

**MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT
MONTHLY REPORT**



DECEMBER 2008

CRIME PREVENTION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS **ACTIVITIES**

Community Events

On Sunday, December 7, Chief Brad Keil, Lt. Noel Kakuske, Lt. Chuck Foulke, Sgt. Don Mueller, Detective Sgt. Steve Britt, Detective Patty Faust, PSLO Jill Tutaj, PSLO Jeremy Geiszler, Officer Travis Kakuske and Officer Jessica Quamme took nine kids shopping for the 8th Annual Shop With A Cop Program at Target East in Madison. The children purchased presents for their family and then attended a pizza/wrapping party.

On Wednesday, December 7, CAO Kasdorf attended the Northside Elementary School Holiday Lunch with Mr. Kalscheuer's 3rd grade class.

If you would like more information or would like to involve the Police Department in a community presentation or event, please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 827-7457 or dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us.

Middleton Business Watch

There were no Business Watch activities in December.

If you would like to join the Middleton Business Watch or need to update your contact information please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 827-7457 or dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us.

Police Citizens' Academy

The 2009 Academy will be changed to this spring due to numerous conflicts in the fall. The projected start date is in late March. The Academy meets for ten weeks every Wednesday night from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM except for one class on a Saturday morning.

If you live or work in Middleton and are interested in attending a future academy, please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 827-7457 or dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us.

Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS)

The Middleton Police Department is starting a VIPS program and is in the process of finalizing policy and procedures, job descriptions and handbooks. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the Middleton Police Department, please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 827-7457 or dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us.

Community Awareness Fund

Middleton Community Awareness Programs such as Speed Watch, National Night Out, Citizens' Academy, Bike Safety Day, NSI Safety Day and Shop With A Cop are funded almost entirely from community donations. A donation request letter was sent out to local businesses in December and the response was overwhelming. Thank you!

Also in December, American Girl/Mattel generously agreed to partner with the Middleton Police Department and fund a new Child ID Program through Safe Assured ID. The Middleton Police Department will soon have the equipment and supplies to record a child's voice, picture, video and fingerprints on a mini-CD for parents to keep in case of an emergency. The Middleton Police Department is looking to find a sponsor for similar kits for at risk persons with memory loss or autism.

If you would like to donate money to the Community Awareness Fund please send a check or money order to the Middleton Police Department Community Awareness Fund, 7426 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI, 53562. Together we can make a difference.

If you have any questions about donations or programs, please contact CAO David Kasdorf at 827-7457 or dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

In December, Middleton officers handled 1,549 calls for service, 583 were self-initiated, 966 were dispatched. Officers issued 315 citations, 163 written warnings, made 40 criminal arrests and investigated 57 traffic accidents.

Significant Events in December:

08-7813, 12/01/08, 3:41 AM, 6300 Block of Maywood Avenue, Reckless Endangerment

A man and woman were awakened in the middle of the night by the woman's ex-boyfriend standing over their bed. The ex-boyfriend attempted to stab the current boyfriend in the chest, then struck the woman in the mouth. He was arrested by Middleton officers as he fled the scene in his vehicle. Thirty-six year old Miguel Aragon was jailed, charged with: Stalking Resulting in Bodily Harm, Armed Burglary, 2 counts of 2nd Degree Reckless Endangerment, 2 counts of Battery and Theft.

08-7986, 12/08/08, Boston's Gourmet Pizza, Employee Theft

Management discovered that at least three employees were issuing gift cards without placing money into the register. They then would use the gift cards as payment for guests' bills. Basically, the guest would pay in cash and the employee would use the gift card as payment and would then keep the cash for themselves. Investigation continues.

08-7997, 12/08/08, Dress Barn, Employee Theft

Management discovered that an employee was creating fraudulent returns and keeping the money over the last four months, totaling over \$1,000.00. Employee Jennifer Gray, 34, of Madison, was charged with Embezzlement.

08-8017, 12/09/08, 2100 Block Allen Blvd., Fraud

A Middleton resident applied for a 'Secret Shopper' job on the internet. The person subsequently received a check in the amount of \$3,847.00, with instructions to cash the check and send \$3300.00 back via a Western Union money gram, but to keep the rest for a first week salary as well as money to use for shopping. The victim did as instructed. Initially the check cleared, but was eventually returned to the victim's bank because of insufficient funds, so the funds were taken out of the victim's account. The scam was traced to Canada and transferred to Canadian authorities. Middleton Police, as well as law enforcement all over the country, have seen an increase in these types of scams.

