

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

If you like winter, this has been a great one! I think most of us are ready for Spring, but the weather has helped with reducing crime and helping catch the bad guys. We have had a lot of good tracking snow and the 3-4 foot snow drifts have made it difficult for the bad guys to run away from us. The icy and narrow roads have slowed down traffic in most parts of the Westside. We have dealt with many accidents like the 450 in December, but most have been minor because of the lower speeds.

The department has just completed its annual assignment changes and about a third of the West District staff changed. We have also improved our Website, so it will be easier for you to contact the officer you want to contact. The website is broken down by "West District Neighborhood Officers", "West District Community Policing Team" and "West District Neighborhood Liaisons". Each one shows a district map, officers name, phone number and email address. The address of the website is [www.cityofmadison.com/police](http://www.cityofmadison.com/police). You will need to click on "West" on the right hand side to get to the West District page. Please check it out and let me know what you think.

Part of the 2008 budget was for the police department to seek input from stakeholders on the West Community Policing Team function. We will be meeting with West alders next month to discuss the West Community Policing Team and you should feel free to contact the Community Policing Team officer for your area (check the above website for the officer) with issues/concerns you have in your neighborhood.

Stay warm and be safe!

## Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

It definitely felt like winter during January, as Madison continued to get deluged with cold and snow. The Madison Police Department responded to **2,868** calls for police service in the West District during the month of October, an average of about **93** per day. These incidents included:

5	Sexual assaults
10	Robberies
9	Aggravated batteries
9	Weapons offenses/gun calls
92	Burglaries
16	Thefts from autos
18	Stolen autos
420	Motor vehicle crashes
32	Batteries
92	Retail thefts
75	Disturbances
106	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Robbery, 3179 Muir Field Road** – On January 3 at about 8:30pm, WPD officers responded to Paradise Liquor, at 3179 Muir Field Road, for a robbery. A suspect had entered the store with a large knife and demanded money. The suspect fled on foot; a K9 track was unsuccessful. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 4217 West Beltline Highway** – On January 8 at about 11am, WPD officers responded to Zimmer's Liquor Store, at 4217 West Beltline Highway, for a robbery. A suspect entered the store and displayed a handgun. The suspect struck the clerk with the weapon before fleeing on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Arrested Person/Burglary, 682 Whitney Way** – On January 12 at about 4:30am, WPD officers responded to an alarm at 682 Whitney Way. The officers discovered two businesses that had been

### Patrol Operations Continued...

burglarized. A short time later, officers observed a vehicle speeding on Odana Road. Officers attempted to stop the vehicle, but a short pursuit ensued. The vehicle stopped and several occupants fled on foot. One was caught by officers, and an MPD K9 performed a lengthy track to an area residence. Officers located items stolen from a number of recent burglaries in the vehicle.

**Robbery, 4217 West Beltline Highway** – On January 13 at about 4:15pm, WPD officers responded to Zimmer's Liquor Store, at 4217 West Beltline Highway, for a robbery. Two suspects – one armed with a handgun – had entered the store and robbed the clerk. Both fled on foot; a K9 track was unsuccessful. Investigation continuing.

**Attempted Child Enticement, Raymond Road** – On January 15 at about 9:30am, WPD officers responded to Toki Middle School for a report of an attempted child enticement. The suspect – a white male driving a red or maroon Cadillac SUV – had pulled up to two girls walking to school and tried to get them to enter his vehicle. The girls kept walking and contacted a guidance counselor once they arrived at school. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 710 South Gammon Road** – On January 17 at about 4:15am, WPD officers responded to La Bamba's Restaurant, at 710 South Gammon Road, for a robbery. Two employees who were cleaning the store were confronted by two suspect with handguns. The suspects robbed the employees and fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Attempted Robbery, 7600 Radcliffe Drive** – On January 16 at about 7pm, WPD officers responded to an apartment in the 7600 block of Radcliffe Drive for an attempted robbery. The victim had been attempting to sell items online, and that people had been coming to the her apartment to make purchases. Two men – one armed with a knife – knocked on her door and attempted to force their way into the apartment. The victim shouted for help and the suspects fled on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Arrested Person, Elver Park** – On January 18 at about 7pm, members of the WPD community policing team arrested an individual in Elver Park. Officers had been conducting an investigation where the suspect believed he was involved in online chatting with an underage female. The suspect believed he was meeting a fourteen year old female at the park to engage in sexual activity. After he was arrested, officers responded to his residence in Milwaukee to execute a search warrant.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **251** total citations in January, consisting of **130** "hazardous"

### Patrol Operations Continued...

traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **43** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **78** municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of about **6** citations per officer.

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## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



Officer Carren Corcoran



Officer John Messer

Greetings all, my name is Carren Corcoran and I am the new Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer. I have replaced Officer Jason Ostrenga who has moved on to work within the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force.

This year marks my 18<sup>th</sup> year as a Madison Police Officer. I have held a variety of positions within the department. My first 9 years were spent as a patrol officer on second detail. In 1998 I worked as an Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer until 2003 when my term was up. I transferred to a uniform position with the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task for one year and worked one year as a South/West Community Policing Team Officer. I again transferred to the North East Community Policing Team and have spent the last three years in that unit.

Of all the positions I have held within the department, working in the Allied community has been a top favorite. When I left in 2003, the calls for service and intensity of calls were increasing. The neighborhood has obviously changed for the better since that time. The Boys and Girls Club/ Community Center complete with a gymnasium was just a dream at the time of my departure. The fact that there is an established neighborhood association is incredible.

I am optimistic that I will get to participate in the final push for the Allied Neighborhood to evolve into the kind of place that Madisonians will be proud to call home.

## Hammersley



### **Officer Mike Hanson**

Greetings: I am Police Officer Mike Hanson and I will be the next Neighborhood Officer for the Betty's Lane/Theresa Terrace/Park Ridge area. I have been a Madison Police Officer for seven years, with most of my time spent in the Central District. I am looking forward to this new assignment as it is somewhat of a homecoming, having grown up on Chapel Hill Road, attended Falk and Toki schools and now residing in the West District.

As you know, I am replacing Officer Caleb Bedford, who has been pivotal in your neighborhood and well respected. Caleb and I attended the Academy together and we have remained friends since then. Each officer has a different style in policing and during the next few months, as I learn more about my neighborhood responsibilities, I will develop my own style of community policing and goals for my position. It is my intention to tap the great resources of these neighborhoods, such as stakeholders like you, to help with ideas, input and responsibilities to make our community more safe. Please contact me with questions and suggestions @ 209-9526 or via email: mhanson@cityofmadison.com

## Wexford



### **Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen**

As of February 14<sup>th</sup> 2008, we have officially set the record for snowfall in the Madison area. Mountains of snow surround the parking lots of Wexford Ridge Apartments. The maintenance crew is working hard to make the lots safe for all residents. With the record snowfall, the broken down/abandoned vehicles become more evident. Wexford management is working with parking enforcement to deal with the vehicles. Parking has proven to be an ongoing issue. JBM, the security company that patrols the area, also contacts parking enforcement to deal with parking issues.

Calls for service are back up. This time of year and with the weather, it is not unusual to see the domestic calls increase. In December 2007, there were 9 domestic calls for service. In January 2008,

## Wexford Continued...

there were again 9. I would venture to guess that the number of 911 disconnects also have a direct connection to domestics. 911 disconnects were the second highest call for service. These calls came in mostly in the late night hours and early morning. The number of domestic calls is a concerning number as they are one of the most dangerous issues society faces. The solutions are complex and often left unresolved. Other calls to note are disturbances involving high school kids, trespassing, and noise complaints. In December 2007, there were a total of 36 calls for service. In January 2008, there were 50.

An important item to note for future information involving calls for service. Madison Police Department has instituted a practice of obtaining a case number for every activity initiated by a police officer/neighborhood officer. This means that the calls for service will dramatically increase. This by no means indicates an increase in problems or an increase in criminal activity. I will continue to break down the calls for service to allow those interested an idea of what is happening. This change is a result in needing to understand the staffing concerns of the department. Police officers often work proactively on issues concerning their particular areas; this work is not documented in any statistical way. Now the department managers will be able to see real data indicating the work done by officers.

Having Memorial high school and Jefferson middle school across the street from Wexford offers several challenges. Another issue that may be less known is an alternative school that is run on Wexford property, in the Community Center. This is a school where the kids that attend find the traditional school model difficult. This school has often completed its school day by 11:00am. This allows the students, typically not Wexford residents, to wander the property and seek out students from Memorial or Jefferson. The difficulty comes when conflict arises between the groups. The conflict occurs either on Wexford property or they go to the parking lot area across the street in what is commonly referred to as the Rice Cafe lot. The Livesey Company has taken a proactive approach in hiring off-duty police officers to deter problems in that lot. The Livesey Company has also installed security cameras for added security. This added protection has allowed me to focus more on the direct issues of the students trespassing on Wexford property. In the coming weeks, I will be in touch with the teachers of the alternative school to discuss possible alternatives for the students after their classes have concluded.

Another item of interest is Tamarack Neighborhood Association continues to discuss the pros and cons of

### **Wexford Continued...**

posting their property for no trespassing. The police department has offered them compelling reasons to post the property. It is the responsibility of the association to make the final decision.

As reported in the last newsletter, the City of Madison has approved a stop signal at the intersection of Gammon Rd. and Tree Lane. This has been addressed as a significant safety issue as the school children use this as a major thoroughfare. I was extremely pleased this was approved and I look forward to its installation.

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## **Community Policing Team**



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

We are excited to start the year with four new officers to the team. Returning is Officer Dao Xiong with 11 years of Madison Police experience. Officer Xiong is fluent in Hmong. This will be his third year with the West CPT. Officer Chris Kobinsky joins our unit with 9 years of Madison Police experience. He speaks fluent Spanish and is a crisis negotiator with the Emergency Response Team (ERT). Officer Dave Wixom has 10 years of police experience and is also a member of the Special Events Team (SET). You may recognize his name as one of the former Allied Drive neighborhood officers. Officer Josh Acker has been with our department for 9 years, 7 of those years as a West District patrol officer. He is also a member of SET. Officer Eric Vosburg has 7 years of police experience, 4 of those years as a West District patrol officer. He is a member of both ERT and SET. Finally, I am beginning my fifth year with the West Community Policing Team, and beginning my 19th year of police service.

## **Memorial High School**



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

During the month of January and beginning of February we've been pretty quiet. With the exception of a few students that continue to demand our attention for truancy and trespassing issues, we've seen a decline in the amount of fights and other student disruptions here at Memorial.

I would also like to take this time to remind the parents and other community members about the importance of students leaving expensive non-school related electronics at home. Often times, I receive complaints from students that are upset about the \$300 iPod, which was stolen from them. There simply is no reason to allow students to bring iPods and other music devices to school.

The school will not allow students to display any type of music device, and so when the expensive items are stolen, you have a situation with over 2,100 "suspects." It's virtually impossible to track down each of the stolen items, unless the theft happens to occur in view of a camera.

This also applies to the use and possession of cellular phones in the school. The students are issued lockers and padlocks, but usually share the combination and locker with friends. So, this results in thefts from lockers and a lot of animosity toward friends. I would like to request that if a student has to bring a cellular phone to school, that they secure it or take responsibility for it on their own.

The school provides the opportunity for students to use the phones in each of the neighborhood offices, so there is no need to have a phone with them in class. The amount of reported thefts would decrease dramatically if students simply left those unnecessary items at home.

Thanks for your time and we look forward to a continuing safe school year.