

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

I hope everybody is having a fun and safe summer. The year is half over and the first six months were very successful for the West District. We have done a self evaluation of our district's goals and we are on course for a straight "A" report card. We have seen a reduction in the number of crashes at our two intersections that were targeted; calls for police service in the Allied Drive area have continued to decrease with another 27% reduction for the month of June; patrol officers, CPT officers and detectives have done numerous problem solving initiatives; and the Master Gardeners have planted over 225 plants around the West District station. West District staff issued over 600 citations in June and gave out well over 100 warnings.

The second half of the year will include the completion of the Russett/ Balsam area evaluation, a number of neighborhood meetings, continued problem solving initiatives, a re-development plan for the Allied Drive area, improving traffic safety and much more.

Continue to have a great summer in a safe manner!

Patrol Operations



Lieutenant Victor Wahl

The Madison Police Department responded to **3,507** calls for police service in the West District during the month of April, an average of more than **117** per day. These incidents included:

- 4 Sexual assaults
- 1 Robberies
- 7 Aggravated batteries
- 13 Weapons offenses/gun calls
- 42 Burglaries

- 20 Thefts from autos
- 25 Stolen autos
- 265 Motor vehicle crashes
- 31 Batteries
- 78 Retail thefts
- 136 Disturbances
- 121 Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

Child Enticement, 120 South Rosa Road – On June 1st at about 3pm, WPD officers responded to Glenn Stephens Elementary School for a reported child enticement. Two female students reported that as they played near the edge of a soccer field a male subject pulled up to them and asked if they could come with him to help find his cat. The girls did not reply and immediately contacted a school official. The suspect was described as a white or hispanic male, about 40-50 years of age with spiky hair, driving a red Honda Civic. Anyone with suspect information should contact Crimestoppers at 266-6014. Investigation continuing.

Arson, 201 South Gammon Road – On the afternoon of June 6th, a fire was discovered in a restroom at Memorial High School (201 South Gammon Road). The fire caused an estimated \$2,000 damage. The next day a 16 year-old Memorial student was taken into custody and charged with arson.

Arrested Person, Berwyn Drive – On June 11th at about 8am, WPD officers attempted to arrest an individual – Steven Boyle – for a variety of domestic charges. At that time, Boyle fled in his vehicle and led officers on a short high-speed pursuit in the Mineral Point Road/Segoe Road area. The pursuit was discontinued due to the risk to uninvolved citizens. Later in the morning, another officer observed Boyle and attempted to stop him. Boyle again fled and led officers on a high-speed pursuit, which was again discontinued. A short time later, Boyle was observed walking in the area. After a lengthy foot pursuit and physical altercation Boyle was taken into custody.

Battery, 6900 Mineral Point Road – On June 13th at about 3pm, WPD officers responded to a battery in the 6900 block of Mineral Point Road.

Investigation showed that a subject had been making racial taunts to a group of teens while riding on a Metro bus. The bus driver told the subject to stop making the taunts, which he refused to do. A short time later, the bus driver told the subject to get off the bus, which he did. The subjects of the racial taunts also exited the bus and battered the subject.

Theft/Arrested Person, 4401 Britta Parkway – On June 18th at about 2:30pm officers responded to a gas station on Britta Parkway for a theft. Investigation showed that a suspect had smashed the window of a woman's vehicle (while she was in it) and grabbed her purse. The suspect fled on foot. Another subject witnessed this and chased the suspect on his motorcycle. He caught up with the suspect and told him to give up the purse, which he did. The purse was returned to the owner, and the suspect remains at large. Investigation continuing.

Traffic enforcement: West District officers issued **636** total citations in May, consisting of **305** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **158** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **173** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **12** citations per officer.

