

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



Captain Jay Lengfeld

### CAN YOU TAKE THIS CHALLENGE?

The most common complaint heard by police is that there is too much speeding. Let's admit it...we have all been guilty of speeding at some time. Whether we were late for work, or a doctor's appt., or a baseball game, or to pick someone up. There are dozens of excuses that we use to justify driving a little, or sometimes a lot, faster than we should. Most of us are also guilty of speeding up in the hopes of getting through the intersection before the light "technically turns red". And what about this racing up to red lights as if there is a prize for getting there first?

#### THE CHALLENGE:

For just 1 or 2 days, drive the speed limit and see what differences you notice. Included in this challenge is coasting up to stop lights and not trying to "make the yellow".

The first thing you will likely notice is how traffic seems to flow more easily and efficiently. When more people drive the speed limit, it makes it easier for other drivers to make turns, pull out from side streets and driveways and change lanes.

You may also notice that driving becomes less stressful. The slower speed gives you more time to watch for hazards and make adjustments as needed. You will probably notice things along your regular route that you never had time to see before.

At first it may seem that driving slower is going to take more time. But you are really just substituting speeding up and slowing down with a more constant average speed. Unless your trip is several hours long, the time saved will not be significant. It will take longer for you to notice the savings in fuel but we know it is a fact that you will use less gas. And

you will be more safe; but this is a benefit that is hard to see. You may never know what accidents were avoided because you had more time to react to a developing situation.

So next time you get in your car.....take a deep breath....let it out....and take the challenge.

\*\*\* Free "Slow Down" signs available at MPD West 1710 McKenna Blvd.\*\*\*

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

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:

**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.

## Field



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

Summer in Madison has definitely arrived with Rhythm and Booms slated for June 28, our own Elver Park Fireworks event scheduled for July 4, and the usual heat and humidity starting to make an appearance. Calls for police service typically increase as the weather warms and people get out more often, and thus far in June, that trend seems to be holding. With a little less than one week to go in June, there have been over 3200 calls for service on the westside. Included among these incidents:

- 6 Robberies
- 18 Weapons Offenses
- 66 Burglaries
- 4 Sexual Assaults
- 31 Batteries
- 17 Stolen Autos
- 190 Motor Vehicle Accidents

A few of the more notable incidents included:

**Armed Robberies, 5445 University Ave.-** Stop-n-go was the subject of two armed robberies in June. On June 7 at 11:51p and June 18 at 5:01a. In both incidents, the suspect entwerred the business, displayed a gun, and took money. The clerk was not harmed in either incident. These incidents are still under investigation.

**Armed Robbery, 45 Junction Ct.-** On June 15 at 1:54p, a suspect entered the Extended Stay Hotel, produced a gun, and took money. The employee was not harmed during the robbery. Officers checked the area for the suspect, but the suspect was not located. This incident is still under investigation.

**Abduction/Armed Robbery, 5700 Russett Rd.-** On June 12, at approximately 6a, victim was approached by three suspects shortly after entering an apartment building. Two of the suspects were reportedly armed with guns. Victim was transported to his residence where money and property were taken. The victim was not harmed. There are indications that this may not have been a random act. Investigation continuing.

I hope that you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Investigations



**Lieutenant Dan Olivas**

Since the weather has warmed up, the Police Department is seeing an increase in reported thefts from autos, burglaries to garages, stolen autos, and theft in general. While the Madison PD doesn't track mode of entry for all these crime types, I can tell you from reading these reports for the West District, a significant percentage (I'd estimate greater than 40%) of these cases involve unlocked or unsecured property. Unlocked homes, garage doors left open, vehicles unlocked in driveways, unsecured health club lockers, have all contributed to loss of property, not to mention the risk to homeowners themselves.

The good news is that we, as a community, can make a significant impact on crime in our neighborhoods by simply locking up! Make sure your garage doors are closed at night, windows are secured when you leave home, lock up your vehicles, and use a padlock at the health club. Finally, please, continue to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhoods to the police. Have a great summer, everyone!

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## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

On June 7<sup>th</sup> the Allied Drive/ Dunn's Marsh Neighborhood Association held the second annual "Move Forward Not Out" Allied Community Festival. Approximately 350 people enjoyed a day of food, games, music and community. As a clear indication of the direction the neighborhood is heading, I pleased to report there was not a single police call attributed to the festival.

The festival's history can be traced to the Madison Police Departments annual Allied Drive "Pig Roast" which started in 2000. At that time, the food was grilled by Det. Thomas

**Allied Continued...**

Colby and Det. (ret.) Linda Draeger, and the neighborhood officers planned the event. This year's event was completely planned, set up and torn down by community volunteers. Yet more evidence that great strides have been made in the neighborhood.



Madison Fire Department is unofficially starting the Allied Drive redevelopment on June 26<sup>th</sup>. On that date, the Madison Fire Department will be conducting a training burn at 4717 Jenewein Rd. The old neighborhood office building right at the corner of Allied/Jenewein will set ablaze for training the new MFD class of firefighters. Should be a good show.



