



# MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## WEST DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



January 2007

### About WPD



**Captain Jay Lengfeld**

Greetings, I am the new West Police District Captain and would like to share a little information with you about myself. I grew-up on the near west side of Madison and attended Dudgeon Elementary and Cherokee Middle School. I graduated from Madison West High and the U.W. –Madison before joining the

Madison Police Department in 1981. My wife and I brought our first house on Merlham Dr. and I served as co-president of the Sunset Village Neighborhood Association for a time.

Over the last twenty-five years working for the department I have been very fortunate to work in many different assignments. As a police officer, I worked in patrol, as a member of the Strategic Patrol Team, and as the Crime Prevention Officer. I spent four years working nights on the west side as a patrol sergeant and one year on the south side, before becoming the sergeant of the drug investigations section of the Dane County Drug and Gang Task Force. My first assignment as a lieutenant was in the Budget section putting together the department's budget and overseeing grants. The next seven years I worked with detectives as a Detective Lieutenant (3 south, 3 north, and 1 west) and the last two years as the Captain of Information Management and Technology.

I look forward to working with residents, business owners, landlords, and Alderpersons of the West District in keeping this a safe and peaceful place to live and work. Next month I will outline the goals and priorities of the department and district, as well as, the changes in the district for 2007.

### Patrol Operations



**Lieutenant Victor Wahl**

The Madison Police Department responded to **2,787** calls for police service in the West District during the month of December, an average of about **90** per day. Some of the noteworthy incidents:

**Accident, Beltline & Gammon Road**—On December 8 at about 6:30pm, officers responded to an injury accident on the Beltline near Gammon Road. Two subjects were injured during the accident, one of whom was transported by MedFlight to an area hospital. The beltline was closed for several hours as a result of the accident.

**Burglary/Home Invasion, 1000 Seminole Highway**—On December 10 at about 7pm, officers responded to a report of a home invasion in the 100 block of Seminole Highway. Investigation showed that an elderly female had been home when an unknown suspect entered her residence. Investigation continuing.

**Home Invasion/Hostage Situation, 3100 Muir Field Road**—On December 14 at about 1pm, officers responded to the 3100 block of Muir Field Road for a home invasion. Investigation showed that two

suspects armed with handguns had forced their way into an apartment. One occupant of the apartment was able to escape and notify police, but others were held by the suspects. Officers arrived and established a perimeter on the building. The suspects became aware of the officers' presence, and attempted to exit the building with the victims. They were taken into custody without incident.

**Burglary, 6000 Odana Road**—On December 14 at about 4am, officers were dispatched to an alarm at The Mac Store, in the 6000 block of Odana Road. Investigation showed that the store had been burglarized and that a number of computer items had been taken. Investigation continuing.

**Battery, Beltline Highway & Verona Road**—On December 14 at about 3pm officers responded to the area of the Beltline Highway near Verona Road for a fight in progress between two drivers. Investigation showed that the fight stemmed from a road rage incident. One of the drivers punched another in the face. The suspect was held down until officers arrived and arrested him.

**Battery, West Towne Mall**—On December 15 at about 6pm officers responded to West Towne Mall for a battery complaint. A mall security guard had confronted three subjects about smoking in the mall. As the suspects—described as three black males in their late teens—walked to their vehicle in the parking lot one of them turned and spit in the face of the guard. A short time later two of the suspects attacked the guard, knocking him to the ground. A second guard attempted to assist; he was also knocked to the ground. The guards were kicked and stomped in the neck area multiple times. Investigation continuing.

**Robbery, West Towne Mall**—On December 17 at about 11am officers were dispatched to West Towne Mall for a robbery. Investigation showed that the victim was accosted in the parking lot by a subject who threatened that he was armed. The suspect ordered the victim to drive out of the area, where he then fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. Investigation continuing.

**Fatality Accident, South Whitney Way & Hammersley Road**—On December 25 at about 10pm, officers responded to the intersection of South Whitney Way and Hammersley Road for an accident. Two vehicles, containing five occupants, were involved in the accident. A twenty-one year-old female was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident. A twenty-six year-old male was transported to a local hospital with serious injuries; he died several days later. The driver of one of the vehicles—a nineteen year-old male—was subsequently charged with two counts of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle.

**Sexual Assault, 2900 Harvey Street**—On December 28 at about 5am, officers responded to a residence in the 2900 block of Harvey Street for a home invasion/sexual assault. Investigation showed that a suspect had entered the victim's residence, then sexually assaulted her. Investigation continuing.

**Exposure, 300 South Whitney Way**—On December 28 at about 11pm, officers responded to the 300 block of South Whitney Way for an exposure. Investigation showed that a hispanic male had exposed himself to a sixteen year-old female. The female told the subject to get away and ran to her home. Investigation continuing.

**Traffic enforcement:** West District officers issued 423 total

citations in April, consisting of 196 "hazardous" traffic violations (speeding, reckless driving, etc.); 73 "non-hazardous" traffic violations (typically equipment, registration or licensing violations) and 154 municipal ordinance violations (disorderly conduct, retail theft, etc.). This is an average of almost 9 citations per officer.

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## Investigations



**Lieutenant Tony Bitterman—Detectives**

As I am a new face at the West Police District Station this year, recently being assigned to the West District as the Detective Lieutenant, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to all of you.

I am a lifelong resident of Madison, having grown up, and attended school up to and including college, in Madison. I was hired by the Madison Police Department in 1991, and in my tenure, have served as a patrol officer, patrol sergeant, and most recently, as the third shift Operations Officer, supervising the officers and sergeants who work overnight.

In addition to working at the West District Station, I also am a current resident of the westside of Madison. Working and living on the westside as I do, I take a sincere interest in trends and incidents which impact police operations, and those that affect the people who work and reside, on the westside.

In my current assignment, as the Detective Lieutenant, I am in charge of supervising the twelve detectives that work out of the West District Station. Although I have been here for only a few weeks, I have been impressed by the knowledge they possess, and the dedication that they bring, to their work. I am very much looking forward to working with such a committed group of people, and look forward to serving all of you, during the upcoming year.

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## Neighborhood Officers

### Allied Drive



**Officer Jason Ostrenga**

Police incidents are down in the Allied Neighborhood. However, as someone who is down in the neighborhood on a daily basis at different hours we still have some issues. Individuals continue to sell drugs in an open air manner on the 2200-2300 Blocks of Allied Dr. I also have been observing a lot of suspicious activity on the 2200 Block of Carling Dr such as people loitering and trespassing. We (police) are attempting to identify these individuals and arrest them for their criminal behavior. Recently we have made arrests in the neighborhood for Possession with intent to deliver cocaine & marijuana, Carrying a Concealed Weapon, Domestic Substantial Battery, and Disorderly Conduct.

I will have a new partner this year: John Messer. Dave Wixom's time was up in the neighborhood and will now be working in the South District with the South Community Policing Team.

Now that we are a couple weeks into 2007 I have had some time to reflect back on 2006 in the Allied Dr Neighborhood. I must say it was a very challenging, yet rewarding year. I feel as if we have made positive strides in the neighborhood such as: Police call incidents down over the last couple months, Men's basketball league,

Community Meals, and Allied Fest. I know I am missing a bunch of other things, but those were just to name a few. I am looking forward to what 2007 will bring us.

I was extremely humbled on January 9 receiving an Appreciation Award from the Allied Neighborhood Association. I mentioned it to those of you who were there, but if you were not: Thank You.



**Officer John Messer**

My name is John Messer, and I am the new Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer. This position was previously held by Officer Dave Wixom who worked as the Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer for last four years. After his four year commitment, Officer Wixom

has joined the South District Community Policing Team. I would personally like to thank Dave for his dedication to Allied Drive and wish him the best of luck in his new position.

This year marks my seventh year working on the Madison Police Department. I am proud to say that I have worked my entire career in the West District and actually remember a time before the district station. I am currently a member of the Department's Emergency Response Team and Special Events Team. I have worked the day shift, afternoons and the night shift. In 2005, I was the 2nd detail Allied Drive beat officer. You can say I have seen Allied Drive "around the clock".

Having worked on and around Allied Drive for the past seven years, I understand the challenges that face the residents of Allied Drive. I also fully understand that the large majority of people in the neighborhood are willing to work hard for, and look forward to, the needed changes in the neighborhood.

My goals while working as the Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer are simple: I would like to eliminate the need for a Allied Drive Neighborhood Officer. I hope to accomplish my goal by building trust with the residents in the area and working in partnership with stakeholders in the neighborhood. This upcoming year looks to be busy with all the anticipated change coming to the 2400 block. I hope to meet and work with as many residents and landlords as I can to help make this change both positive and permanent.

I look forward to working with my partner, Officer Jason Ostrenga, the West District Community Policing Team and all of the hard working and dedicated patrol officers and detectives of the West District. Hope to see everyone on Allied Drive.

### Wexford



**Officer Cindy Thiesenhusen**

I have been asked a number of times as to whether or not the displacement of residents on Allied is affecting the Wexford Ridge Neighborhood. At this time, I can say that I do not believe the displacement has affected Wexford much if at all. Will it? This is another question all its own. It is possible that residents will migrate to the north west side of the west district. Wexford is unique in that it is managed by one company, Meridian Management. Meridian typically does complete background checks on prospective tenants. Meridian also has somewhat of a hands on approach to how they deal with new tenants and tenants that show to have problems with the police or the security that is on site. I believe this will keep the trend at a slower pace than what is seen in other neighborhoods in the West district. This is true only because other neighborhoods do not have management companies that manage entire neighborhoods or apartment complexes.

Calls for service in Wexford decreased significantly in December. One reason for this is many residents were gone for the holidays. Totals for December were 43 calls for service. This number does not include the 8 private parking calls generated. The highest at 9 were 911 disconnects. Other calls include; 5 disturbance calls, 4 domestic calls and 4 check person calls. There really was no single call that stands out.

