

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



### About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

The Madison Police Department has assigned Officer Pat Green to conduct an assessment of the Balsam/Russett area to evaluate the need for a permanent Neighborhood Officer in the area. Officer Green will be assisted by intern Chris Miles. Officer Green and Chris will be creating a template, which will help identify what stage of transition the neighborhood is in, and this template will then be used to assess other neighborhoods throughout the City of Madison. This is an exciting pilot project assigned to Officer Green and Chris; they are truly excited to work in partnership with each resident, business, and organization to help the Meadowood community maintain Madison's unique quality of life.

One concern that was brought to Officer Green's attention was the fearfulness some residents have in reporting crimes. Some residents feel that there will be retaliation by others in the community for reporting criminal behavior to the police. Community members have also conveyed that residents might use Crime Stoppers as a safeguard against this; however, there is uncertainty as to how Crime Stoppers works. As a result, Officer Green and Chris have received flyers from Crime Stoppers, in both English and Spanish, describing how to anonymously report criminal activity. By reporting crime using Crime Stoppers, the caller will remain completely anonymous and if an arrest is made, the caller may be rewarded with cash! Please contact Officer Green by email if you would like to receive a copy of either form.

There has also been interest in starting a neighborhood watch program. Neighborhood watch involves vigilant citizens working together to observe and report crime. These programs act as extra "eyes and ears" for the police and help them stop and investigate crime in the area.

In recent meetings with members of "Meadowood on the Move," a number of great ideas have been hatched. Ernie and Joan Horinek, landlords in the Balsam Rd area, have created a coed soccer team for children ages 8-12. Practice is held twice a week and more players are always welcome. The city has painted lines in the park for a soccer field and Ernie is trying to get the team involved in a league so they can compete with other teams. Ernie is

also trying to launch an "adopt a player program." This program will solicit the help of local businesses or residents to sponsor a team member to pay for equipment and uniforms. There is also interest in getting a baseball team started. The team is in need of a coach, so anyone interested should speak up. There is also a baseball field ready to go in the Meadowood Park.

Another great program introduced is a community garden. This program has received a great deal of enthusiasm and excitement. The proposed program will allocate an area of the park for a garden in which all Meadowood residents could plant seeds and tend to their own plants. A community garden is a great way to meet other residents and build relationships with other community members.

The first couple of meetings with Meadowood on the Move have been productive and many new and exciting ideas have been introduced. These are good steps in creating a strong, healthy, and friendly community. In months to come, we look forward to working with all of you in the pursuit of a great community to live in. See you around the neighborhood!

**Officer Green and Chris**

If you have compliments, questions or concerns, please email us at: Officer Pat Green [pgreen@cityofmadison.com](mailto:pgreen@cityofmadison.com) or Chris Miles [cmiles@cityofmadison.com](mailto:cmiles@cityofmadison.com)

### Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

The Madison Police Department responded to **3,392** calls for police service in the West District during the month of April, an average of more than **109** per day. These incidents included:

- 7 Sexual assaults
- 7 Robberies
- 8 Aggravated batteries

31	Weapons offenses/gun calls
53	Burglaries
15	Thefts from autos
11	Stolen autos
240	Motor vehicle crashes
34	Batteries
83	Retail thefts
140	Disturbances

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Fatality Accident, Beltline Highway** – On May 2<sup>nd</sup> at about 6:45am, WPD officers responded to an accident on the Beltline, just east of Whitney Way. Three vehicles were involved in the accident. One person was pronounced dead at the scene, and two others were conveyed to a local hospital. Investigation continuing.

**Burglary, 7035 Old Sauk Road** – On May 16<sup>th</sup> at about 7am, WPD officers responded to Walbridge School, at 7035 Old Sauk Road, for a burglary. School staff had discovered that suspects had entered the school and stolen 10 computers overnight. Investigation continuing.

