

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

It looks like Spring is finally coming! The birds are starting to return and so are the petty thieves. I have started to see more reports of thefts from autos in the last two weeks. Please do not keep valuables in your vehicle and if you have a garage, park your car inside it. It is important that we all watch over each others property and call the dispatch center if you see or hear suspicious activities or individuals.

This year the West Police District (WPD) formed a new planning team called Crime Pattern Response Team, which is responsible for planning a district wide response to crime patterns that are occurring in the WPD. The team members are the Field Lieutenant, a detective, 2nd detail patrol sergeant and the sergeant of the Community Policing Team. A perfect example of how this team will be used is in how the district has responded to commercial burglaries which have been occurring. Patrol officers, detectives and the community policing team have all been part of a coordinated district response to this trend, resulting in a number of arrests and numerous charges. While we have had success in solving some of these crimes, we still need your help. Most of these burglaries are occurring between midnight and 6:00 AM, so if you are out about during these hours and see something suspicious, please call the dispatch center. The non-emergency number is 266-4275.

We would like to address neighborhood problems as soon as we hear about them, so please contact your neighborhood liaison officer when you start to see a problem developing. You can find the contact information on the police department website:

[www.madisonpolice.com](http://www.madisonpolice.com)

click on "West" and than click on "West District Neighborhood Liaisons"

Have a warm and safe Spring!

## Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

It hasn't felt too much like Spring for most of the month, as Madison received its 100<sup>th</sup> inch of snow. The Madison Police Department responded to **3,467** calls for police service in the West District during the month of February, an average of almost **120** per day (a busy month). These incidents included:

10	Sexual assaults
6	Robberies
3	Aggravated batteries
7	Weapons offenses/gun calls
62	Burglaries
24	Thefts from autos
19	Stolen autos
465	Motor vehicle crashes
28	Batteries
85	Retail thefts
79	Disturbances
83	Domestic Disputes

Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Weapons Violation, 1900 Cameron Drive** – On February 2, at about 2am, WPD officers responded to an apartment in the 1900 block of Cameron Drive for a shooting. The front window of an apartment had been shot out by a shotgun blast. No one was injured, and investigation demonstrated that the incident was not random.

**Stolen Auto, 4902 Verona Road** – On February 5, at about 11:45am, WPD officers responded to the Speedway Gas Station, at 4902 Verona Road, for a stolen auto. The victim reported that he had left his vehicle unlocked with the keys in the ignition, and that an unknown subject had driven away in it. It turns out that the suspect had driven across Verona Road (to Cub Foods), where he had committed a retail theft and been arrested. The stolen auto was

### Patrol Operations Continued...

located in the lot of Cub Foods and the suspect was arrested.

**Robbery, 3179 Muir Field Road** – On February 18, at about 8:15pm, WPD officers responded to Paradise Liquor, at 3179 Muir Field Road, for an armed robbery. The suspect had displayed a handgun and stolen cash and liquor (four bottles of Patron tequila and two bottles of Gray Goose vodka). Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, 703 South Gammon Road** – On February 19, at about 8:30pm, WPD officers responded to Domino's Pizza, at 703 South Gammon Road, for a robbery. The suspect had entered the store and displayed a handgun before fleeing on foot. Investigation continuing.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued **358** total citations in February, consisting of **175** "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); **89** "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and **94** 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**

PO Messer and I are looking forward to the warmer weather so that we can conduct more foot patrol in the Allied Community. A summer goal is that we are able to get out in the neighborhood on bikes. Calls for service continue to remain low. We anticipate a slight increase in occupancy. Several buildings in the 2200 and 2300 blocks of Allied have had renovations completed. Welcome to the new residents.

We are in the planning stages for more Weed and Seed projects in 2008. Drop-in Basketball at the Boys and Girls Club has been a great success with the gym routinely

### Allied Continued...

filling with participants. The next session will soon be determined. Personal safety training was held for service providers in 2007. This year personal safety training is being established to be offered to residents of the Allied Community. We will be sponsoring two community meals and hope to again enjoy the culinary skills of area resident Felicia Greer. We are brainstorming on a youth activity to offer the neighborhood kids. Last year a 3-point -shooting contest was held. Participants received t-shirts, snacks/beverages, and plaques were given to the winners of each age group. All dates for events are yet to be scheduled so watch upcoming newsletters.

