

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



### About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

In looking back, 2007 was a great year! It was a very busy year and many good things happened. Here are only a few of the noteworthy happenings of 2007:

1. There was a lot of excellent police work done and some of it will be highlighted later in this newsletter.
2. The Community made public safety one of the main concerns for the City. This was all started with a meeting (listening session) in the 20<sup>th</sup> District with attendance of over 600 people. The idea of listening session spread like a wild fire over the city. Almost every part of the city had a listening session with thousands of city residents participating. The District 20<sup>th</sup> listening session had a follow-up meeting where an action plan was presented. Over 700 citizens attended this meeting.
3. The Rusett/Balsam area was evaluated to determine if a neighborhood officer was needed in the area. The department and area stakeholders agreed that a part time officer was needed and one will be assigned later this year. The process used in this evaluation will be the model used by the department in the future.
4. West District staff did a great job in achieving 2007 district goals.
5. There have been huge improvements to the Allied Dr. area like the large reduction in Calls for Service, Youth Court, and the re-development of city owned property.
6. The Master Gardeners have done a great job in improving the outside of the West District. They planted close to 300 plants and over 600 bulbs. Officers and gardeners donated many of the plants.

While 2007 was a great year and many good things were started, but we (police and community) have a lot of work ahead of us. 2007 was only the beginning! Next month we will talk about plans for 2008.

### Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

January is a transition time for MPD, as many employees will be changing shifts and/or assignments at the end of the month. The West District will see twenty new employees come to WPD from other assignments within the department. These new faces will include a new lieutenant, a new sergeant, and two new neighborhood officers. Look for introductions in next month's newsletter.

During 2007, the Madison Police Department responded to a total of **36,613** calls for police service in the West District, an average of more than **100** per day. In December, officers responded to **2,963** calls for police service in the West District, an average of more than **95** per day. These incidents included:

6	Sexual assaults
9	Robberies
5	Aggravated batteries
6	Weapons offenses/gun calls
102	Burglaries
15	Thefts from autos
9	Stolen autos
464	Motor vehicle crashes
28	Batteries
91	Retail thefts
68	Disturbances
83	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Barricaded Person** – On December 6 at about 10am, officers and detectives received information that a person of interest in a prior Madison homicide was present in a residence on Doncaster Drive. The Madison Police Department Emergency Response Team subsequently responded to the scene, and several people were taken into custody for questioning. The homicide remains under investigation.

## Operations continued...

**Robbery, Allied Drive** – On December 9 at about 4am, officers responded to the Allied Drive area for a report of a cab driver who had activated his emergency button. Responding officers located a cab in the area, and a suspect fled from the cab on foot. The cab driver indicated that he had been robbed, and that the suspect was armed with a handgun. Officers pursued the suspect, who attempted to force his way into another vehicle without success. The suspect then produced a handgun, and held it to his head while walking on Allied Drive. A short standoff ensued as officers negotiated with the suspect. He eventually put the weapon down and was taken into custody.

**Robbery, 7440 Mineral Point Road** – On December 11 at about 9pm, officers responded to the Pizza Hut at 7440 Mineral Point Road for a robbery. Two subjects entered the restaurant, both armed with handguns, and ordered employees into a back office. The suspects took money before fleeing the store. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 4501 Verona Road** – On December 11 at about 11pm, officers responded to the BP gas station at 4501 Verona Road for a robbery. Two suspects entered the store, one striking the clerk in the head with what appeared to be a handgun. The clerk recognized the weapon as an air pistol, and scuffled with one of the suspects. Both suspects fled on foot without taking anything. Investigation continuing.

**Damage to Property, 7401 Mineral Point Road** – On December 15 at about 4pm, a loss prevention employee for Shopko was monitoring video surveillance equipment when he observed a subject urinating on a rack of women's underwear in the store. Officers responded and the suspect was arrested.

**Robbery, 4217 West Beltline Highway** – On December 18 at about 9:30pm, officers responded to Zimmer's Liquor at 4217 West Beltline Highway for a robbery. The suspect, armed with a handgun, ordered two employees into the back of the store and stole money. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 5445 University Avenue** – On December 19 at about 3am, officers responded to the Stop & Go at 5445 University Avenue for a robbery. The suspect had entered the store armed with a large knife and demanded money before fleeing on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **330** total citations in December, consisting of **170** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **68** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **92** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **6** citations per officer.

## Neighborhood Officers

### Hammersley



**Officer Caleb Bedford**

This is my final newsletter article. Officer Mike Hanson officially begins his term as the Hammersley neighborhood officer on February 3, 2008. We have scheduled a meeting for **Monday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the West police station**. I invite everyone to come and meet Mike. Mike will introduce himself and share his ideas for improving public safety in Southwest Madison. You will have the opportunity to talk with him and share your concerns for the coming year.

At this time, I plan to give Mike the cell phone that I have been using for the last couple of years. That phone number is 209-9526. I have spoken with the director of the Wisconsin Youth and Family Center, Lloyd Harris, about the potential of establishing an office space for Mike at the Center. Mike will let you know in the coming months if he sets up an office there and establishes a set of regular office hours. In the meanwhile, he will be working out of the West district station.

My lieutenant asked me to write an overview of my time as a neighborhood officer, so please humor me for a moment while I reflect. I have learned a lot about policing during my time as your neighborhood officer. I have honestly come to appreciate the significance of community policing. That phrase gets thrown around so much that I was once skeptical that it had a clear meaning. Now I would say that the most important piece of community policing is establishing a long-term, sustained relationship between one officer and members of the community. The sustained relationship with one officer helps build trust. The sustained relationship helps the officer to see crime through citizens' eyes, and it also increases citizens' awareness about the limitations of the police function. A sustained relationship also enables citizens to watch the police officer muddle through the never-ending problems that arise. Sometimes the officer can fix these problems but many times not. Citizens can watch the officer make good-faith efforts to solve problems. Watching the effort may be as important as finding the solution. At a very basic level, police cannot eliminate crime because crime is built into the fabric of any free society. Giving citizens the freedom to make choices means giving them the freedom to make bad choices. More freedom means more crime, and we are one of the freest societies on earth.

I still will be working in the West district during 2008. I will be assigned to first detail, usually working between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. If for any reason you still need to reach me, the easiest way is via e-mail to [cbedford@cityofmadison.com](mailto:cbedford@cityofmadison.com).



**Allied Drive**



**Officer Jason Ostrenga**

**Officer John Messer**

Overall 2007 was a positive year in Allied Dr neighborhood. Calls for Service (CFS) were down significantly. We (police) were able to make many positive interactions with the community.

Some ways we were able to work with the community in a positive way included the following:

- Allied Community Fest
- Drop in Men's Midnight Basketball
- Allied Community Meal
- 3-point basketball shooting contest
- Halloween Trick or Treat @ Prairie Crossing

As I mentioned in the first paragraph CFS were down significantly. The following 2 tables will show this:

**CFS to Allied Neighborhood by Month**

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2004	194	187	285	315	324	276	305	286	238	264	182	188	3,044
2005	139	165	195	300	331	376	377	377	349	294	323	265	3,491
2006	245	216	312	355	392	390	413	401	385	290	224	202	3,825
2007	179	159	182	205	268	284	254	243	157	147	143	104	2,325

Call Type	Allied Area (2006)	Allied Area (2007)	Reduction
Robbery	18	9	-50%
Weapons Offense/Gun Call	76	41	-46%
Aggravated Battery	37	18	-51%
Drug Incident	192	117	-39%
Stolen Auto	37	16	-57%
Fight Call	59	32	-46%

In 2008 (beginning in February) I will no longer be the Allied Dr neighborhood officer. My new position will be as member of the Dane County Gang & Narcotics Task Force (DCNAGTF). In my new position I will attempting to reduce gang violence and drug issues throughout Dane County.

It has been a pleasure working with you and for you over the past couple years. I have gotten to know many of you very well which made it a hard decision to leave. I love being cop and the past 2 years have been the most rewarding during my 9 years as a police officer. I will not be a stranger and will stop in now and again. Take care.

Officer Messer will remain assigned to the Allied Drive neighborhood. His new partner will be Officer Carren Corcoran—look for an introduction in the next newsletter.

Police Officer Jason Ostrenga

## Wexford



### Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

Winter is here! In like a lion as the saying goes. A grand total of 24 calls for service in November and 36 calls for December for Wexford Ridge Apartments. These numbers do not include parking complaints (9 in November and 2 in December). Parking enforcement has been extremely helpful in getting rid of the broken down/abandoned vehicles that are littered throughout the property. These vehicles are a little more obvious when they are buried in snow.

There was a significant jump in calls from November to December. The notable jump is in domestic/ family troubles. There were 9 domestic calls in December compared to 2 in November.



The Livesey Company has begun to hire off duty officers to deal with the ever-increasing problems of Memorial students trespassing in the lots/businesses across the street from Memorial. It is great to see the extra effort on their part to deal with an increasing problem. I am happy to report that the off duty police presence has been going quite well and I have seen a dramatic decrease in activity in this area.

The annual Wexford Ridge Toy Giveaway that I host in partnership with the **Gialamas Company** was on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The **Gialamas Company** was extremely generous in that they helped by donating toys that were distributed to neighborhood kids. This was the second year that I have partnered with the **Gialamas Company** and I look forward to their continued support. Last year, we were able to give over 150 toys to Wexford Ridge children. This year, we distributed over 250 toys to Wexford Ridge residents. Residents look forward to this event each year and are extremely grateful. I look forward to maintaining the relationship with the **Gialamas Company** in the future.



**Cathy O'Donnell** from the **Gialamas Company** put a lot of work into this event and I am especially grateful to her for her interest in the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood children. At last years event, I was able to convince my parents to help with wrapping the gifts. This year, my parents invited friends, Bill and Janelle Morehead, to also help. The volunteer effort on the part of everyone was incredible. I am eternally grateful as this event would not be possible without all the above pieces of the puzzle fitting as well as they did.



### Wexford continued...

I am also happy to announce that the city of Madison will be putting in a stop light at the intersection of Gammon Road and Tree Lane sometime in the spring.

## Memorial High School



### Officer Shannon Blackamore

I'd like to take this opportunity to do a final synopsis of 2007, in which there were a number of incidents here at Memorial High School. From January 1, 2007 up until December 18, 2007 there were a total of 340 Calls for Service. As the Educational Resource Officer, I personally responded to and requested case numbers for approximately 160.

A breakdown of the calls for the year included:

- Check Person (31)
- Thefts (19)
- Juvenile complaints (52)
- Overdose (1)
- Drug Incidents (13)
- Disturbances (45)
- Fight Calls (4)
- Weapons Violation (7)
- Fight Calls (4)
- Weapons Offenses (7)
- Trespass Complaints (20)
- Adult Arrests (10)
- Sexual Assaults (3)
- Burglary (1)
- Battery Investigations (7)
- Juvenile Arrests (8)

Please note that not all the types of calls were captured in the categories above, and in fact many of the disturbances were fights, that resulted in arrests. Overall, the school staff and I worked together on a number of issues that were both criminal and civil in nature. We attempted to foster working relationships with some of the more challenging students, and often succeeded.

My hope for 2008 is to continue fostering relationships with the students and staff in an effort to ensure the safety and security of those of us who work here at Memorial High School. The year has started off well thus far, and we continue to work hard on making sure that it continues positively.

## Community Policing Team



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

Summarizing the year 2007 seemed like a monumental task until I thought about the recent neighborhood meetings. In your meetings, you as a community asked that the West District deal with nuisance crimes such as drug dealing, graffiti, traffic, loitering and noise issues. Our unit, which is set up specifically to accommodate your concerns, hope we have delivered. The following is a quantitative review of our arrests. Keep in mind, we were down one officer from last year due to staffing changes and we had another officer on light duty for six months due to a neck injury received from an on-duty fight.

<u>Charges:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Felony-Drug	66	87
Felony-All Others	33	29
Misdemeanor-Drug	46	82
Misdemeanor-Other	48	63
Ordinances-Drug	60	28
Ordinances-Other	113	150
Traffic Charges	785	653
Traffic Warnings	130	118
Warrants	194	192
Firearms Seized	16	10
Search Warrants (team generated)	11	10
Search Warrants (assist others)	4	4

## Investigations



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

The Internet, automated teller machines (ATM's), credit cards, and online banking enable us to be more efficient with our time than ever before. With this convenience comes a price, however. Electronic transactions can leave you vulnerable to identity theft and to other types of fraud. Here are some tips from the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) to help you keep your private information safe.

### Investigations continued...

Many online sites require that you create a password in order to access information stored therein. The NCPC recommends that passwords consist of at least eight characters, and which include a combination of letters, numbers and symbols. The names of relatives or pets should not be used, nor should birth dates or any sequence of your social security number. Your passwords should be committed to memory, but if you must write them down, keep them in a protected place. Do not carry them in your wallet or purse. Do not share your passwords with anyone, and make certain that no one observes your password when you are using it.

A personal identification number(PIN), is another form of password often used by the banking industry to safeguard against unauthorized access to account information. Many of the rules for password protection apply to PIN use as well. For example, your PIN should be committed to memory and never shared with anyone. You should never record your PIN on your transaction card or carry your PIN in your purse or wallet. Do not let anyone observe your PIN while you are making a transaction. In addition, if a receipt is created as a result of your transaction, do not leave it behind. Criminals can sometimes use them to get your account information. Take the receipt with you, and promptly shred it.

If you use a credit card to make purchases online, or over the phone, there are several precautions you can take to help prevent unauthorized charges to your account. Conduct business only with companies you know, and only give out your credit card number if you initiated the transaction. Shop only at secure websites that are encryption protected. If you should receive unwanted, approved, credit card offers in the mail, shred them before throwing them away. If you are expecting new credit cards to be delivered, and have not received them promptly, contact the card issuer immediately. Check your credit card bills carefully for unauthorized purchases.

If you discover unauthorized charges on your statement, or unauthorized withdrawals from your bank account, notify the police and involved financial institution. You should also notify the three major credit card bureaus: Equifax ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)), Experion ([www.experion.com](http://www.experion.com)), and Trans Union( [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)) and close your account. If you are a victim of identity theft, you should additionally make a report to the Federal Trade Commission ([www.consumer.gov/idtheft/](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/)).