The weather has been heating up and with this we have seen an increase of foot traffic in the area.



Residents are reminded that if they have visitors, they must be with their guests while they are outside or in the parking lots. The City of Madison's "No Trespass" ordinance is strictly enforced in the Allied Drive Neighborhood. Have a great July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

**Hammersley**



**Officer Mike Hanson**

June has been an active month. Some successes have come in early, as a number of youth have taken advantage of the Boys & Girls Club transportation extension. This year, the Boys & Girls Club on Allied Drive has increased transportation boundaries to accommodate more youth in the Park Ridge and Hammersley area. The Club offers a wide range of learning activities and field trips, for up to 250 youth; and then return the kids home at the end of the day.

I have heard a variety of comments on each of the neighborhoods, whether it is Park Ridge or Theresa Terrace. Without a doubt, there is a high volume of kids in the neighborhood. Something that may help you cope, is remembering your days as a 10, 11 or 12 year-old. This is the age of curiosity and mischief. Kids walking through

**Hammersley Continued...**

people's yards or talking loud or criss crossing the streets is annoying; but not a crime. If there is an ongoing problem, our first efforts as a department would be to talk with the youth; as opposed to citing them citation after citation. Also, there are only so many measures the police can do against juveniles who are involved in deviant behavior, such as stealing a bike, trespassing, etc.

Recently the West Community Police Team and I made an arrest on Theresa Terrace. We were searching for a suspect in a stabbing. When seeing this individual in a car on Theresa Terrace, we made a traffic stop and arrest this person. The residents who were out seemed very interested in why four police cars were making this arrest. When we can, we take every precaution to keep ourselves safe and the neighborhood safe, by flooding resources in a potentially dangerous situation and this was the case for this arrest. The difficulty at that scene was that neighbors were wondering why we were making this arrest and we could only share limited information at the time; so certainly people had more questions as to what we were doing. The following day, we were able to share this information and explain to the neighborhood "eyes and ears" what we were doing.

Help us all enjoy the 4th of July!!

Mike Hanson

**Russett**



**Officer John Amos**

Toki has finished the school year and will be undergoing renovation which will be a change from traditional summer demographic of juveniles going to summer school. The rush of juveniles and their associated problems to the Meadowood shopping center area at 230pm will not return to the fall term.

My time in the last month has been trying to get kids into some kind of programming for the summer so they don't become problems for the neighborhood. I carry brochures and applications to give to parents to let them become aware of the available options.

The Boys and Girls Club on Allied drive picks up in front of Walgreen's at 745am and makes drop offs between 4p and 530p. The Striving Towards Academic Responsibility for Students (STARS) signed up kids for a full day of mixed academic, recreation, and gym classes. The Wisconsin Youth Company on McKenna Blvd has programming year

### **Russett Continued...**

round. MSCR also has programming for the summer and year round.

I anticipate a lot of noise complaints relating to "boom cars". They are ubiquitous and as not stationary so when people call the police they are often gone. When the operators see the police the volume is turned down until they pass the police and turn the volume up again. It is frustrating and we do cite the light vehicle noise ordinance when we have probable cause. The West CPT team does lot of traffic enforcement and boom cars are high on list for vehicles to be stopped.

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### **Community Policing Team**



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac**

Early this month, our unit spent time on foot patrol in several of the parks in the West District. We walked and talked with many folks in Hoyt Park, Rennebohm Park, Owen Park, Garner Park, Marshall Park and Quann Park. We were quite impressed at the upkeep in the parks and the fact that they offered so many opportunities for families and friends of all ages. One of our goals this summer is to continue visibility in the parks. This is in response to several complaints last year that criminal damage, underage drinking, parties and drug use was occurring in the parks, ruining the environment and the neighborhoods that surround the areas. Most if not all of the parks are posted with clear signage indicating whether or not alcohol is permitted, glass containers are permitted and if dogs are allowed. Please pay attention to these signs. All city parks close at 10pm and re-open at 4am. The city offers a park website with more information and how to reserve a shelter or plan for a special event.

### **Memorial High School**



**Officer Shannon Blackamore**

Summer is upon us and many of the students have returned to Memorial High for Summer School. I have been assigned to assist the Central Detectives with some of the cases that have occurred this year, and thus will not be in the West District for a large part of the summer. However, I still hope to have a connection with many of the students as I see them throughout the summer in various assignments at Elver Park for the fireworks, and in patrol at some point.

We anticipate the arrival of a number of students from our middle schools this upcoming school year. We will work closely with the freshmen to provide them the tools and skills to make them successful during their tenure at Memorial High School. For those that require some additional "attention" for behavior related issues, we will certainly spend the first weeks of the school year transitioning them to the Spartan way.

The principals and I will be meeting with the freshmen class during orientation. I will impress upon them the importance of being in class on time, in addition to the consequences of truancy and fighting at school. There are a number of times in which I am able to spend time in the classroom giving educational presentations to students. I enjoy this part of the job, and look forward to more opportunities this upcoming school year.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.