and educate, I thought I would review some of the basic obligations you, as motorists, have regarding pedestrian rights.

A crosswalk is defined as an extension of a sidewalk across a street at an intersection. This applies whether the crosswalk is marked with painted lines, or whether it is not marked at all.

When a pedestrian is crossing a street at a marked or unmarked crosswalk, and there is no traffic signal, a motorist must yield the right of way to the pedestrian. It makes no difference whether there is a stop sign posted at the intersection or not. When turning, a motorist must yield to pedestrians crossing both the street currently being traveled, and to those pedestrians crossing the street on to which the motorist is turning( turning across ).

At intersections controlled by traffic signals, motorists, when turning on a green signal, or when making a right turn on red after stopping, must yield the right of way to pedestrians in the crosswalk they are turning across. "Yield the right of way to a pedestrian" means slowing down, stopping if necessary, to avoid endangering, striking, or interfering in any manner, with pedestrian travel.

Whenever a vehicle ahead has stopped at a crosswalk to allow a pedestrian to cross, motorists approaching from behind must also stop and yield to the pedestrian.

Special exceptions apply to blind pedestrians. Motorists are required to stop no closer than 10 feet from a pedestrian carrying a white cane, or walking with a guide dog, whenever such pedestrian is crossing the street, whether crossing at a crosswalk or not.

Finally, when approaching a school crossing where there is an adult crossing guard, you must follow the directions of the guard. If directed to stop, you must remain stopped until given indication by the guard that it is clear to proceed.

Keeping these laws in mind as you travel will help make Madison a safer place for both pedestrians and motorists.

## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

For those that that don't know, this will be my last contribution to WPD newsletter as the Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer. In February, I will assume my new duties as a Detective in the Central District. I look forward to this new challenge however will greatly miss the West District and Allied Drive. I have so far worked my entire career in the West District - on and around Allied Drive.

I unfortunately during the last eight years have seen Allied Drive neighborhood at its' worst. I have seen the results of a neighborhood in crisis. The broken buildings and hopelessness associated with poverty. I have seen a neighborhood under the constant siege of violence associated with the illegal drug trade. I have heard the gunshots and seen the broken bodies. I have witnessed far too many traumatized children. Sights, sounds and smells I would not wish on my worst enemy. But despite the bad, I have also learned valuable life lessons, taught to me by people I have met and have the pleasure to work with on a daily basis.

One thing I have learned is to be more thankful. I am thankful and more greatly appreciate things I have and the family I love. I am thankful for my co-workers. Co-workers who also have families and loved ones but who on a daily basis are willing, and do, put their own personal safety in jeopardy merely because it's their job. The law enforcement professionals of the Madison Police Department are clearly an example of ordinary people performing extraordinary feats.

I have learned to be more patient. Rome was not built in a day. The continued transformation of the Allied Drive neighborhood has taken several years and countless hours of hard work by thousands of committed people. I believe the neighborhood is headed in the right direction, however there are many more challenges to come. No doubt those who have decided to work and continue the journey that is Allied Drive will meet these challenges. I have also learned to laugh. My current partner Carren Corcoran has given me this glorious gift. She has taught me that one must not only laugh often, you must also laugh hard. Never take yourself to seriously, find joy around you, and always remember to jump in with both feet. I came to this job and Allied Drive expecting to change the street, and in the end find the street has changed me.

Stay Safe and headed in the right direction, P.O. John Messer #3096

## Hammersley



**Officer Mike Hanson**

When big incidents occur, like “shots fired” in a neighborhood, “drug dealing or drug search warrants, neighbors want to find out the results and expect an arrest immediately. In the spring of 2008 there was a report of shots being fired in the Theresa Terrace/Hammersley Rd area late one night. The involved parties missed each other, but then chased each other in their vehicles before crashing on Piping Rock. This incident affected the Prairie Hills and Greentree Neighborhoods. I was flooded with phone calls and emails inquiring about this incident. The Madison Police Department worked on this case to learn who was involved. Through the course of the summer, information came in, such as nicknames, drugs and weapons, but no arrests were made. It was also learned that both the victim and shooter did not live on the west side of Madison. By the fall of 2008, we focused on a person we believed was involved. We learned that this person had eight warrants out for his arrest and was residing on the south side of Madison. Six officers set up on his house and eventually found him hiding under a bed. I share this example with you to demonstrate the complexities sometimes involved in these incidents, particularly when the involved parties are uncooperative and do not live in the neighborhood.

I recently attended a function at Wisconsin Youth, located across from Elver Park and was amazed at the amount of young people participating in their programming. Wisconsin Youth received city grant dollars to fund programming for the large amount of youth in SW Madison. In the spring of 2008, there were maybe 20 kids that casually attended their programs. Tony Travis and Ellie Maier, the youth coordinators, went door-to-door and to the area schools to market their program. The success has been wonderful as over 160 middle and high school kids attend their programming at night. Kudos to them!!!

## Wexford



**Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen**

Wexford Ridge Apartments have been a very busy place as of late. The calls for service have not made a considerable jump, but the severity of the calls have been calls to note. All of the significant calls for service are currently being followed up on and therefore I am not able to release much information. Madison Police officers, the Community Policing Team and Detectives are following up on details

## Wexford Continued...

and information that comes our way. I should note that the Wexford Ridge community and the wider community need not worry as it does appear the incidents are all isolated.

Meridian Management is also actively assisting the Madison Police Department and we are working together to collectively deal with the issues that can be dealt with via lease violations.

For those that appreciate numbers, I will offer the calls for service. There were a total number of 78 calls for service for the month of January. Of the 78, 7 were domestic calls, 5 were disturbances, 1 robbery, 1 weapons offense, 6 noise complaints, and 10 were 911 disconnects.

I continue to be fully dedicated to the safety and welfare of this community and will seek out any and all information on those that decide to make bad decisions and as the law allows, I will make the appropriate arrests.

## Russett



**Officer John Amos**

One of the main criminal problems in the Southwest side of Madison is a unsupervised juvenile committing serious crimes alone and in groups.

Mike Hanson, Neighborhood Police Officer for Theresa Terrace/Hammersly Rd area, and myself have compiled a list of juveniles and young adults that are the primary problems or orbit around them. The list is constantly changing due to the unstable nature of many of their families because of evictions, incarceration, and other societal factors. When the weather warms up the crime associated with these individuals will increase. We are going to try to come up with ideas to monitor and address these individuals to interdict any criminal behaviors.

As many are 16 and under they fall under the State of Wisconsin juvenile justice system. If a juvenile is arrested for a state charge (i.e. burglary) they are usually brought home after fingerprinting and photographing at West PD. Rarely does the Juvenile Reception intake them and hold them overnight. A juvenile may not see a judge or court commissioner for 4 to 6 weeks. For the youth there is no immediate consequence to a crime. Also, as the juvenile justice system has different penalties than adults, crimes that may cause an adult to serve jail time may have little or no affect on a juvenile as to their presence in the community. It is a

**Russett Continued...**

system for progressive discipline for repeated acts. For many police officers and the victims of crimes the process seems convoluted and toothless. Nevertheless, its what we've got.

I would like to get some way of monitoring adjudicated juveniles who are on supervision or who are charged with a crime with basic rules such as being at home at 8pm, or must be at school or work, or not to engage in any disturbing behavior. Right now a police officer never knows what happens after a juvenile arrest, unlike an adult where we get a charge sheet from the District Attorneys office with bail conditions (which we can enforce). Consequences for the parents or the guardians of the juveniles who habitually cause crimes or disturbances would be desirable. Hopefully, we'll get a plan together.

**Community Policing Team**



**Sergeant David McClurg**

In January Sgt. Linda Kosovac moved to her new position as the lieutenant of Professional Standards and Internal Affairs. I took over the position of Sergeant of the West Community Policing Team on January 12th. I moved West after 2 years working as the Sergeant of the South Community Policing Team. I have been with the Madison Police Department since 1991, and have been a Sergeant since 2001.

In January, the Wexford neighborhood had three major incidents, two home invasions and a large after bar party with shots fired. We have begun working with Neighborhood Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen to address the problems in her neighborhood and will have continued involvement in the neighborhood over the next weeks and months.

We recently executed a drug search warrant on Carling Drive, locating crack cocaine and marijuana and other paraphernalia.

Please continue to call us with any information or if you are in need of our services.

Sergeant David McClurg  
Office-243-0535  
Cell-225-1885

**Memorial High School**



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

The month of January was full of new changes for the students. It began with the return to school from Winter break. Ultimately, it ended with the change of semester. Many of the grades have been finalized.

There were 20 calls for service here at Memorial which was just 2 fewer than the month of December in 2008. The breakdown for the calls are as follows:

EMS Assistance	1
Arrested Juvenile	2
Adult Arrest	1
Accident	2
Trespass	3
Traffic Incident	2
Missing Juvenile	1
Bomb Threat	1
Information/ Other	7

The next few months I'll focus on providing additional presentations to students on the effects of drugs, and alcohol. I'm also presenting to classes on retail and employee theft. The teachers and I hope that this information will serve as a good warning and life lesson for the students. Good luck to the Memorial Winter Sport Teams!