

**MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MONTHLY REPORT**



**MAY 2010**

## **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

### **INVESTIGATIVE UNIT REPORT**

On May 18, 2010, at 1205 AM, Middleton Police Dispatch received the report of an armed robbery/home invasion at 3407 Roma Lane Apartment #6 in the City of Middleton. Responding officers identified the victims as Christopher Mueller and Seville Swain. Mueller and Swain, both 20 year old males, reside together at the Roma Lane address.

The victims stated that around midnight, a female, who was known to them through previous school contacts, knocked on their front door. The victims stated that they opened the door for the female and three masked male suspects forced their way into the apartment. The victims further stated that they were pushed to the ground and held at gun point while the suspects searched their persons, residence and vehicle. The suspects were reported to have stolen a wrist watch, vehicle keys, two cellular phones and approximately \$850.00 in U.S. currency.

After a week of interviews, subpoenas and search warrants, Middleton Detectives were able to identify the suspects in this case. The driver of the suspect getaway vehicle was identified as 19 year old Middleton resident Thomas Haluska. The female, who gained access to the apartment for her boyfriend and his companions, was identified as 19 year old Middleton resident Mercedes Pett-Vanko. The three males who conducted the actual robbery were identified as 19 year old Middleton resident Isiah Richards, 18 year old Madison resident Dariell McCullum and 22 year old Madison resident Jordan Gudin.

The investigation of this incident revealed that Gudin, who is currently on probation for robbery, has lead several different groups of companions in at least three armed robberies. Gudin's companions stated that he planned and executed the robberies of individuals who were known drug dealers. The object of these robberies was to steal both cash and street drugs.

Haluska, McCullum, Pett-Vanko and Richards were located in the Middleton area and jailed on charges of armed robbery. Gudin, aware of the investigation, fled the State of Wisconsin. Gudin has since been located and arrested in the State of Florida. Gudin is to be extradited to Wisconsin to stand trial for this armed robbery.

MI10-3868, 05/28/10, 5:20 PM, Chalmers Jewelers, 6202 University Avenue, Theft  
A male was in the jewelry store asking to look at watches and bracelets he was contemplating on buying. After spending several minutes in the store, he ran out, taking three watches and one bracelet with him. He was chased by a manager. At one point the subject fell down and when he got up he dropped a knife. The suspect was observed getting into a vehicle and the license plate number was obtained. Investigation continues.

The department investigated numerous theft from auto and damaged vehicle cases in May. Citizens are reminded to remove valuables from their vehicles, lock them and call the police if you observe suspicious behavior.

## **CRIME PREVENTION/COMMUNITY RELATIONS** **ACTIVITIES**

### **Community Events**

On Saturday, May 1, Middleton Police attended the Kiwanis Kid's Day at Lakeview Park.

On Thursday, May 6, Middleton Police gave a tour to an 18 year old special needs student.

On Tuesday, May 11, Middleton Detectives gave a presentation on internal theft at the Middleton Business Watch Spring Seminar.

On Tuesday, May 11, Middleton Police gave tours to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes from Sunset Ridge Elementary School.

On Monday, May 17, Middleton Police gave a presentation on Internet Safety to Troop 140 from St. Luke's Church.

On Thursday, May 20, Middleton Police gave a tour to the Middleton Senior Center Men's group.

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 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).



Middleton Business Watch held their Spring Seminar at the new Police Department and Municipal Court on Tuesday May 11<sup>th</sup>. Middleton Detectives gave a presentation on handling internal theft cases.

The new MBW signs have now been installed.

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 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).



### *Citizens' Academy*

The Middleton Police Citizens' Academy has been cancelled for 2010 due to construction of the new Police Department and budget cuts. The Citizens' Academy will start up again in the spring of 2011.

The Academy runs for ten weeks and is open to adults that live or work in Middleton. Class size is usually limited to 12 students.

If you live or work in Middleton and are interested in attending a future academy, please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).



VIPS did not have any events in May. VIPS are looking to add adults and also Junior VIPS (age 14 to 17) to our membership.

If you are interested in the Middleton Police Department VIPS program please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).

### **Safe Assured ID Kits**

Middleton Police will be taking reservations for having kits made the last Wednesday of every month. The first night will be Wednesday, June 30, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

If you would like to register for a Wednesday Night, have the ID system at an event or if you would like to donate money for the purchase of more kits, please contact Community Awareness Officer David Kasdorf at 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).

