

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

We had a great turn out at the Southwest Madison Police Response meeting and we all walked away feeling we had a plan. We recognized that there is a lot of hard work to do, but if we work together we can get it done. I broke the police response into three parts, short-term response, intermediate term response and long-term response.

Short-term response (Sept.- Dec. 2007):

- 600 hours of officer overtime for traffic enforcement, foot/bike patrols, drug enforcement and quality of life offenses.
- Increase communications between department and Neighborhood Watch Groups.
- Will send monthly calls for service reports to landlords.
- Increase building inspections in area.
- Improve lighting by tree trimming or/and adding lights.
- Focus on problem landlords.

Intermediate term Response (2008):

- Increase the number of Community Policing Team officers by two.
- Explore re-aligning patrol beats.
- Build a stronger distinct/neighborhood.

Long term Response (2009-future):

- Add a beat to 1st and 3rd details
- Add two more officers to the Community Policing Team.
- Explore the uses of cameras and other technology.
- Funds for neighborhood watch groups.
- Possibly receiving a Weed and Seed grant.

I hope everybody had a great summer and I look forward to working with you on the challenges that lay ahead of us. Take care!

Patrol Operations



Lieutenant Victor Wahl

The month of August closed out a very busy summer for the Madison Police Department and the West District. The Madison Police Department responded to **3,441** calls for police service in the West District during the month of August, an average of **111** per day. These incidents included:

1	Arson
1	Sexual assault
11	Robberies
5	Aggravated batteries
23	Weapons offenses/gun calls
86	Burglaries
45	Thefts from autos
24	Stolen autos
273	Motor vehicle crashes
25	Batteries
91	Retail thefts
110	Disturbances
102	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

Stolen Auto, 4501 Verona Road – On August 6 at about 10pm, a victim left her vehicle running as she ran into a gas station on Verona Road. Her 5 year-old daughter and 11 month-old son were in the vehicle at the time. As soon as she entered the store, she observed her vehicle driving away. The vehicle was located a short distance away; the children were unharmed. Investigation continuing.

Robbery, 4501 Verona Road – On August 11 at about 11:30am, WPD officers responded to the BP gas station at 4501 Verona Road for a robbery. A female was vacuuming her vehicle in the gas station lot when she was approached from behind. The suspect pushed her into her vehicle and forced her to drive to her bank on South Park Street. There, she withdrew cash and turned it over to the

suspect, who subsequently fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

Robbery, 6500 Raymond Road – On August 10 at about 5pm, WPD officers responded to a report of a robbery occurring in the 6500 block of Raymond Road. The victim had been walking on Raymond Road when he was approached by two black males, one armed with a handgun. The suspects demanded money and fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

Robbery/Employee Theft, 6202 Schroeder Road – On August 13 at about 5am, WPD officers responded to a report of an armed robbery at the Stop-N-Go store located at 6202 Schroeder Road. The employee/victim reported that he was robbed by a suspect armed with a handgun. Investigation showed that the employee had faked the robbery to account for money that he had stolen from the store.

Lewd & Lascivious Behavior, Grand Canyon Drive at Mineral Point Road – On August 16 at about 1am, WPD officers responded to a report of an exposure. Investigation showed that the suspect had pulled up next to the victim's vehicle at an intersection and had exposed himself. The suspect – a 34 year-old Madison resident – was subsequently located and arrested.

Accident with Injuries, 4900 Verona Road – On August 24 at about 3:30am, WPD officers responded to a report of a vehicle-pedestrian accident on Verona Road near Raymond Road. A female pedestrian had been crossing the intersection during heavy rain and had been struck by a vehicle travelling south on Verona Road. The female was transported to a local hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Death Investigation, Odana Hills Golf Course – On August 27 at about 10am, WPD officers responded to Odana Golf Course for a report of a person struck by lightning. A 75 year-old Madison resident had been seeking shelter on the course and had been struck by lightning. He was killed instantly.

Sexual Assault, Tokay Boulevard – On August 28 at about 9am, WPD officers responded to a report of a sexual assault on Tokay Boulevard near the Madison Metro West Transfer Point. The male suspect contacted the female victim at the transfer point, and sexually assaulted her in a wooded area across the street. The suspect was arrested a short time later and has been charged in the assault.

Weapons Violation, Muir Field Road – On August 30 officers learned of a vehicle possibly carrying a firearm. Officers watched the vehicle and subsequently stopped it as it attempted to drive away. A search of the vehicle yielded an AK-47 assault rifle and a .44 magnum handgun.

Traffic enforcement: West District officers issued **487** total citations in August, consisting of **232** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **119** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **136** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **9** citations per officer.

Neighborhood Officers

Allied Drive



Officer Jason Ostrenga



Officer John Messer

It is nice to report that calls for service in the Allied Drive neighborhood continue to be lower than last year. For example, in August 2006 there were 400 calls for service. In August 2007 there were 243 calls for service, a decrease of 39%.

