

Madison Police Department

West Police District Newsletter



Happy Holidays!



Captain Jay Lengfeld

I want to wish you, your family and friends a safe and happy holiday season! Winter is here and the snow keeps coming, but all this snow has really slowed down traffic. The snow banks are very high because of all the snow, which makes it hard to see, so please be careful when you are driving. After shoveling, there is nothing better than a big bowl of chili. I would like to share one of my favorite chili recipes with you.

Captain's Hearty Home Style Chili

- 2.5 pounds ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 1 (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes, undrained, cut up
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 (15-ounce) cans chili beans

Brown ground beef and onion in skillet; drain. Combine beef-onion mixture, celery, bell peppers, tomatoes with liquid, tomato paste, salt, chili powder, cumin, cayenne, pepper and chili beans in a slow cooker. Cover and cook on High setting for 3 to 4 hours.

Yield: 8 (1 1/2 - cup) servings.

* If you deer hunt and had some success, replace the ground beef with ground venison!



*Happy Holidays from
Ivan and the MPD K9
Unit!*

Year in Review



Lieutenant Victor Wahl

As we bring 2007 to a close, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on the year:

Calls for Service

Officers responded to 35,329 calls for police service in the West District in 2007 (through December 17). That's an average of more than 100 calls per day. This compares to 36,260 calls for service in the West District during 2006 (through December 17)...so, calls for police service went down more than 2% from 2006 to 2007.

Some of the notable call types:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Homicide	2	1
Arson	22	7
Sexual Assault	84	78
Robbery	112	83
Stolen Auto	239	200
Burglary	578	705
Weapons Offense/Gun Call	168	147
Theft From Auto	465	360
Drug Incident	465	368
Battery/Aggravated Battery	462	412
Motor Vehicle Crash	3,117	3,262

Calls for service to the Allied Drive neighborhood also improved, decreasing from 3,748 in 2006 (through December 17) to 2,268 in 2007 (through December 17). This is a decrease of almost 40%.

Citywide, calls for service increased from 150,604 in 2006 to 151,573 in 2007 (through December 17).

Working With The Community

In addition to responding to calls for service and engaging in traditional police activities, West District officers engaged in a number of initiatives during 2007 to reach out to district residents and improve police/citizen relations. A few examples:

Year in Review Continued...

Drop-in Basketball

MPD—using funding from Madison's federal Weed & Seed grant—sponsored two sessions of drop-in basketball at the Allied Drive Boys & Girls Club in 2007. The sessions (seven weeks each) held open basketball games for three hours every Thursday night. The program was focused on adult males from the Allied Drive neighborhood. MSCR employees coordinated the games, and MPD officers were present to interact with the participants. The program turned out to be very popular, and will be continued in 2008.



Three-Point Shooting Contest

Another event designed to reach out to members of the Allied Community was a 3-point shooting contest. Also sponsored by MPD (using grant funding), the event took place in the fall and brought in youths from the Allied Drive neighborhood to participate in a 3-point shooting contest. All participants received a t-shirt, and winners in each age bracket took home a plaque.



Allied Community Festival

The annual Allied Drive Community Festival took place in early June. The event provides a great opportunity for residents and neighbors to get to know each other and enjoy a fun afternoon. Allied Drive neighborhood officers Jason

Ostrenga and John Messer helped out with the event, and K9 Officer Henry Wilson made an appearance with his K9 partner, Ivan.



Connections—Wexford Ridge

Wexford neighborhood officer Cindy Thiesenhusen coordinated a neighborhood event—"Connections"—this summer. This event included a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, games and prizes. The MPD K9 and mounted units also made an appearance.



Year in Review Continued...



Allied Drive Community Meal

In July, MPD and the Allied/Dunn's Marsh neighborhood association sponsored a community meal at the Allied area Boys & Girls Club. The meal was an opportunity for residents to enjoy a good meal together and interact with West District officers and command staff.



Elver Park 4th of July Event



The annual 4th of July fireworks was nearly cancelled this year, as the event's sponsor had to pull out at the last minute. Fortunately, Midwest Family Broadcasting stepped in and agreed to sponsor and coordinate the event. Thanks to their support, the Elver Park event was a success in 2007. Midwest Family Broadcasting is committed to the event in the future, so look forward to another fireworks celebration in 2008 at Elver Park.

Southwest Safety Initiative

During a series of community meetings in the fall of 2007, the Mayor, Chief and West District command staff heard citizens' concerns about crime and public safety in the southwest area. In response, MPD initiated a safety initiative throughout the last few months of 2007. The initiative included officer overtime, increased building inspection, and improving lighting in the area. More than 600 officer hours—on overtime—were dedicated to the effort, focusing on foot patrol, park patrol and traffic enforcement. More than 350 citations were issued and 8 arrests were made during these efforts.

2007 A Deadly Year for Police



The year 2007 is turning out to be an especially deadly year for police. To date, 170 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty -- that's nearly a third more than at the same point last year. It's also 17 percent higher than in all of 2006, and there is more than a month remaining in the year. In fact, this year is on pace to be the worst year for police in decades. And many of the deaths involve cold-blooded murder.

There has been a 38 percent increase in the fatal shootings of police this year. There has also been a 15 percent jump in fatal car crashes as police pursue suspects or race to get to emergencies. "Other than the year of 9/11, we haven't seen numbers this high since 1978, 30 years ago," said Craig Floyd, chairman and CEO for National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Police say the spike in fatalities mirrors the surge in crime many communities across the nation are facing -- much of it spurred by heavily armed gangs and repeat offenders. What concerns police most is that they are encountering on routine patrols violent criminals who shoot to kill -- often without provocation. "There's definitely a more brazen cold-blooded criminal on the streets of America today," Floyd said. *[From ABC News]*