## **Community Awareness Fund**

Middleton Community Awareness Programs such as GREAT, Speed Watch, National Night Out, Citizens' Academy, Bike Safety Day, NSI Family Safety Day and Shop with a Cop are funded almost entirely from community donations. **We need your help!**

If you would like to donate money to the Community Awareness Fund please send a check or money order to “**Middleton Volunteer Partnership Inc.**” or “**MVP Inc.**”, 7341 Donna Drive, Middleton, WI 53562.

**Together we can make a difference.** If you have any questions about donations or programs please contact CAO David Kasdorf at 824-7323 or [dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us](mailto:dkasdorf@ci.middleton.wi.us).

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION**

In April, Middleton Officers handled 1525 calls for service, 822 were field initiated, 931 were dispatched, issued 637 citations, made 27 criminal arrests and investigated 26 accidents.

In May, Middleton Officers handled 1753 calls for service, 671 were field initiated, 854 were dispatched, issued 501 citations, made 35 criminal arrests and investigated 27 accidents.

### **Significant Events in May:**

MI10-3104, 05/04/10, Precision Devices, 8840 N Grandview, Theft  
Management determined that gold was being stolen over a long period of time by an employee.

MI10-3111, 05/04/10, 3600 Napoli Lane, Burglary  
Forced entry to an apartment and a flat screen TV was taken.

MI10-3556, 05/17/10, 12:29 AM, Bristled Boar, 2611 Branch Street, Attempted Burglary  
Officers responded to the bar because of an alarm. It was discovered that the phone lines to the business had been cut and the police response interrupted the break-in.

MI10-3574, 05/18/10, 12:04 AM, 3400 block Roma Lane, Armed Robbery  
Refer to Investigative Services Bureau report.

MI10-3705, 05/23/10, 9:55 PM, Hody Bar, 1914 Aurora Street, Fight  
Police were called to a fight which stemmed over a pool game. One subject received a broken arm in the fight. Charles Parr, 40, of Middleton, was arrested and charged with Battery.

## Award Ceremonies

The Middleton Police Department celebrated National Police Week by awarding and recognizing employees and citizens for outstanding work. The awards were presented to the recipients in front of the City Council on May 4. This year's award winners:

### Outstanding Service Awards

**Detective Craig Faga:** Detective Faga has been recognized by his work mates, law enforcement peers and prosecutors as a highly talented investigator, police sketch artist and evidence technician. Law enforcement in Dane County recognized the need to standardize response to major criminal cases. Craig was picked to be on the committee to come up with "best practices" for major case responses. This committee, made up of Dane County prosecutors, law enforcement supervisors and investigators, put together a response manual and held a three day training session. Craig was responsible for putting together the forensic evidence portion of the manual and was one of the main instructors for the training. The response for the Major Case training class was so great; it had to be held two separate times, with over 150 law enforcement officers attending. Unfortunately, Detective Faga had to put these skills to work in December, when he was part of the investigative team which investigated a quadruple homicide of two adults and two infants. Craig has been a member of the Middleton Police Department since 1982.



**Officer Dave Kasdorf:** Dave is the Community Awareness Officer, in charge of all proactive programs in the Department. Dave has put together a dedicated group of 35 active volunteers, called VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services). Through Dave's leadership, the VIPS have helped the Police Department and community tremendously in the last year and a half. VIPS assist the Police Department in a variety of ways, including

special events, weather radio sales, recruit testing, Speed Watch, Safe Assured ID and more. Other proactive programs that Dave is involved in are: Stop and Seat, SCAN (Police Department partnering with the Senior Center), Speed Watch, Safe Assured ID, Middleton Business Watch, Pedestrian Flag Crossing, Citizen's Academy (which is on hiatus this year due to budget constraints), National Night Out and Shop with a Cop. Dave has been with the Department since 1991.



### **Middleton Good Neighbor Award**

**Steve Leo:** Steve has served on the Middleton Common Council since 2004, representing District 8. He decided not to seek another term in the recent spring elections. Steve was an active member of the Council, a member of the Conservancy Lands Committee, Finance Committee, Parks, Recreation and Forestry Committee, Public Safety Committee and License and Ordinance Committee. