

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

The Madison Police Department is currently conducting our annual community survey. In the past we have selected a few neighborhoods in each district to survey by hand, but this year the survey will be district-wide and is on our website, so you can fill it out electronically. This survey will help us better understand what is occurring in your neighborhood and your feelings related to safety. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete and can be found at

www.cityofmadison.com/police/west.html

Please take the time to fill out this survey today. The survey will close on May 13th.

Traffic continues to be the hot topic for the district. District officers wrote over 400 traffic tickets in March and I know the traffic enforcement safety team (T.E.S.T.) has also been writing tickets in the West Police District.

District officers recently did an analysis of the data on the crashes that occurred at Verona Road and Raymond Road in 2006 and were able to come up with some recommendations that should make that intersection safer. The Police Department will forward these ideas to Traffic Engineering for implementation.

There was another bad crash at the intersection of Hammersley Road and Whitney Way, and the neighborhood is concerned about the safety of this intersection. The police department is also concerned about this intersection and will be increasing enforcement in the area. We will also be recommending that a flashing red light be installed on both stop signs and rumble lines be cut into the roadway on Hammersley Road. We are asking all citizens to watch their speed when driving.

Patrol Operations



Lieutenant Victor Wahl

The Madison Police Department responded to **2,881** calls for police service in the West District during the month of March, an average of about **93** per day. These incidents included:

6	sexual assaults
3	robberies
12	weapons offenses
57	burglaries
28	thefts from autos
10	stolen autos
254	motor vehicle accidents
29	batteries

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

Sexual Assault, 4600 Atticus Lane – On March 21 at about 8:30am, officers responded to a residence in the 4600 block of Atticus Lane for a sexual assault. A victim was sexually assaulted in her residence; investigation continuing.

Burglary, 201 South Gammon Road – On March 25 at about 3:30am officers responded to an intrusion alarm at Memorial High School, 201 South Gammon Road. Responding officers noted a broken window and multiple suspects fleeing from the building. Two suspects were arrested and later charged with burglarizing the school.

Battery, Hilldale Mall – On March 23 at about 1:30pm officers responded to Hilldale Mall for a battery. Investigation showed that an 18 year-old female was withdrawing money from an ATM when a group of females approached her and sprayed an irritant into her eye. The suspects fled without stealing anything after the victim screamed. Investigation continuing.

Fatality Accident, Pleasant View Road & Timber Wolf Trail – On March 28 at about 1:15am an officer observed a 4-door Saturn traveling at a high rate of speed on the Beltline. The officer attempted to catch the vehicle and stop it, but

discontinued his attempts due to the speed of the vehicle. A short time later the officer came upon a single vehicle crash involving the Saturn on Pleasant View Road. The vehicle had left the roadway and struck a tree, killing the driver.

Traffic enforcement: West District officers issued **548** total citations in March, consisting of **296** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **119** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **133** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of more than **10** citations per officer

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Jason Ostrenga



Officer John Messer

The second session of "midnight" basketball ended last week. It was very successful with approx 35 men attending on a consistent basis and one time **52** people attending. For those of you not familiar with the "midnight" basketball league it is an open gym concept for men ages 18-35 who either live or have friends that live in the Allied Drive neighborhood. The program was held at the Boys & Girls Club on Jenewien Road (see the back page of the newsletter for a photo). We (police) would like to thank the Boys & Girls Club and MSCR for helping facilitate this league. We are planning on putting on another session of basketball starting sometime in the fall.

Recently, Officer Mary Ann Thurber and Officer Jason Ostrenga put on a crime prevention seminar at the Avalon Village Apartments. Approximately twenty people attended. We hope this was beneficial and answered all your questions. If any other association or apartment complex would be interested in a crime prevention seminar feel free to contact me.

With the snow finally melted it appears the bike path between Allied Drive and Carling Drive needs some clean-up. I will be contacting the Parks Department soon to help with this.

The Madison Police Department is having an auction to

sell the items we have recovered over the year on May 5 (8am) at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall. Items that will be auction off will include, but not limited to: Bikes, Jewelry, Clothes, Sports equipment, Tools, Electronic equipment.

Lastly, Allied Fest is rapidly approaching. It will be held on June 9 (12-5pm) behind the Boys & Girls Club on Jenewien Road/Rosenberry Road. For those of you who have never attended this it's a wonderful event put on by the residents of the neighborhood. There is good food, kids' activities, and music. Please mark it on your calendar.

Wexford



Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen

As expected, calls for service in the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood increased in March. In February, there were 22 calls for service. In March, there were 43 calls for service. This number is a significant increase in calls from month to month. In comparison, the calls for service in March 2006 were 49, which is not a significant increase.

While calls for service doubled from February, there were 11 parking complaints in March. These are rather mundane calls that most often require parking enforcement to respond. I have, on the other hand, been more diligent with the parking issues around Wexford, and this may account for the increase.

In breaking down the calls for service, there really were no calls that stand out. There were 4 disturbance calls and 4 domestic calls. One interesting call involved a Wexford resident who called to complain about a threat. The resident told the officer that someone had knocked on her door looking to purchase crack. The resident did not have any crack at the time so the resident sent out one of her guests to get some crack. The sale and purchase of crack transpired in the hallway of the resident's apartment. The next day, the purchaser returned complaining that the crack was soap. The purchaser told the resident that she would have her sons come to her apartment to beat her up for selling soap as crack. The resident reported this event to the police. The officer responded to the resident that she was procuring crack and could be subject legal problems and to lease violations.

Hammersley



Officer Caleb Bedford

On April 10, the Public Safety Review Board approved the chronic nuisance ordinance. The decision was unanimous. Now the next step is a vote by the full Common Council. It is possible that the Council will have voted on the ordinance by the time the final version of this newsletter is distributed. However, it is also possible that the Council may refer the proposal to additional subcommittees before taking a final vote.

Gunshots were reported near the area of Hammersley/Theresa/Bettys late on the night of April 5. Multiple people called 911. Responding officers interviewed two separate witnesses who heard the gunshots and then saw two vehicles speeding from the area. The witnesses were unable to get the license plates, although they did provide general descriptions of the vehicles. So far our department has been unable to connect the gunshots to any particular person or address. This makes follow-up very difficult, although I will keep working at it.

Finally, I will be training citizens to assist with enforcement of the statute regulating the volume of vehicle stereos. In the grand scheme of things, noisy car stereos are not a high priority problem for our community. However, our department receives frequent complaints about this. Many citizens in the Hammersley area are very angry about the constant thumping of car stereos that is becoming the soundtrack to their daily lives. This upcoming training will enable citizens to play more active roles in monitoring the quality of life in their neighborhoods. You do not need to register or give advance notice that you plan to attend the training. You only need to show up at the quarterly neighborhood meeting at the west police station at **7:00 pm on Monday, April 30, 2007**. As always, the meeting is scheduled for one hour, and I will try hard to stick to that time limit. The main agenda item is the training. However, I will also field general questions as time allows.

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

Recently during the first week of April, students were off for Spring Break. This was a great opportunity to get revived for the final push to the end of the school year. I'd like to take this opportunity to give you some information on a recent burglary here at Memorial High School.

On March 25, 2007 officers responded to Madison Memorial High School reference a burglary alarm. Upon arrival, officers

came to find a number of individuals exiting from the building. This occurred sometime around 3:28 am and obviously class wasn't in session. Unfortunately the subjects entering the building caused damage, but a number of high dollar computer items and equipment were recovered, including a set of master keys to the entire building.

The subjects were apprehended and charged with Burglary and a number of other charges. The charges included resisting for running from the police during the incident. We are grateful for the fast and professional work done by the officers and school staff that responded to assist in the investigation. This certainly was a time in which the capture of these culprits staved off any high dollar theft of computer and other equipment.

Community Policing Team



Sergeant Linda Kosovac

Can you tell the difference?

Pictured below are two "weapons" that we have taken from individuals on the street. One is a pellet gun and one is a semi-automatic firearm. Now, put yourself in the shoes of a police officer confronting a person holding this weapon. Picture further, yourself as a police officer standing ten yards away in the dark while confronting the person with this "weapon". Is it real or not? Too often, officers must make split second decisions to make this determination and most times this is impossible to do. Pellet guns or air soft guns can be purchased legally in Madison and are easily accessible. This should be a reminder to all of us that facsimile firearms pose a dangerous threat, whether you are a citizen or a police officer. Times have changed and there is no good reason for any of us living in the city to possess these types of toys/weapons. Parents, please insure your children do not have access to these "weapons". Aside from mistaking these "toys" as weapons, they can and will cause substantial injury when in the wrong hands.

Real



Facsimile



New K9 Handler

Henry Wilson and K9 Ivan

In March, MPD welcomed a new addition to the K9 unit: Officer Henry Wilson and his K9 partner Ivan. Ivan is a German Shepherd who was born in Czechoslovakia in 2005. Officer Wilson is a 22 year veteran of MPD, and attended his initial K9 handler training in North Carolina. Officer Wilson and Ivan will generally work a noon – 8pm shift.

The addition of Ivan to MPD was made possible by the support of Capital K9's, a nonprofit organization formed exclusively to fund MPD's patrol K9 unit. More information about Capital K9's, including how to support the unit, is available on their website:

www.capitalk9s.org



Officer Henry Wilson and
his partner K9 Ivan

Drop-in Basketball

Over the last seven weeks, the Madison Police Department has sponsored a drop-in basketball program for the Allied Drive area. The program ran on Thursday nights at the Boys & Girls club, and provided a great opportunity for officers to interact with the community in a positive environment, while also providing neighborhood residents with a positive activity to participate in.

The program was organized by Allied Drive neighborhood officer Jason Ostrenga, and funded through the Project Safe Neighborhoods grant. The department is seeking funding through our next Weed & Seed grant to run additional sessions later this year and in the Spring of 2008.