08-8029, 12/10/08, 11:29 AM, 8400 Block of Greenway, Motor Vehicle Theft

A city Department of Public Works employee was shoveling snow and left his city pickup truck, with attached trailer, running in the parking lot. The vehicle and trailer were stolen, last seen entering the eastbound Beltline Highway, with the ramp to the trailer scraping on the ground. The vehicle was located abandoned behind the Copps Food store on Junction Road in the City of Madison and the trailer was located nearby, behind the Target Store. A short time later, an elderly couple who had left their vehicle running in the Target parking lot reported that their vehicle had been stolen. Twenty-four old Oran Woodfin, of Madison, was subsequently arrested and interviewed by Middleton and Madison detectives. He admitted stealing the Middleton Department of Public Works pickup truck. He said he drove it behind Target and took the trailer off. He said as he was driving away, he heard a Middleton police officer talking to him on the Middleton Department of Public Works radio (a Middleton officer switched to the DPW radio frequency and told him to bring the stolen truck back). He said he abandoned the truck, then found the other running vehicle in the front of the shopping center, so he decided to steal it. Woodfin was jailed on numerous charges by Middleton and Madison authorities.

08-8127, 12/15/08, 1300 Block of Boundary Road, Burglary

Residents reported that their house was broken into overnight, while they were sleeping. A bank bag, containing proceeds from a charity fund raising event, was stolen.

08-8375, 12/27/08, 2:59 AM, PDQ, Century Avenue, Theft

Two men stole four cases of beer.

08-8392, 12/28/08, Middleton Beach Road, Multiple Thefts from Vehicles

A resident discovered that his vehicle, parked in his unlocked garage, was entered and items stolen. Officers followed footprints in the snow and observed that at least two people entered or attempted to enter a number of vehicles along the road.

08-8422, 12/29/08, 7500 Block of Rohlich Court, Theft

A woman reported that her prescription Hydrocodeine pills were stolen.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sgt. Mueller attended the Dane County Law Enforcement/Safe Communities Traffic Safety Coordinating Committee meeting on December 4. DeForest Police spoke about their successful OWI enforcement efforts where they put out a sign indicating "OWI Task Force Ahead". Wisconsin cannot perform OWI checkpoints so this sign indicates to the public that extra effort enforcement is ongoing. Hopefully it lessens the number of drunk drivers on the road as a result. This coming year, Middleton will have lighted portable signage available for use and we could use it in the same manner as DeForest.

The above committee will be meeting in March with the Dane County Traffic Safety Committee, a statutorily required committee, which includes police, fire, EMS, Schools, Traffic Engineers and DOT. This committee discusses traffic safety and road safety. Members bring in the MV4000 from fatal crashes and there is a discussion of why the accident occurred and what can be done to prevent another one (change in roadway, signage, vehicle equipment change, enforcement, etc). Inclusion in this committee should help us to take a more proactive approach to traffic safety.

Safe Communities is going to host a Nation Highway Traffic Safety Administration train the trainer class called Traffic Occupant Protection Strategies (TOPS). TOPS training supports the Click It or Ticket efforts of police departments and places a heavy emphasis on seat belt use by law enforcement officers. The curriculum focuses on issues that the officer in the field can put to immediate use, crash dynamics, the basics of seat belts and child restraints and working effectively with networks at the state and local level. Should the Middleton Police Department choose to send someone to this training, the person must be a certified law enforcement instructor.

Safe Communities is also looking to host a NHTSA Complete Traffic Stop training in which participants learn about all aspects that a "routine" traffic stop can entail.

The City of Middleton's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan 2009 has been posted on the city's web site. Please take a look at this important document which includes education and enforcement initiatives that involve our Department.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Middleton Police Department and Quaker Steak and Lube regarding the police motorcycle program was signed this month. Three spots in the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety police motorcycle training course in Memphis, Tennessee, March 16-27, 2009, have been reserved. January will see the posting of the three motorcycle patrol duty assignment opportunities and the choosing of the officers for the training and subsequent assignment to motorcycle patrol. The motorcycle training is known to be the among the most difficult training an officer will undergo in his/her career and has a 10-20% drop out rate.

December's results of the OWI grant effort was: Citations: 2 OWI; 4 OAR/OAS; 2 Speeding; 2 Sign/Signal; 1 Registration Violation; and 3 Other. Eighteen Warnings were issued. Twenty traffic stops were made.

Directed traffic patrols were performed for 13.5 hours in December. Allen Blvd, Branch Street, Century Avenue, N Gammon Road, N High Point Road, Park Street, Pheasant Branch Road, and University Avenue were targeted. Citations: 15 Speeding; 2 No Driver's License; 1 OAR/OAS; 1 Signal Violation; and 1 Seatbelt. Warnings: 7 Speeding and 2 Equipment.



TRAINING

Specialized Training

Contingency Training Test-out, 24 hours, Formby
Breath Examiner training, 24 hours, Formby and Stroik

In-service Training

In-service training for 2008 was completed by October of 2008, but members of the Training Team met in December to begin planning for 2009 In-service.

INVESTIGATIVE UNIT REPORT

Madison man indicted on federal drug charges

“A Madison man who is already facing a serious felony charge for an armed robbery last year, saw his legal problems grow Wednesday when he was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly dealing drugs in Madison in late 2008 and early this year.

Donta J. Thomas, 28, faces six counts of distributing crack cocaine and one count of possession of 5 grams or more of crack cocaine with the intent to deliver.

The indictment handed down Wednesday alleged that Thomas distributed crack cocaine on Nov. 4, Nov. 26, Dec. 5, Dec. 11, Dec. 22 and Jan. 2, and that he was in possession of 5 grams or more of cocaine on Jan. 6.

The drug charges in federal court carry a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in prison and a maximum term of 40 years in the federal pen. The drug charges came after

an investigation into Thomas by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Thomas is also charged in Dane County Circuit Court with being party to the crime of armed robbery last May, and faces a maximum possible 40 years of combined prison and extended supervision time on that count if he is convicted.”

The above excerpt is from a Wisconsin State Journal article written by Mike Miller for the January 28, 2009 issue. What the article fails to mention is that this significant criminal investigation was conducted by Middleton Police Detective Daniel Jones.

Detective Jones has been assigned, as a portion of his 15 month rotating detective position, to the Dane County Drug and Gang Task force for three months. Within this extremely brief assignment, most detectives have little time to do more than get themselves acquainted with the Task Force’s operating procedures, receive instruction and serve in a backup capacity. Detective Jones’ dedication, drive and tenacity have proven just how much more can be accomplished in such a short time frame.

During the month of December, 83 case files were sent to the investigative supervisor for review. Of these, eight cases were assigned to patrol officers and 31 new cases were assigned to various members of the ISB team. This represents a slight decline in the level of activity in the area of case assignment from the previous record month. Some of these case files include the following incident types:

- 4 - Burglaries
- 1 - Child Abuse
- 6 - Criminal Damage to Property
- 2 - Death Investigations
- 1 - Disorderly Conduct
- 9 - Domestic Follow-up
- 1 - Fire
- 1 - Found Property
- 7 - Fraud
- 2 - Graffiti
- 2 - Harassment
- 9 - Larceny
- 1 - Larceny Bicycle
- 6 - Larceny from Auto
- 4 - Missing Persons
- 2 - Sexual Assault
- 2 - Suspicious Persons
- 2 - Stolen Automobiles
- 3 - Uniform Controlled Substances

SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER REPORT

PLSO Jeremy Geiszler

December was a slightly quieter month than the last few as far as call volume. This was most likely due to the fact that winter break covered a good portion of the month. During December, I attended the Dane County SRO meeting, as well as several meetings at the high school. In addition to that, and in collaboration with the Dane County Sheriff's Office and Madison Police Department, we conducted a canine sweep of the high school building and the parking lots. There was one hit on a vehicle in the lot, but there were no drugs located.

The biggest issue faced this month was an apparent gang related disturbance between several African American students and several Latino students. The information provided to me was that this involved rival gangs, and the issue carried over in to the next couple of weeks where there was discussion about a possible gang fight before break. With assistance from the school administration, both student communities were brought together in a meeting, which was productive given the fact that there were no further issues.

I was assigned to a total of 32 calls for service for the month. That included: 6 status offenses; 5 thefts; 5 lost property; 3 follow up; 2 fights; 2 information; and 1 each of 911 disconnect, assist citizen, annoying phone calls, check person, damage to property, disturbance, property found, and traffic stop.

For the month, I issued a total 13 citations. This included 5 for truancy, 2 for disorderly conduct, and 1 each for battery, theft, unauthorized presence on school property, and no seatbelt. Officer Tutaj and I also worked on alcohol compliance checks of local establishments with liquor licenses, and I issued two citations for serving an underage patron.

Kromrey Middle School Activities

December was a short month for the resource officers because of holiday break. During the three weeks that students did have school I was busy.

I had two separate calls relating to teachers touching students in a physical way in order to make them do something. The first case involved a teacher putting her hand onto a student's shoulder and turning her to go in a different direction. The student became very upset and accused the teacher of pushing her. After the investigation, it was determined that the teacher did meet school policy and no action was taken by police.

The second situation occurred when staff members held down an out of control student to gain control of that student. The student claimed injuries from the event. After the investigation, it was also found that the staff members were within the school policy. There was also a fight at Kromrey where one student received a citation for disorderly conduct, a malicious mischief incident where one student was warned for Disorderly Conduct.

During December, I also attended weekly BCT and attendance meetings. I also attended the monthly school resource officer meeting.

I also finished the fall session of the Keeping Safe Program at Elm Lawn elementary school and worked on giving several officers tours of all the schools.

During December I organized the Shop with a Cop program and nine elementary students participated in this event in early December.

To finish up the month of December, Detective Haselow, Officer Geiszler and I did two rounds of alcohol compliance checks around the city. We issued a total of 14 citations for selling to a minor and one for selling alcohol without a licensed bartender on duty.

COURT ACTIVITY

Dane County Adult Criminal Referrals

49 Adults
98 Criminal Counts
19 Civil Forfeitures

Dane County Juvenile Criminal Referrals

2 Juveniles
5 Criminal Counts
0 Civil Forfeitures

Municipal Court Citations Issued

272 Citations