Despite the lower calls for service, the West District continues to work hard to reduce the influence of drugs and guns in the area. Recently, following an investigation by Officer Ostrenga, the Emergency Response Team executed a high-risk search warrant at an address in the 2200 Block of Allied Drive. The West Community Police Team assisted in collecting over 40 pieces of evidence. This team effort netted 4 arrests, seizure of cocaine base, marijuana and 2 loaded handguns. In another incident, Officers Ted Fondrk and Dan Borth conducted a traffic stop on the Verona Frontage Road. While attempting to detain a passenger in the vehicle, Officer Fondrk alertly recovered a loaded handgun from the subject's waistband as the subject struggled to escape. Due to great police work, the subject was arrested and now faces federal weapon charges.

A big thanks must go to Officer Mary Anne Thurber for conducting safety training at the September 11th Allied Stakeholders meeting. The training was well received by the service providers in the neighborhood. Several people approached me after the meeting stating the training was timely and right on point. If anybody wants to hold or sponsor safety classes contact Mary Anne Thurber at the Madison Police Department's Crime Prevention Office at 266-4238.

Finally, look for flyers reference the upcoming 3-point basketball contest on October 7th at the Boys and Girls Club.

Hammersley



Officer Caleb Bedford

A few weeks ago, I read a report prepared by our department crime analyst. The report was not prepared for me, but it eventually made its way across my desk. This report compared total police calls in the Hammersley neighborhood in 2004 and 2006. The report revealed a surprising trend. When those two years are compared, calls on Hammersley Rd are down 29%, calls on Theresa Terrace are down 143% (no, that's not a typo), calls on Prairie Rd are down 30%, and calls on Bettys Lane are down 33%. Overall, the trend is encouraging, but the neighborhood remains fragile. One homicide, one knife fight, and multiple shootings have occurred in the past year. Our department has also executed numerous drug warrants and made multiple drug arrests. Crack dealers were confirmed selling on Hammersley Rd as recently as June 2007 and on Loreen Dr as recently as July 2007. Taken together, all of this information does not lead to an obvious conclusion about the current status of the neighborhood. Some signs are discouraging while others justify cautious optimism.

Community Policing Team



Sergeant Linda Kosovac

Officer Dao Xiong planned and implemented an operation involving west side establishments that sell carryout alcohol. He received help from four volunteers who were 18 years old and recent high school graduates. The volunteers were taken to 10 random west side establishments, escorted and dropped off by CPT officers. They were given money to buy alcohol and entered with no identification. Three of the 10 establishments sold alcohol to the 18 year olds. The employees who sold alcohol to the underage volunteers were issued a city ordinance citation for \$361. The establishments who refused to sell alcohol to our volunteers were later notified by Officers Xiong and Valenta of our operation and attempt to buy. These establishments and their employees were complimented for their compliance with the liquor laws. Our young volunteers took their "undercover assignment" seriously and were a

pleasure to work with. All four are now freshmen in college and we wish them well.

As we enter the beginning of a new school year, please keep in mind the safety of our children. Each school has specific restricted parking areas that are designed to allow emergency vehicles to enter the school area as well as keep areas open for school buses and pedestrian crossing zones. Our CPT has been requested to assist the parking enforcement officers in monitoring these areas. Please police yourselves so that we do not have to issue those nasty little citations. Non-compliance with the clearly marked areas in the school may result in a parking ticket. Following are some examples:

POSTED FIRE LANES
\$50, IF TOWED \$100

UNAUTHORIZED PARKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
\$40, IF TOWED \$90

NO STOPPING, OR STANDING OR PARKING
\$30, IF TOWED \$80

PROHIBITED, LIMITED OR RESTRICTED BY OFFICIAL
SIGNS \$20, IF TOWED \$70

FIRE HYDRANT ZONE (MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM
HYDRANT -10 FT.)
\$20, IF TOWED \$70

Memorial High School



Officer Shannon Blackamore

The beginning of the school year has been somewhat busy. The staff has focused a great deal of attention on trying to ensure that students get to class on time and aren't wandering the hallway. In addition, the High Schools here in Madison have seen an increase in gang activity. We are attempting to locate those students that are gang involved and move them toward programs and counselors that will assist them in making better choices.

A large problem in recent days has been the trespassing of numerous individuals on campus in an effort to visit and hangout with friends. However, this often times creates a problem with people roaming the halls and not identifying themselves to staff. Many of you may be aware that just a few days ago, a student arrived here at school with a

Memorial Continued...

BB/Pellet gun stuffed in the front of his waistband concealed by a long shirt. I contacted this student and was able to remove him and the weapon from the school.

It's imperative that the rules and polices set forth in the schools are followed. It helps foster a safer learning environment and makes the school conducive to teaching. As we move forward during the school year, we are impressing upon students to make the right decision. Staff is insisting that gang connected clothing or activities are eliminated and not tolerated. In addition tardiness will be addressed promptly to ensure that all students have an opportunity to obtain a good education.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and my hope is that we have many more positive days in our high schools throughout the year.