*Allied Neighborhood Officer Carren Corcoran*

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## Hammersley



**Officer Mike Hanson**

With Spring finally here, we have seen more people out and about in the neighborhood. With the opportunity of warm weather, we encourage people to meet their neighbors and establish relationships as this is part of community safety. When you know your neighbor, you know their general tendencies and you know generally who they associate with. If you know your neighbor, you are one step closer to knowing suspicious behavior when it occurs and can help prevent crime in your neighborhood.

There are some fantastic opportunities coming to this neighborhood shortly. In the first week of April there will be a Job Skills Workshop at Falk School. Specifically, classes on how to obtain a job, interviewing skills and writing a resume will be from March 31st through April 2nd from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night. Various Human Resource professionals will be available to share job tips and suggestions for individuals. After the free training, there will be a "Job Fair" on Thursday, April 3rd from 9 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for adults and teenagers to sharpen their job hunting skills, learn where to find a job and meet actual employers.

Also, I have been in contact with Falk School and administrators from the school district to use Falk's gym for summer basketball at night. Our goal is to have a talking session with mentors for 30 minutes, to learn what is going on in the neighborhood-from the youth's perspective, to be followed by open basketball. More

### Hammersley Continued...

information about this will become available in the next several weeks.

Finally, work is underway to develop a "neighborhood walking watch" program. Several people want to organize and walk in the Hammersley/Theresa Terr/Prairie Road area, consistently to be vigilant of "boom cars", drug deals, thefts and other quality of life issues in their neighborhood. This model is extremely successful in south Madison and can work in our neighborhood. Stay safe!

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### Wexford



**Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen**

So far, we are leaving winter like a lamb. The slow warm up has the calls for service slowing increasing as well. There were 37 calls for service in February and as of March 20<sup>th</sup>; the calls for service were at 35. The majority of the calls continue to be domestic related. As I have written in the past, this is a very difficult call to respond to and it is one of the most dangerous situations a police officer can be sent to. Wexford is primarily a complex that has a single parent demographic, mostly single women. It is not unusual for the single women to allow their boyfriends to stay/live with them. When things go bad in the relationship, the domestic calls start to come in. This coming year, I hope to address the issues of domestic violence within the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood.

Alder Paul Skidmore has told me that the stoplight scheduled for Tree lane and Gammon Road will be installed by the start of the 2008-2009 school year. I appreciate all those who have worked on this safety issue, including The new Lussier Community Center, MMSD, the Livesey Company, and the City of Madison. This will be a huge impact on the safety of children crossing the street and slowing traffic down in front of both Jefferson Middle School and Memorial HS.

I know it is early, but planning for this summers 'Connections' party has begun. Famous Footwear/ Brown Shoe Corp. and Don Becker from the Becker Law Office has expressed interest in participating. The plan is to hold the party in June, after school has finished for the summer. More details will follow.

### Community Policing Team



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

This month, members of our CPT met at the Meadowridge library to share ideas and concerns in the Russett/Balsam neighborhood. Present at this gathering was a representative from building inspection, Porch Light, CDA Housing, landlords from both Russett and Balsam, an Orchard Village resident and a landlord from Reetz Road. The discussions were positive and included ideas on how we could all work together to keep this neighborhood safe and productive. Officer Kobinsky is currently the unit liaison to this neighborhood.

Approximately one week later, we were conducting routine traffic enforcement and ended up with a less than routine stop. What started out as a simple stop for an equipment violation ended up as a short vehicle pursuit and then a foot chase. Officer Kobinsky took the lead on the vehicle pursuit until the vehicle stopped. Officer Xiong then chased the driver on foot and watched the suspect throw a loaded gun. The driver was tackled by Xiong and also found to be holding several packets of heroin. Fortunately, no citizens or officers were injured and the suspect will likely be facing many years in prison.

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### Memorial High School



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

Spring Break has ended, and the students are back to school. This part of the school year is the time when the "pedal hits the metal." Students are engaged in preparations for the upcoming sports season, and the seniors are now finalizing plans to attend college.

The expectation of the students is to continue staying focused on attending class even with the weather expected to break soon. Truancy is a constant and persistent issue in all Madison High Schools. It's an ongoing process to attempt contact with students that choose not to attend class.

The school administration as well as teachers will be focused on trying to keep the students on the right

## Memorial Continued...

track. Many of the contacts I have with truant students are due to them hanging out on the perimeter of the school. They often wait for the lunch period to begin, then they can socialize and see friends that actually attend class.

During the final push toward the end of school, I'll be making a focused effort to contact and cite the students who hang out and smoke, while they wait for others in between class. Peer pressure is often one of the main problems that students in high school face. We have to make it very clear to those students who are attempting to drag down the students who've made good decisions, and impress on them the need to change their behavior.

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## Investigations



### Lieutenant Dan Olivas

The following is from a press release on March 25, 2008.

#### ARRESTED:

Tramaine Franklin, age 19, Madison  
Raheem D. Blue, age 17, Madison

West District patrol officers apprehended Mr. Tramaine Franklin on February 9, 2008 after they responded to a burglary in progress at 7633 Ganser Way. Several businesses at this address had doors shattered and electronics stolen. A getaway car was found at the scene. Investigators would recover a variety of stolen electronics - including laptop computers -- from inside the '98 Mercury Mystique. A subsequent investigation led to the arrest of Mr. Raheem Blue. The MPD is asking that both Mr. Franklin and Mr. Blue be charged with 13 counts of burglary stemming from the Ganser Way crime spree. They (Mr. Franklin & Mr. Blue) are also considered suspects in other burglaries.

Detectives working recent burglaries advise that portable electronics – like laptops – are the targets of most break-ins. They advise citizens to record serial numbers on these items, and to store them in safe areas out of easy view.

The Madison Police Department set up the Blue Net Task Force in direct response to the escalating number of commercial and residential burglaries in recent months.

## West Detectives



### Detective Sara Petzold

#### Notes From The West District Detective Bureau:

Fourteen detectives, with a combined 253 years of police experience, work out of the West District station. Cases are distributed among detectives on the basis of their individual investigative specialties, although in the case of a major crime, additional resources are diverted to the investigation of that crime until one or two case detectives can successfully manage the case.

A recent west district homicide in early March illustrates the complexity of major investigations. Uniformed officers investigating the case of a severely injured man quickly determined that he was unlikely to survive his injuries. Seven detectives were initially called in to work the case, and Det. Deb Plantz was designated as the lead detective. Detectives conducted in-depth interviews with witnesses and suspects, and followed up on other leads in order to locate other evidence important to the case. Once the initial body of work was completed, Det. Plantz took the responsibility for the extensive additional work needed to prepare the case for trial. Her involvement in this case will continue until court proceedings are completed, which can often take a year or more. One such example is the homicide of Henry Lee Jr, who was shot to death in November 2006. His assailant, Britney Langlois, was convicted of First Degree Intentional Homicide in October 2007, and sentenced in December 2007.

Det. Dave Parrell recently investigated a shooting on the southwest side, which resulted in the recovery of two firearms, and charges referred on five individuals including the shooting victim himself, on a variety of charges. The case is still pending in court.

In early February, a local 60-year-old piano teacher was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison repeatedly fondling an 8-year-old student over a 16-month period. Investigating detective Julie Johnson, with the assistance of Det. Cindy Murphy, also located animated (cartoon) pornography on the teacher's computer.

You may be aware of a citywide rash of non-residential (business) burglaries. Many of the burglaries on the west side have occurred in the Odana Rd and Mineral Point Rd areas where multiple businesses in a single building are entered. Det. Melanie Palmer and Det. Paige Valenta are leading the investigations for the West District. So far, three individuals believed responsible for over a dozen burglaries have been arrested, and evidence from additional scenes may link them to others.