

# Madison Police Department

## West Police District Newsletter



## About WPD



### Captain Jay Lengfeld

Have you ever wanted to use a police laser speed gun and help your neighborhood out at the same time? If the answer is yes, the West District has a program for you! The program is called Community Speed Watch.

The Community Speed Watch Program is a community involvement program to encourage safe driving on neighborhood streets. Motorists' speeding through residential areas is often identified as being a primary concern throughout the city. Speed Watch allows concerned citizens to take an active role in helping to solve this problem and allows the Police Department to effectively utilize its resources. Residents who are interested in helping with Speed Watch undergo training, collect speed data, and provide reports to the Madison Police Department West District. The Speed Watch Program will follow three phases consisting of data collection, driver education, and traffic enforcement.

#### PHASE ONE – DATA COLLECTION

The communities within the West District will help to identify problem areas. Volunteers will assist in gathering speed and traffic information on their own neighborhood streets. All volunteers are trained on the proper use of the laser gun, the rules of conducting a speed watch, and how to complete the forms. Training also covers the rules of conduct and guidelines of the Speed Watch Program. Only those volunteers who have completed the training are allowed to conduct a speed watch.

Madison Police Department West District loans out a laser unit, at no cost, to a community group (with one designated person responsible for the pick-up and return of the equipment). *NOTE: Police personnel do not contact registered owners of speeding vehicles – only data is collected.*

#### PHASE TWO – DRIVER EDUCATION

Madison Police Department West District will utilize a trailer equipped with a radar display board and place it on the streets of concern. The radar display board

flashes the speeds of the oncoming vehicles so that drivers can be educated as to how fast they are traveling.

#### PHASE THREE – TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Madison Police Department West District provides follow-up enforcement by the Community Policing Team (CPT), Traffic Enforcement Safety Team (TEST), and/or Beat Officers in the identified problem areas.

Some neighborhoods may choose to repeat Phase I and Phase II at a later time, depending on neighborhood needs.

To participate in this program you must be 21 years of age and attend a one hour training class (class size will be 6) conducted by the Madison Police Department West District. If you are interested in this program or have questions you can email me at [jlengfeld@cityofmadison.com](mailto:jlengfeld@cityofmadison.com) or call the West District general number 243-0500.

## Patrol Operations



### Lieutenant John Patterson

July 24th marked my first day assigned to the West District. I was recently re-assigned from our patrol night shift where I worked as the "Officer in Charge". I am very excited to be joining such a quality staff in the West District and equally excited to work closely with the citizens, community leaders and stakeholders to ensure the West District continues to be a safe and enjoyable place to live and work.

This is the first time I've been assigned directly to the West District. I have however had the opportunity to work in the West District on a number of occasions during my time as a patrol sergeant, patrol officer, member of the Traffic Enforcement and Safety Team and Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force.

I look forward to working with and meeting many of you in the coming days, weeks and months!

## Field



### **Lieutenant Tony Bitterman**

The Elver Park fireworks celebration went as scheduled on Friday, July 4th, and by all accounts, was a big success. A great deal of planning went into ensuring that it remained a fun, and safe, event.

Approximately 80 police officers and command staff, and two parking officers, worked the event. Many officers were stationed in the park, while others were responsible for traffic direction at intersections and areas around the park.

The fireworks commenced at approximately 9:30pm, and lasted until shortly before 10pm. Within a half hour of the conclusion of the fireworks, those people in attendance had already left the park. Vehicular traffic took a little longer to clear the area, but by 11:30 most police officers had already cleared from their traffic posts as traffic was operating smoothly and at normal levels.

After the fireworks, many of the police officers who had been assigned to work in the park during the event, provided foot patrol in the neighborhoods next to the park to help ensure an orderly departure of attendees. By midnight, the park, and most of the surrounding area, was very quiet. Six arrests were made at the event, all related to disturbances in, or around, the park. The individuals involved all received citations, and were released.

On behalf of the Madison Police Department, I would like to thank all those who attended the event for helping to make it a safe, family-friendly event, and the people at Midwest Family Broadcasting for sponsoring the event.

## Investigations



### **Lieutenant Dan Olivas**

The West Detective bureau continues to devote a large amount of time to the homicide which occurred on June 29th in the 7100 block of Tempe Drive. Virtually all of our 14 detectives have worked on the case to some extent, and it has required many long days and nights. The community has been extremely supportive and helpful in this investigation, and the Madison Police Department would like to thank everyone who has stepped forward with tips and information. I would also like to thank the community for your patience-other crime certainly hasn't stopped and it can be hard to keep up with our many other cases as we devote time to this investigation.

## Investigations Continued...

All the hard work has paid off-Detectives obtained signed arrest warrants for 2 suspects on July 18, and one of the suspects has already been arrested in Chicago. We continue to make excellent progress in this case. I am extremely proud of the detectives who work in this district. They do excellent investigative work and are very much devoted to this community.

## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Carren Corcoran**



**Officer John Messer**

Now that we are into the full swing of summer with its lazy summer afternoons of grilling out and open windows, we run into the issue of loud persons, loud music, or noise complaints. The Madison Police approach the issue by evaluating the time of day and the reasonableness of the noise.

There is a city ordinance of Person Making Unreasonable Noise -24.04 (1). It is defined as no person shall make or assist in making any noise tending to unreasonably disturb the peace and quiet of persons in the vicinity. The fine is \$172.00 for an adult and \$109.00 for a juvenile.

The ordinance of Radio Stereo or Other Mechanical or Electrical Device from Building Disturbing - 24.04 (2) addresses loud stereos or radios. The fine is \$172.00 for an adult and \$109.00 for a juvenile.

Additionally, a vehicle's car stereo can be found to be unreasonable. This city ordinance is Sound Producing or Amplification Devices 24.09 (6). No person may operate, park, or run a motor vehicle with the stereo or radio making sound that is plainly audible from a distance of 75 feet or more. The fine is \$172.00 for the first violation, \$298.00 for the second violation, and \$424 for the third or subsequent violations. The fine is \$109 for a juvenile.

So while enjoying the remaining summer please do remember to be courteous to your neighbors and keep the noise at a reasonable level.

## Hammersley



**Officer Mike Hanson**

The 4th of July went extremely well in the Hammersley and Park Ridge neighborhoods. There was a high volume of people that were, for the most part, orderly and enjoying the 4th of July celebrations.



Lately there has been an increase in boom-car complaints in which music of all sorts is "booming" from cars as they pass through the neighborhood. Another officer and I will be providing extra enforcement for these annoying vehicles.

I have been meeting regularly with the administrators of Wisconsin Youth, who operate across from Elver Park. Since hiring additional staff, there has been a huge increase in the volume of teenagers attending evening events at the center. These events range from dance to hip-hop lessons to kickball. As I work the street, the teens in the area are talking about this program and look forward to going. This program was slow in its development, but word has spread quickly with the youth about this free opportunity. The bottom line to kids that I work with is that they want something to do and want attention and these programs are starting to help.



If you reside nearby or want to help, please plan on a neighborhood Block Party on Prairie Rd (potluck-style). The party will be on Sunday, August 24 and anyone interested in helping should contact me at [mhanson@cityofmadison.com](mailto:mhanson@cityofmadison.com). Of course we could always use donations from volunteers or business for trinkets/toys for the kids. . .



Stay safe!  
Mike Hanson



## Community Policing Team



**Officer John Amos**

It has been approximately three months since I assumed the position of neighborhood liaison officer. After reviewing the monthly numbers of police calls for service, the statistics are fairly normal for a neighborhood with our current housing density. Some of the issues that the neighborhood is dealing with revolve around the Meadowood Shopping Center, Toki Middle School, and screening policies/lease enforcements. Further evaluation of the statistics, exempting domestic disturbances, reveals that unsupervised juveniles are the number one complaint. Noise, building inspection issues, and transient boom cars are the next three common complaints.

After identifying unsupervised juveniles as the major problem for the neighborhood, Neighborhood Officer Mike Hanson and I focused on finding partners and resources to find free summer programming for the youth. Officer Hanson and I went building-to-building, dropping off summer program applications, and speaking with parents and guardians about their children's summer plans. In addition to the summer program opportunities, I will be working closely with the staff of Toki Middle School to ensure a safe learning environment before, during, and after school.

Additionally, in response to the complaints, I am trying to provide more of a police presence by routinely patrolling the area during business hours and directly following school release. I am also working with the businesses located in and around the Meadowood Shopping Center, and educating tenants and landlords about issues within the neighborhood.

I would also like to recognize Timothy Johnson and Joan & Ernie Horinek for their leadership within the Balsam/Russett neighborhood. Thank you.

## Wexford



### Officer Cynthia Thiesenhusen

Ah, the heat of summer is upon us. This means many things. One of which is vacation for me. I was not able to make an entry in the last newsletter as I was on vacation. I will try to make up for that in this article.



There has been a lot going on in Wexford this summer. I will start with the positive! The new Lussier Community Education Center is nearing completion. The Neighborhood Center staff is anxiously awaiting the transition. They continue to work towards the financial commitments with great success. I encourage anyone interested to drive by and see the efforts of this amazing space. The projected move in is just before school starts in September. This is a completely green building and a first of its kind. For more information, please visit the website at [www.lcecmadison.org](http://www.lcecmadison.org)

Connections 2008 was a big success! With the generous help of many sponsors, and volunteers it was the best ever. Some activities we had were 3 point/free throw contest, water balloon toss, double dutch contest, free bicycle drawing, food, free bike registrations, free bicycle helmets, and most the popular visits from the non-human officers of the Madison Police Department- K-9 and equine. Next year we will be partnering with neighborhood folks who have expressed interest in being a part of this amazing event. I would like to specifically thank the Sponsors: Becker Law Office, Dream-Bikes, Roundy's, Famous Footwear, Habush, Habush&Rottier, Meridian Group, Pepsi-Cola, Sauk Trails Optimist, McDonalds, Noodles and Company, Ponderosa Steak House, JBM Patrol, and the fine people of the Madison Police Department. I would also like to acknowledge the volunteers, Officer Kathy Peterson, Officer Tammi Droessler, Officer Jean Stenson, John and Pat Thiesenhusen (my parents), Sauk Trails Optimists- Gene Spindler and Kevin. The event was a great partnership with the Meridian Group and will only continue to grow over the years. I hope to have pictures included with this newsletter.



Calls for service in June were totaled at 70. The calls of

## Wexford Continued...

concern continue to revolve around domestic disputes. These calls hide themselves in many different ways. They hide in 911 disconnects, disturbances, and actual domestic disputes. I have written at length in almost every article I include about the severity of domestic calls. I will be meeting with leaders in the community and members of the Domestic Violence intervention services in August to discuss the possibility of creating a domestic violence peer support group. Check persons, 911 disconnects, and noise complaints all take top billing for June.



Calls for service in July as of the 18<sup>th</sup> were at 53. This is a familiar hike in calls as the summer progresses. Juvenile complaints typically raise the bar in mid-summer. This is the time when juveniles have usually exhausted the early summer plans and they are generally bored. This boredom sometimes converts into involvement in negative behaviors. Other top calls include; disturbances, 911 disconnects, parking complaints, and information reports.



## Memorial High School



### Officer Shannon Blackamore

Greetings and I hope that this newsletter finds you in good sprits and health. The new school year is just around the corner, and there are a number of projects and programs being planned to get students involved.

In particular, I'll be meeting with the Memorial High School alcohol and drug Counselor (AODA) to set up a date and time for a presentation to students. My plan is to put together a drug/alcohol presentation for students that may be affected by drugs, or involved in the illegal use of them. This presentation will be offered to all students to attend and ask questions.

Ultimately, my goal is to have presentations at the beginning, and middle of the school for a refresher. Many freshmen are very vulnerable to peer pressure, and my hope is to get some of these students in a presentation before they choose a different path. We'll also present information about the consequences of using, abusing, or possessing these items.