Investigations



Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

The theft and resale of recyclable materials has been a burgeoning area of criminal activity across the city in recent years.

Construction sites are most commonly targeted, as these sites often have large quantities of recyclable materials on hand. Generally, copper, in the form of wire, pipes and fittings, and aluminum, is targeted. The thief steals the materials and takes them to an area recycling business for cash.

From a law enforcement perspective, these cases present several challenges. Generally, the materials stolen do not bear any identifiable markings through which they can be traced back to a particular job site or business. This makes contacting the owner of the property difficult, and the identification of the property nearly impossible. Additionally, there are numerous businesses in the area which deal in recyclables, further complicating efforts to locate the stolen property.

One particularly distasteful case from May of this year involved the theft of over 50 bronze gravesite vases stolen from burial plots at Sunset Memory Gardens cemetery on Mineral Point Rd. This case was assigned to detective Denise Armstrong. Detective Armstrong is one of three "general assignment" detectives working out of the west

district. Detectives titled "general assignment" typically take on a wide variety of cases, both persons crimes and property crimes. Detective Armstrong was able to determine that a number of pieces of the vases had been sold to an area recycling company, and through their records, was able to identify a suspect, Jeffrey Skidmore. Detective Armstrong contacted and interviewed Skidmore, and through her efforts, was able to secure a confession. Skidmore was subsequently charged with Theft of Movable Property, a felony. These cases are very difficult to prove, and the successful resolution to this case is a credit to the diligence and skill that Detective Armstrong brings to her job.

Traffic



Officer Greg Kamoske
(TEST West District Liaison)

First and foremost, I am sure we all are aware that school is back in session. With that comes the reminder to please observe school zone speed limits around schools. Most schools in the City of Madison post a reduced speed limit of 20 MPH in school zones. If you are driving through a school zone, and no speed is posted, by statute the speed limit is 15 MPH. Also, know that the school zone speed limits are enforceable when 'children are present'. This is usually when children are walking to and from school, during recesses, some physical education activities and some walking field trips. Some school zone signs will have a flashing yellow light as a visual aid to remind drivers of the reduced speed limit. If school is not in session for some reason, but the yellow light is flashing, drivers may proceed through the school zone at the normal posted limit. Please be vigilant however as children may still be in the area to use the playgrounds and ball fields of the school on their day off.

Secondly, it will soon be;

**2007 Walk Our Children to
School Week October 1-5, 2007**

Safe Community Coalition joins with Madison Area SAFE KIDS and many school and law enforcement partners to coordinate this campaign. Twenty schools, 7,000 children, and their families participate in Walk Our

Traffic Continued...

Children to School Week in Dane County each year. Walk Our Children to School Week is aimed at improving driver behavior and teaching children to be safe pedestrians. Contact Nan Peterson at Tel: 608-262-9993; E-mail: nmpeters@facstaff.wisc.edu for more info.

Third, early September also saw the implementation of a Red Light Running campaign. Here is the press release info from the Dane County Safe Community Coalition:

Stop on Red Campaign, September 5 - 7, 2007

Red light running is a significant cause of traffic-related injuries in Dane County, and was a top concern of Dane County neighborhood leaders, law enforcement officials, health and medical professionals, and businesses who participated in the Coalition's first Community Traffic Summit in 2001. Each year, Safe Communities joins with neighborhoods, local police and traffic engineering departments to identify high-crash intersections and conduct a media campaign to reduce red light running.

We're fortunate this year to have the support of Allstate Foundation. Funding from Allstate Foundation will enable us to air stop on red public service announcements and fund a yard sign effort at high crash intersections in Dane County.



Although the campaign date has passed, the Madison Police Department will continue stepped up Red Light Running enforcement at **all** intersections in a combined effort to reduce crashes. This goes hand in hand with already increased efforts at Odana Rd./S. Whitney Way and Mineral Point Rd./S. Gammon Rd.-2 intersections in the West district earmarked for increased traffic enforcement due to the high number of crashes at those intersections.

Fourth, you have likely heard or seen via radio or television that Wisconsin is also increasing enforcement to address OWI. This in fact is not only a Wisconsin initiative, but also a recent Federal campaign.

Go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website for more information on alcohol related fatalities:

www.nhtsa.com

Finally, the Madison Police Department and several Dane county Law enforcement agencies continue to heavily monitor beltline traffic and enforce traffic laws. This is in part to an aggressive driving grant known as the Drive SMART on the beltline campaign. You may also notice a billboard on the beltline near Verona Rd. using a golf

theme to remind drivers to avoid aggressive driving behaviors. Hopefully, these measures will make for a safer and more pleasant driving experience for all of us.



Recovered Weapons



Two weapons—an AK-47 assault rifle and a .44 magnum revolver—that were recovered from a vehicle by West District officers during a recent investigation.

These two handguns were recovered in an apartment in the 2200 block of Allied Drive during the execution of a search warrant. MPD's Emergency Response Team (ERT) executed the warrant. Marijuana and cocaine base were also located.

