

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



### Captain Jay Lengfeld

What a turn out at the neighborhood listening session for District 20! There were approximately 650 attendees and that has to have set a record for one of the largest public hearings in recent years. There are now listening sessions scheduled throughout the City because of how successful this one was for everybody. A big thank you goes out to all that attended, and to Alderperson Thuy Pham-Remmele and her army of volunteers for organizing this very successful session. A special thank you goes to David Glomp for moderating the meeting and St. Maria Goretti Church and School staff for hosting the event at their facility. The meeting was very moving and powerful for the police department staff and the mayor and his staff attending. There is a response meeting scheduled for Sept. 13, 2007, at 6:30 PM, at St. Maria Goretti School Gym, which will seat more than the Cafeteria. There should be seats for everybody, so please put it on your calendar.

Stay cool and safe and see you on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

## Patrol Operations



### Lieutenant Victor Wahl

The month of July was an extremely busy one for the Madison Police Department and the West District. While the Elver Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July event went very smoothly, other incidents across the district have kept WPD officers quite busy. This high workload has been seen across the City, in all five police districts.

The Madison Police Department responded to **3,629** calls for police service in the West District during the month of July, an average of more than

**117** per day. These incidents included:

1	Homicide
2	Arsons
13	Sexual assaults
7	Robberies
11	Aggravated batteries
19	Weapons offenses/gun calls
70	Burglaries
31	Thefts from autos
15	Stolen autos
256	Motor vehicle crashes
36	Batteries
97	Retail thefts
147	Disturbances
120	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Injury Accident, 6700 Schroeder Road** – On July 3 at about 4pm, WPD officers responded to the 6700 block of Schroeder Road for a two-year-old child who had fallen from a moving vehicle. Investigation showed that the child had not been properly restrained in the vehicle, and fell from the vehicle into the roadway during a turn. The parent did not notice at the time; the child was not seriously injured.

**Shooting, 4500 Verona Road** – On July 7 at about 9:30pm, WPD officers responded to the BP gas station on Verona Road for a report of shots fired. Shell casings and evidence of a shooting were located in the lot. A short time later an individual appeared at a local emergency room with a gunshot wound to the foot. It is believed this person was shot in the BP lot. Investigation continuing.

**Burglary, 53 West Towne Mall** – On July 8 at about 11:45pm, an alarm was triggered at the Sears located in West Towne Mall. A Sears manager responded and observed a suspect inside the store. Officers responded and arrested the suspect for burglary.

**Fatality Accident, 7100 Mineral Point Road** – On July 12 at about 2pm, WPD officers responded to an accident in the 7100 block of Mineral Point Road. An SUV had been attempting to pull from a

drive across Mineral Point Road when it struck a motorcycle travelling westbound on Mineral Point Road. The motorcyclist was pronounced dead after being transported to a local hospital.

**Robbery, 3191 Muirfield Road** – On July 19 shortly after midnight, WPD officers responded to a 911 hang up at Glass Nickel Pizza, on Muirfield Road. Officers were advised that an employee was leaving the establishment when he was confronted by a suspect with a handgun. The suspect fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 5445 University Avenue** – On July 25 at about 5am, WPD officers responded to the Stop-n-Go on University Avenue for an armed robbery. The clerk had been robbed at knifepoint; the suspect fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Homicide, 1300 Loreen Drive** – On July 28 at about 4am, officers responded to a residence in the 1300 block of Loreen Drive for a report of shots being fired. Officers discovered a 26-year-old individual – Kevin Cobbins – who had been fatally shot. As a result of the extensive investigation, an arrest warrant has been issued for James P. Bohannon for First Degree Intentional Homicide. Detectives continue to actively investigate the case and look for Bohannon. Anyone with information about Bohannon or his whereabouts should call Madison Crimestoppers at 266-6014.

**Fatality Accident, Midvale Boulevard & Mineral Point Road** – On July 28 at about 9:45pm, WPD officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on Midvale Boulevard near Mineral Point Road. Investigation showed that one vehicle was travelling northbound on Midvale Boulevard when the driver lost control. The vehicle crossed the grassy median and crashed into a vehicle travelling southbound on Midvale. A passenger in the first vehicle was pronounced dead at a local hospital. The driver was arrested and charged with homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle.

**Attempted Suicide, 6700 Schroeder Road** – On July 27 at about 5:30am, WPD officers responded to an apartment in the 6700 block of Schroeder Road for a report of a suicidal subject. Officers encountered a 22-year-old female who was armed with a knife. The female was standing near her infant child, and holding the knife over her head. She was also bleeding from several self-inflicted wounds. The female refused to comply with officers' orders to drop the knife, and instead moved towards the infant. An officer deployed a Taser, incapacitating the female and allowing her to be taken into custody without injury or the use of deadly force.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **595** total citations in May, consisting of **276** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **146** "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 **11** citations per officer.

Also, the Madison Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Safety Team (TEST) conducted a pedestrian enforcement initiative on July 24 in the Hilldale Mall area. Six citations were issued to drivers who did not yield to pedestrians.

## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



Officer Jason Ostrenga



Officer John Messer

On July 27<sup>th</sup> the Madison Police and the Allied Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood association sponsored a Neighborhood Community Meal at the Boys and Girls club. The Community Meal is a monthly free meal open to the residents of the Allied Drive area. Each month a different organization sponsors the meal. Officer Jason Ostrenga was able to procure the cooking talents of Felicia Greer to make a wonderful dinner for approximately 100 people including our very own Captain Lengfeld and Lieutenant Wahl. Diners enjoyed Felicia's homemade fried catfish, spaghetti pie, salad, bread and dessert. The night's activities concluded with a small raffle with winners receiving gift certificates to Wal-Mart. Thanks must go to all that helped with the set-up and to Felicia and her cooking crew for the wonderful meal. The next Community meal is scheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup> at the Boys and Girls Club.



Changes continue to come to the Allied Drive area. The Probation and Parole Office has moved from its location on Allied Drive to its new location at 4633 Verona Rd. Suite B. This new location is

behind the Walgreen's on Verona Road. Agents say the new location is larger and provides better parking. The agents further wanted everybody to know that although they have a new address the telephone and fax numbers for all the agents have remained the same.



Looking into the fall, we are currently working on the following projects: Look for the return of Adult Open Basketball nights later in the fall. Also, in October there are plans to conduct landlord training for building owners in the Allied area. Finally, look for up-coming classes on personal safety.



## Wexford



**Officer Cindy Thiesenhuisen**

At least there can be something said for consistency. Wexford Ridge Neighborhood is consistent when issues arise relating to the police. There continues to be higher numbers for calls for service during the summer compared to non-summer months. There is a slight drop from June to July. This I would attribute to the boom ordinance and less noise complaints. The residents caught on quick. The prize for most improved call for service goes to the noise complaints. In June, there were 12 and in July there were only 6. A 50% improvement, this goes to show how important the boom ordinance has been to this neighborhood. Another drastic improvement was the disturbance calls. Considering July involves a Holiday where noise and disturbances typically tend to increase, both have decreased. Disturbances in July were at 1 call. In June there were 6, over a 50% improvement.

A clearer breakdown for July includes; Domestic calls at 7, 911 disconnect calls at 7, Check person calls at 3, Check property calls at 3, Juvenile complaints at 2. It is clear that the calls for service are all over the board and that there really is no one call type for July that stands out. There is one address that we are sent to often dealing with an ongoing domestic where the victim continues to hide the suspect. The suspect is wanted on numerous warrants and has evaded the police at every turn. The victim is not the person who calls, and this is the reason for her lack of cooperation. By her allowing this wanted subject to remain in her residence and her

lack of cooperation, she potentially risks eviction or even harboring a felon charges. This outcome would be unfortunate.

As a reminder, 'Connections' sponsored by MPD and Meridian Management, the summer party in Wexford is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> from 1p-5p. This will be a fun and positive event that includes many different events and prizes. There are some notable sponsors that include; Becker Law office, Famous Footwear, Target, Trek of Madison, Rocky Rocco, Safe Kids Coalition, Safe Communities, and the YWCA—Job Options. I am looking into a few more sponsors, and am also looking forward to a great event!

## Hammersley



**Officer Caleb Bedford**

I assume that everyone on this list was aware of or present at the meeting at St Maria Goretti Church on August 8. The media have reported extensively on the impressive turnout for the meeting, so I won't go over it again here. The tentative date for a follow-up meeting is during the first week of September.