The Madison Police/ Wexford Ridge annual Toy Give Away was conducted on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This year, The Gialamas Company partnered with me to make the event a huge success. Along with the Gialamas Company, Community of Hope United Church of Christ and Z104 'Toy Tour' donated toys to make it possible. In 2005, I was able to give 40 children toys for the holidays. In 2006, we were able to distribute toys to 140 children. This number is amazing and I can only hope it will grow next year. Every single resident that participated was very grateful and appreciative. These are times that can be looked at as extremely positive for the community and the Police Department.

**Theresa/Betty's/Hammersley**



**Officer Caleb Bedford**

As I have met people throughout the past year, I have added their email addresses to my distribution list. This list now has about 150 members. The majority of these addresses were added during the second half of 2006. For those members who missed the first six months worth of newsletters, I will take this opportunity to reintroduce myself and review the geographical boundaries of my neighborhood.

I am beginning my second year as the Hammersley neighborhood officer. I have been an officer on the Madison Police Department for about six years. I have worked in the north and central districts, in addition to two years on patrol in the west district. All of my patrol assignments were on the afternoon or night shifts.

I have lived in Madison for about 15 years. Before becoming a police officer, I worked as an attorney at a local Madison law firm. I earned my law degree and bachelor's degree from UW Madison. I have a wife and two sons, and we all live together on the west side of Madison.

My duties as a neighborhood officer include attending neighborhood meetings, acting as a liaison to area schools, neighborhood associations, and alderpersons, responding to emergency calls for police service, and conducting follow-up criminal investigations. However, I consider it my larger objective to identify and remove the biggest threats to public safety in my area.

The Hammersley Neighborhood assignment includes three areas of responsibility. They include: (1) Theresa Terrace, Bettys Lane, 6200-6300 Jacobs Way, Loreen Drive, and 6100-6400 Hammersley Rd (approximately three square blocks); (2) Park Edge/Park Ridge, including all of the small courts attached to those streets (New Berm, Georgetown, Connecticut, Nantucket, Edgartown, Falmouth, Mt. Vernon) and the 900-1100 blocks of Gammon Lane; and (3) The Crossings at Elver Park (previously named the Elver Park Apartments), which contains 152 apartment units in seven three-story buildings. My assignment includes mandatory hours assigned to Allied Drive, due to the high level of drug dealing and violent activity in that area. Finally, as time allows, I try to address problems in nearby neighborhoods, such as Russett Rd, Balsam Rd, and Schroeder Rd.

Also, I again invite everyone to the next quarterly southwest neighborhood meeting. The one-hour meeting will be held on

**Monday, January 22 at 7pm at the West Police Station.** I will discuss topics related to police activity on the southwest side of Madison over the last few months, and I will make myself available to answer questions about recent major incidents. However, my main presentation will be about the search warrant executed by our emergency response team last week. I will describe the process of obtaining evidence for this search warrant, drafting it for the judge, executing it with the tactical team, and taking suspects into state and federal custody.

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## *Memorial High School*

**Officer Shannon Blackamore—Memorial High School Educational Resource Officer**



In this months article I'd like to take the opportunity to discuss one of the issues I've seen as a result of students failing to secure valuables in their vehicles. Often we see a series of break-ins to vehicles shortly before Holiday and weekend breaks. I'd like to remind students, parents, and those in the community that it's imperative to keep your vehicles locked and secured.

A suspect will often try to get to the vehicle with valuables in plain view. Keeping your loose change, currency, DVD players, and other valuables out of sight from the outside of your vehicle could make a difference. It's pretty disconcerting to find that not only are your valuables missing, but also now in the dead of winter, you're without a window on your vehicle.

Locking your doors is one of the easiest steps of prevention that you can take to keep yourself from becoming a victim. Here at Memorial High School we have a number of surveillance cameras, however there are areas that aren't covered at all times. Keep your doors locked and valuables out of sight. Don't give someone an opportunity to make you a victim this year.

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## *Community Policing Team*



**Sergeant Linda Kosovac—South/West Community Policing Team**

The new year brings along some changes to our Community Policing Team. Our team began in 2004 as the South/West CPT, which included our team working in both the south and the west districts. Sharing time between the two districts was challenging given the size and needs of the two districts. Beginning January 14<sup>th</sup> 2007, the south district will have it's own CPT and our team will be responsible for the west district only. As a result, we have been downsized from six officers and a sergeant to five officers and one sergeant. While we will have one less officer, we will have well qualified officers in the unit with a number of years of police experience. Returning to our unit are Sgt. Linda Kosovac with 17 ½ years of police experience, and Officers Matt Schroedl, Paige Valenta and Dao Xiong , each with 9 ½ years of experience. Officer Dan Nale returns with 8 ½ years of police experience. Our newest member, Officer Ed Bernards, comes to us from the south district patrol with 7 ½ years of police experience. Our ability to serve the west district will be bolstered by working closely with our neighborhood officers, patrol officers, educational resource officer and the district detectives. We are looking forward to a productive and safe year.