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Jason Ostrenga



Officer John Messer

Calls for Service (CFS) continue to be down compared to last year in the Allied Dr neighborhood:

June 2006 (CFS): 390
 June 2007 (CFS): 284
 -27% difference

We are frequently contacted by citizens who live in the neighborhood, along with landlords, and those working in the Allied Drive area about their concern for the open air drug activity in the area. We addressed this problem by arresting numerous people for trespassing and arresting those who are the source of the drugs. Some of those arrested as the source

of the drugs were arrested in the following recent incidents:

- We executed a search warrant on the 2000 block of Allied Drive. In this apartment we recovered marijuana, a .40 caliber handgun, ammunition, digital scales, and drug paraphernalia. Multiple people were arrested for charges including: Felon in Possession of Handgun, Maintaining a Drug Dwelling, warrants, and Possession with Intent to Deliver Marijuana.
- We also arrested an individual on the 2200 block of Allied Drive in their apartment for Maintaining a Drug Dwelling, Possession with Intent to Deliver Cocaine, Possession with Intent to Deliver Ecstasy, and Possession of Marijuana.

As mentioned in previous Newsletters; we are sponsoring a community meal on **Friday, July 27 (6pm) @ the Boys & Girls Club** located on Jenewien Road. We have not finalized the menu, but the meal is free for all. We hope you will be able to join us.

The following information concerns **Identity Theft**. Identity Theft is a significant problem we are all trying to deal with. We hope this information will help you avoid becoming a victim of Identity Theft, and will be useful if you are victim of Identity Theft:

What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft is when someone illegally obtains a person's identifying information, such as name, address, date of birth, social security number or mother's maiden name. Armed with this information, an imposter can open new credit card accounts, drain your bank accounts, purchase automobiles, apply for loans, open utility services and on and on.

No matter how cautious you are, you cannot guarantee that a criminal will not obtain your information. The following steps will tell you what the warning signs are, how to protect yourself, what to do if you become a victim and the resources you will need.

Warning Signs

Often, there are no warning signs that identity theft has occurred. However, some reasons for concern are:

- Your monthly credit card and bank statements suddenly stop arriving.
- You are denied credit for no apparent reason.
- You start getting bills from companies you do not recognize.
- Credit collection agencies try to collect on debts that do not belong to you.

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Wexford



Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen

Say it isn't so! June quickly passed us by, but not without being noticed. Independence Day is when the fireworks are in full 'boom'. June was surely hot, humid, and busy. June was certainly booming with calls for service. I have heard, but never trusted, that calls for service rise when the weather is unbearably hot. Perhaps it is true in this case. I was getting spoiled with the low numbers for calls for service prior to June. In May 2007, there were a total of 36 calls for service. In June 2007, the calls jumped considerably to 72 calls for service (not including all parking complaints). In June 2006, there were a total of 62 calls for service. This is not a promising number particularly since we have two more months of summer. Could this be related to the numbers of children currently not in school? I'm not sure I can put that kind of responsibility on that. Sure, there could be a connection, but I believe it is more connected to the people that come into the neighborhood as guests. Juvenile complaints are very low, 1 to be exact. I believe that the residents need to take more responsibility for whom they choose to spend time with and bring into the neighborhood.

A quick break down (top 5) of the calls Officers have responded to are:

- Noise complaints
- Domestic/family disturbances
- 911 disconnects
- Stolen autos
- Arrested Adults (warrants)

Noise complaints are the number one complaint right now. In early June, I noted an increase and determined that the majority of the calls were coming from one particular area of the complex. With the help of a neighbor, we determined the specific areas and I issued a warning letter to the entire area. This neighbor, who called or email almost everyday about the noise issues, has not contacted me in a few weeks. This effort was successful. There was great teamwork and pressure from other residents to be a little more respectful to people's peaceful living conditions. It will be interesting to look into the number of noise complaints for June to see if there have been improvements.

Hammersley



Officer Caleb Bedford

On July 4, the Elver Park fireworks went off without any major disturbances in the park or in the nearby neighborhoods. This was a pleasant improvement over the last few years. In advance of the event, we sent out notices to area tenants and landlords, asking for their cooperation during the event. One of our sergeants also had the good idea to temporarily restrict parking on Hammersley Road on the day of the event. We also deployed many officers out into the neighborhoods before the event even started. Together these strategies helped bring about a relatively calm event.

The next day was not as quiet. I made two felony arrests on July 5, with the help of several other officers. Around noon, I arrested Thadius Chauncey Bell (age 18) for felony physical abuse of a child. (His name should be familiar to any of you who were reading this newsletter last fall.) I responded to McKenna Boulevard in front of Elver Park for a report of a man repeatedly punching a girl. Many uninvolved citizens witnessed the crime. The investigation produced probable cause and Bell has been incarcerated since that day awaiting trial. At the time, Bell was out on bail for a felony charge of operating a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. The standard bail conditions for that felony charge included not committing any new crimes while the case is pending, so I tacked on a charge of felony bail jumping.

Later that day, I stopped Martez Moore (age 21) in front of a suspected drug house on Loreen Drive. I ran a data check on Moore and discovered a felony warrant for his arrest. Other officers helped me take him into custody and search him. The search yielded a pocketful of crack cocaine, packaged for resale. He admitted that he was planning to sell the cocaine later in the day. Moore was last convicted of possessing cocaine in 2005. That was shortly after his release from prison on a different felony violence conviction. Officers Valenta and Xiong booked Moore into jail, where he has remained since that day.

Bell and Moore are presumed innocent until found guilty in court.

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

I want to take this opportunity to kind of summarize some of the calls for those of you that may not have had the time to read the prior articles about Memorial High School. I began my assignment as the ERO for Memorial High School in September of 2006.

Since that time there have been a number of disturbances, which were the result of fights and some that were simply misunderstandings between students. However, the vast amount of fights was typically between students from Memorial with just a few instances of other people coming out to the school.

Typically, we attempt to handle most of the fights and school situations by enforcing school policy as the primary means. However, often times the nature and circumstances of the incident require additional enforcement by state statute or ordinance citations which may lead to a physical arrest.

In the month of June there were 17 calls for service. The call breakdowns were:

- 2 Weapons Offenses
- 1 Theft from Auto
- 1 Juvenile Complaint
- 1 Battery
- 1 Check Property
- 1 Check Person
- 2 Assist EMS/Fire
- 1 Adult Arrest
- 1 Information
- 3 Theft Reports
- 1 Fight Call
- 2 Noise Complaints

As many of you know, summer school is in session, and there are a number of students taking class. We ask that you take the time to observe your driving behavior in and around Jefferson Middle School and Memorial High School. In addition, pay close attention to your safety and that of pedestrians near the intersection of Gammon and Mineral Point Rd.

Have a great summer.

Community Policing Team



Sergeant Linda Kosovac

The West CPT continues to be involved in a number of activities. First, we have been focused on achieving the City's goal of making the Allied Drive area a better place to live. With help from the Weed & Seed Federal Grant, which provides us with additional officers (on grant overtime), and the hard work of the west patrol officers on a daily basis, I can for the first time in four years, say with confidence that the neighborhood appears to be taking a positive turn. We also joined forces with Fitchburg PD Officers on two days this month to address their same concerns in the area. While we as departments have jurisdictional lines to follow, the criminal element doesn't. Our joint operations were quite successful and we look forward to working together again.

The summer months have also given us the opportunity to train in our area schools. We recently participated in a rapid deployment training with the South and North Community Policing Teams as well as several Neighborhood Officers. Several of our new police officers currently in training, as well as college student interns working with our department, graciously volunteered on their own time, to be "actors" in our training. They took on the role of victims, witnesses and suspects, so that in the event of a school crisis/emergency situation, we can be better prepared to act quickly and effectively.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH KIDS?

Are you or someone you know looking for a part-time job? As a Crossing Guard, you will be providing great service to your community as well as earning \$13.30 per hour plus retirement benefits. Health and life insurance are also available. The City of Madison is looking for interested people who enjoy working outdoors to provide safety for our school children for the 2007-2008 school year.

Most shifts are 1 - 1 ¼ hours and fall between the hours of 7:00-8:45 a.m. and 2:30-4:00 p.m. with an earlier shift Monday afternoons. Work is scheduled Monday through Friday with no weekend work. Some flexibility is required due to early release dates.

For more information, please contact the City of Madison Police Dept. Traffic Bureau at 266-4703 (Bob Olson or Patti Knoche) or Human Resources at 266-4615. A job description and application is also available at: www.ci.madison.wi.us/hr/jobopen.html.

Investigations



Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

The summer months are typically quite busy for the officers and detectives of the Madison Police Department. This is again proving to be the case this year.

We have been receiving numerous reports of thefts from garages all over the west side, almost all the result of overhead garage doors having been left open. Numerous bicycles, many CD's, and much loose change has been stolen, even several snowblowers. We have also had several reports of purses and wallets stolen from inside residences. These incidents seem largely to be crimes of convenience, where the suspect(s) observe an easy opportunity, and take advantage. These crimes are occurring during the daylight hours and overnight.

The easiest and best way to deter this kind of crime is to remember to close your garage door, and to close and secure the doors to your home, even when you are at home.

I also would like to note several significant cases that west detectives investigated recently.

Detective Sara Petzold, one of our two financial crimes detectives, and a part-time contributor to this newsletter, recently presented a very involved internet fraud case to the District Attorney. This case involved over 65 separate victims, totaled nearly \$200,000 in losses to the victims, and resulted in 25 counts of wire fraud against the suspect. Financial crimes cases can be extraordinarily complex and involved, and the west district is very fortunate to have two of the very best in Detective Petzold and Detective Tom Colby.

Detective Brian Austin, one of four persons crimes detectives working out of the west district, was recently commended by Dane County District Attorney Bob Kaiser for his investigation of a kidnapping and armed robbery case. Detective Austin's work on this case resulted in the successful prosecution of the two suspects in this case, Robert Henderson and Mario Jeffery. Distinct Attorney Bob Kaiser commended Detective Austin for his "dogged efforts" in pursuit of leads and evidence in the case, and in his interviews. Detective Austin's efforts resulted in lengthy prison sentences for both suspects, and are reflective of the skill and commitment that Detective Austin brings to work on a daily basis.

Identity Theft continued...

How To Protect Yourself:

Personal Information

- Ask your bank, doctor's office, other businesses and your employer how they use and protect your personal information.
- Never carry your Social Security card, Social Security number, birth certificate or passport unless necessary.
- Do not put your address, telephone number or driver's license number on a credit card sales receipt.
- Social Security numbers or phone numbers should not be put on checks.
- Identifying information should not be given over the phone or the Internet to someone you do not know or on a cellular or cordless phone.
- Shred all personal documents before placing them in the trash!
- If your state uses your Social Security number as your driver's license number, ask for another number.

Financial Information

- Get a copy of your credit report every year.
- Keep your financial records out of sight. Burglars are just as interested in credit cards, bank accounts and investment statements as they are in your TV, Jewelry, and other valuables.
- Check monthly credit card statements for charges you did not make. If monthly statements do not arrive in the mail call the lender immediately.
- Keep a list, in a safe place, of all credit cards and bank accounts including the account numbers, phone numbers and expiration dates. Only use your credit card on the Internet if it will be encrypted.
- Shred financial or confidential information such as credit card pre-approvals, credit card receipts, etc.
- If you have credit cards you do not use, store them in a safe place. Cancel the accounts if you will not use them again. Cut up old credit cards before discarding.
- Carry only the credit cards you plan to use.
- When you have applied for a new credit card, keep your eye on the mail and the calendar. If the card does not arrive within the appropriate time, call the credit card company.
- Do not use your mother's maiden name as a password for accounts. Make one up.
- Unless your mailbox is secure, mail payments at the post office and pick up new checks at your bank.

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Identity Theft continued...

- If you are not interested in pre-approved credit offers, opt-out using the telephone number listed below.

What to do if you have become a victim

Despite your best efforts to protect yourself, you have become a victim. Now what? The following steps should be taken immediately and at the same time to best insure your protection. When You are the Victim of a Crime: What are your rights and where do you call for help and support? Click here for more information

Record Keeping

In the process of resolving the theft of your identity, be sure to keep records of all correspondence with the creditors and government agencies you contact. Include the date and name of contact. Follow up all telephone contacts with a letter and keep a copy.

Creditors

Notify all creditors and financial institutions in writing and by phone that your name and accounts have been used without your permission. If an existing account has been stolen, ask the creditor or bank to issue you new cards, checks and account numbers. Carefully monitor your account activity on your statements. Report fraudulent activity to the issuing company immediately. The Fair Credit Billing Act (FCBA) is a federal law that limits a consumer's responsibility for fraudulent charges to \$50.

Local Law Enforcement

Immediately report the crime to local police. Provide them with as much documentation as possible. Make sure that the accounts are listed on the police report. Also, get a copy of the police report. Credit card companies, banks and credit reporting agencies may require you to show a police report to support your claim that a crime was committed.

Federal Law Enforcement

Report the crime to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC collects complaints about identity theft from consumers and stores them in a secure online database called the Consumer Sentinel that is available to law enforcement agencies worldwide. The FTC provides information on ways to resolve problems resulting from identity theft and refers individuals to various private and government agencies for further action.

Federal Trade Commission
Consumer Response Center
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20580
1-877-IDTHEFT
www.consumer.gov/idtheft/

The Credit Reporting Agencies

Contact the fraud units of the three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian and Trans Union. Ask them to place a fraud alert on your credit report to help prevent new fraudulent accounts from being opened. Keep track of when it expires so you can ask for another one if necessary. However, not all creditors check your credit report before issuing a new account.

As an ID fraud victim, you are entitled to a free copy of your credit report. Also, ask the agencies for a copy of your credit report every three months once you have become a victim. This can help determine how many and which accounts listed are fraudulent. You can also identify the existing accounts that have been stolen.

Equifax 1-800-685-1111 www.equifax.com
Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com
Trans Union 1-800-916-8800 www.transunion.com

To opt-out of receiving pre-approved credit card offers, call 1-888-5-opt-out.

Utility Companies

Ask utility companies (local and long distance telephone service providers, gas, electric and water companies) to watch out for anyone ordering services in your name. If someone has ordered services in your name, cancel those accounts. If you are having trouble with falsified accounts, contact your state Public Utility Commission.

Other Resources

United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)

The USPIS is a federal law enforcement agency that investigates cases of identity theft. The agency has primary jurisdiction in matters involving the integrity of the U.S. mail.

U.S. Postal Inspection Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza
Washington, DC 20260
202-268-2284
www.usps.gov/websites/depart/inspect/

United States Secret Service (USSS)

The USSS is a federal agency that investigates financial crimes. Generally, the USSS will intervene only when the dollar amount of the crime is high. However, they should still be notified in case it is part of a larger fraud ring.

www.ustreas.gov/usss

Social Security Administration (SSA)

If you detect fraudulent use of your social security number, report it to the SSA. The SSA does not generally take action unless there is a high dollar amount, workplace impersonation or crimes committed in your name. They will only change your SSN if you fit their fraud victim criteria.

Social Security Administration
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235
1-800-269-0271 (fraud hotline)
www.ssa.gov/

Call For Action, Inc.

Call For Action, Inc. is an international network of consumer hotlines. CFA volunteers provide assistance and mediate cases on behalf of consumers and small businesses. For more information on identity theft visit

www.callforaction.org