While most of us were at that meeting, the West CPT was busy arresting a drug dealer on Hammersley Road. Joshua Hendrickson was convicted of his first adult felony at the age of 19. That was for manufacturing/delivering THC. He went to jail for a few months and then spent time on probation. Then he committed another felony when he led officers on a car chase. More jail and probation. Then in 2003 he was convicted of possessing a firearm as a felon, and he went to prison for a couple years. Then in 2007 he was convicted of delivering controlled substances to an inmate. He was put on probation again for that offense and he settled on Hammersley. While on probation he failed drug tests and stopped making his meetings with his probation agent. On the night of the big meeting, the Department of Corrections did a home search at his residence, and the CPT provided security. The DOC agents found controlled substances in the apartment, so the CPT drafted and executed a warrant. They seized crack cocaine, marijuana and ammunition.

Hendrickson is now in jail again. His probation will probably be revoked and he will eventually face sentencing on new charges of possessing controlled substances with intent to deliver and maintaining a drug dwelling. Of course he is legally innocent of all these charges until proven guilty in court.

At our quarterly neighborhood meetings and in previous

newsletter articles, I have repeatedly identified the revolving door justice system as a primary cause of our current social woes. Hendrickson is Exhibit A. We, the police, know who the criminals are and we arrest them over and over again. Neither their identity nor their location is a mystery. Other actors within the judicial and legislative systems make a variety of decisions that result in churning the criminals back out into society to victimize us again. Through our silence, we as citizens are complicit in these decisions. Pondered from a safe distance, these decisions just seem foolish. Up close they incite anger.

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## Community Policing Team



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

My previous monthly updates have focused around specific police events that have occurred in the West District. This month, I'd like to focus on more of the personal side of the incredible workload that all of the West District officers and detectives have been able to shoulder.

July has been "hot" with respect to both weather and calls for service. Your West District officers have responded well. Day after day, I see the officers end their shift exhausted and soaked with sweat. Over the last month, they have covered infant deaths, a major fire, stabbings, shootings, homicides, injury/fatality car crashes and hangings, just to name a few tragic events. The list goes on and on. In between these crisis events, the officers continue to cover "routine" calls for service including but not limited to thefts, burglaries, fights, domestic violence, barking dog complaints, loud parties, foot pursuits and yes, they even manage to find time to conduct traffic enforcement. It never ceases to amaze me that these same officers/detectives, disheveled from the day before, return the next day in a new crisp clean uniform ready, smiling and laughing, and willing and able to provide the city with more services. Your officers pay an incredible price, physically, mentally and emotionally, yet return day after day, refreshed and ready for the next round.

After a recent community meeting I was speaking to a group of women leaving the West District. One of the women asked me how the officers are able to do their jobs day in and day out without being in a constant state of anger. She was speaking with respect to the amount of violent crimes that have been occurring in Madison and the constant battle dealing with "repeat customers" i.e. those folks that we arrest only to see released back on the street to commit more crimes. I told her that to live in a constant state of anger would be extremely unhealthy.

The fact that our officers and detectives are not in a constant state of anger is a testament to their strong character and belief that they can help make our city a better place to live. In short, I am proud of the services our officers and detectives provide to our city and their ability to rebound all the while maintaining composure, professionalism and a healthy mindset throughout. To my fellow officers, keep up the good work!

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## Memorial High School



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

The start of the new school year is quickly approaching, and soon hundreds of students will be walking the halls of Memorial High School. The initial impact of a new school and teachers on the freshmen will be very visible.

My strategy during the first few weeks is to touch base with students as much as possible and offer them alternatives and options to deal with many of the issues that they will be presented with.

In coordination with the Principals at Memorial High School, we anticipate a safe and orderly school year. The vast majority of students are aware of the expectations that they must abide by. Those who have trouble with them will be contacted and shown the right path.

Prior to the student's arrival to school, the staff will meet and plan for classes and new students. This must be a very tedious and involved process, so please join with me in assisting in anyway possible for a safe and orderly transition to school by the students of Memorial High School.

Thanks again for your attention.



Lt. Wahl demonstrates fingerprinting to a group of children taking a tour of the West District