**Theft, 7302 Mineral Point Road** – On May 25<sup>th</sup> at about 4pm, WPD officers responded to Sunset Memory Gardens for a theft. The cemetery manager indicated that about 50 bronze vases that had been attached to burial plaques had been stolen. The value of the bronze vases was estimated at about \$7,500. Some of the vases were subsequently recovered; investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 6100 Mineral Point Road** – On May 31<sup>st</sup> at about 5am, WPD officers responded to Bruegger’s Bagels, at 6150 Mineral Point Road, for a robbery. Employees were accosted by multiple suspects as they entered the business to begin their work day. One of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The suspects fled on foot from the area. Investigation continuing.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **532** total citations in May, consisting of **254** “hazardous” traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **115** “non-hazardous” traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **163** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **10** citations per officer.

**WPD Survey Results**

During the months of April and May, the West District conducted a survey of residents and businesses. A summary of the survey results:

344 total surveys were completed.

95% of the respondents were residents; 5% were businesses.

39% of the respondents were male; 61% were female.

31% of the respondents indicated they had been a victim of a crime in the past 12 months. Of those, 80% reported the incident to MPD; 63% were satisfied with the way MPD handled the case.

Respondents were asked to indicate how much of a problem certain issues were in their neighborhood. The following activities were most likely to be considered “big problems:”

- Speeding (41%)
- Reckless driving (24%)
- Loud vehicle music/equipment (23%)
- Burglaries (15%)
- Drug sales (13%)
- Vandalism (13%)

Respondents were asked to select the problem that they felt police should place the highest priority on in their neighborhood:

- Speeding (35%)
- Burglaries (24%)
- Drug sales (11%)

85% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that their neighborhood is a safe place to live.

89% of the respondents felt that MPD provides quality service to the community.

7% of the respondents indicated that they are afraid to work with police for fear of retaliation.

98% of the respondents indicated that it is important for community members to work with police to solve problems.

92% of the respondents felt that MPD officers treat people fairly and with respect.

92% of the respondents felt that MPD officers use force appropriately.

94% of the respondents felt that MPD officers act professionally.

When asked to prioritize how MPD should utilize additional resources, respondents felt that the following were important or very important:

- Additional officers (87%)
- Improved equipment (61%)
- More crime analysts (57%)
- Youth development (62%)
- Crime prevention programs (51%)
- Crime scene investigators (71%)
- Training (87%)
- Detectives (78%)
- Administrative support (50%)

# Neighborhood Officers

## Allied Drive



**Officer Jason Ostrenga**



**Officer John Messer**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> was the first annual "Allied Move Forward Not Out Community March and Festival." It was a great day for the event which was held in Belmar Park at 4600 Thurston Lane and sponsored by The Allied/Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association. Approximately 500 people enjoyed the food, fun, games and entertainment.



The children from the area enjoyed the Henry Vilas Zoo mobile, the Madison Children's Museum play area and other activities including puppet shows and a blow up bounce ride.

Adults from the area enjoyed the excellent food and live entertainment including, The Christ is Solid Rock Choir, the Fountain of Life dancers and a demonstration by Officer Henry Wilson and his



K-9 partner Ivan. Residents were also pleased to meet City of Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Alderperson Brian Solomon.

The event concluded at 5:00pm with a raffle in which several children received new bikes. Many thanks must go to Neighborhood Association including Association President Alice Howard and Treasurer Barry Hayes for planning the event.

Mark your calendars for the July Community Meal sponsored by the Madison Police Department. The date will be July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Boys and Girls club. The tentative menu includes Subway subs and chips. Check back for updates.

## Wexford



**Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen**

Mark your calendars! August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007 will be the second annual 'Connections' celebration. This event is going to be great. Both Meridian management and I are planning the activities. We are also in contact with the Wexford Neighborhood Center and hope they will also join in the planning process. Please keep an eye out for details! Another positive activity that is going on is that the children are again involved in a gardening project that gives them hands-on activities; from sowing the seeds to pulling weeds to very soon harvesting the results of their hard work and enjoying the food with their family and friends. This is a great summer project for the children and I know they enjoy showing off their garden plots. If you are interested in visiting, please let me know.

There was one incident in the neighborhood that involved shots fired on 5-22-07 @ 1:17am. This incident involved two female subjects who picked up a couple of males at a market somewhere on the Southside of Madison. They stopped at an address on South Gammon Road to use the restroom. When one of the females exited her vehicle, two male subjects in another vehicle in the parking lot, propositioned her. Her response led to a verbal/physical altercation. Around the time of the physical altercation, the female indicated that she observed one of the male subjects she had an altercation with pull out a gun and shoot into the air. The department received several reports of the shots being fired. Investigation is still ongoing.

There is an ongoing complaint in the area of 7109 & 7107 Flower reference noise complaints and vehicle noise complaints. There have been an excessive number of calls concerning the amount of traffic, noise, and vehicle booming coming to these two units. One complaint advises that the problem people hang out in front of the front door, not in front of any particular unit. Vehicles come and go and contacts are made in the front. One of the complainants of these issues is not a resident of the complex and often calls PD or sends me an email with plates of vehicles. Through the plates, I am attempting to figure out who the main instigators of this problem are. I did issue a letter to all the apartment buildings in that particular lot giving them a warning to stop their disruptive behavior. Since the letter was delivered, one vehicle has been non-compliant.

During the month of May, 2007 there were a total of 44 calls for service in the neighborhood. In comparison to April 2007's total of 41 calls, May was a pretty good month and Wexford is steady in the calls for service. 911 disconnects seem to continue to be a high volume call. Domestic and disturbance calls also rank in the top for calls for service.

## Hammersley



**Officer Caleb Bedford**

Rather than the usual statistics and policy updates, I will tell the story of one arrest. During the second week of June, our department received anonymous information that a wanted sex offender was hiding out in the Hammersley area. In 1998, Thomas L. Ball Jr was sentenced to eight years in State prison after he was convicted of committing repeated child sexual assaults. On release from prison, Ball failed to comply with the sex offender rules, and he was convicted of another felony related to that violation. In early June of this year, Ball was living in the halfway house for sex offenders on Odana Road. He cut off his electronic monitoring device and disappeared. Shortly after that, our department received the anonymous information that Ball was hiding out in the Hammersley area.

Officer Chad Joswiak and I started checking the residence where Ball was hiding (legal restraints prevented us from simply entering the residence to check for him). We saw multiple children out in the yard and we saw cars coming and going, but we did not see Ball. At 6' 4" tall and 300 pounds, he is hard to miss. Officer Joswiak and I went to some neighbors' houses and distributed flyers with Ball's picture on them. Once they heard the details of Ball's criminal history, several of the neighbors agreed to let us use their properties to do surveillance on the target house.

Early in the evening on June 10, Officer Joswiak and I enlisted the help of the West District community policing team to set up a perimeter on the target house. Officer Joswiak and another officer went to the front door. I set up to the back of the target along with other officers. As soon as Officer Joswiak knocked on the front door, Ball snuck out the back sliding door. He made it over a neighbor's fence (surprising, given his size) and was headed through a neighbor's yard when we cut him off. Ball initially refused commands to get on the ground, and Officer Ed Bernards held him at gunpoint. Ball decided to comply and we cuffed him and took him into custody.

Ball is now in the County jail. His parole will most likely be revoked and he will be re-sentenced—hopefully –to prison.

## Memorial High School



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

On June 15<sup>th</sup> students left Memorial for the last day of school this year. Many will be returning to their neighborhoods for the summer and others journeying to other states and countries.

This has been a very exciting and welcome experience for me here at Memorial as the ERO. I look forward to returning next year, and working with the Administration to keep the school safe and orderly. There are many people in the community that really assist the students here at Memorial on a daily basis with the services and programs that they offer.

My hope is that these community leaders and concerned parents continue to keep track, and touch base with the students as they leave for the summer break. We all know that often times the summer is when many juveniles get into trouble. We may be able to keep that from happening for many by keeping them involved.

For those parents that have kids working for the summer, it's a great opportunity to teach them more about responsibility and hard work. We know that when they return here to Memorial in the fall that hard work will pay off in the end. Be safe on the roads this summer, and watch out for those children crossing during the day!

Take care and I look forward to more communication during the next school year.

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## Community Policing Team



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

Beginning in May, we started working extra hours under Weed & Seed, a Federal Grant that is targeted towards challenged neighborhoods.

This particular grant applies primarily to the Allied Drive area and includes a team of officers working together. Our community policing team along with neighborhood and other patrol officers join together and provide extra patrol for the area.

Results to date of the Weed & Seed initiative are:

Felony arrests: 2

Misdemeanor charges: 6  
 Ordinance charges: 14  
 Traffic charges: 48  
 Warrants served: 6  
 Firearms recovered: 1

## Investigations



### Lieutenant Tony Bitterman

With the onset of summer in Madison, many more people are out enjoying the weather. Unfortunately, this opportunity, and the corresponding recreational activities it allows, is not limited to only those residents that are law abiding.

Every summer, and this year is starting out as no exception, the Madison Police Department sees a sharp increase in the number of reported burglaries, thefts, and other property crimes. To help prevent you and your family from becoming victims of property crime, there are a few simple precautions you can employ.

First, keep your moveable property out of sight and secured. Unlocked vehicles and open garage doors are open invitations to thieves. It is a simple matter to lock vehicles and doors, and while not a guarantee against theft, is the most effective precaution that you can take.

Another precaution against unwanted visitors is to make use of lighting to illuminate your property, particularly around the entrances to your home. Lighting not only discourages thieves, it also assists police officers and neighbors in keeping an eye on your property.

Speaking with, and getting to know, your neighbors is another tactic that can help you protect yourselves and your property- and perhaps even make new friends! Keep an eye out for suspicious activity in your neighborhood, and report this activity to the police. Close neighbors make for safe neighborhoods.

While employing these precautions will not guarantee that you will not become a victim of property crime, hopefully they will improve your chances, and allow for a more enjoyable summer.

On another track, I also wanted to highlight a few cases that illustrate some of the fine work that officers and detectives working out of the West District have been engaged in this year.

In March, Detective Jeff Twing and responding officers investigated a sexual assault resulting from a home invasion that occurred on Atticus Way. Through the efforts of responding officers and detectives, particularly Detective Twing, a suspect, Mario LeFlore, was identified and arrested that same day. It is uncommon that a major investigation of such serious nature, which involved a dangerous suspect unknown to the victim, progresses so rapidly. The rapid resolution of this case is a credit to the excellent work done by everyone involved.

In May, Detective Kris Acker completed work on a case which resulted in 71 separate counts of burglary against the suspect, Corey McNamar. McNamar is charged with burglarizing numerous buildings and businesses, largely on the west side of Madison, over the past several years. This was a painstaking investigation affecting numerous businesses and victims, and is illustrative of the fine work done by Detective Acker. It also highlights the tremendous amount of work, time, effort often required by detectives when working complex investigations. This case represents several years of work by Detective Acker, and represents only one of the many cases to which she is assigned.

I hope you have found these examples interesting, if not enlightening. I will try to include synopsis' of further cases in future newsletters.

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Elver Park Fireworks

Thanks to Midwest Family Broadcasting, Elver Park will again host Madison's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks celebration.



Some information to help you plan your day and enjoy the fireworks:

**Schedule** – Expect the fireworks to begin shortly after dark.

**Parking** – Many streets in the area will be temporarily posted to prohibit parking on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Vehicles parked in violation of these signs will be ticketed and towed. Free parking is available in the Elver Park lot. However, vehicles will not be allowed to exit the lot for about 20-30 minutes after the event.

**Traffic** – McKenna Boulevard will be closed to vehicular traffic between Raymond Road and Schroeder Road starting at approximately 9pm. The street will remain closed until approximately 20-30 minutes after the event.

**In The Park** – Please remember that no alcoholic beverages are allowed in Elver Park. Also, no grilling or fireworks are permitted in the park.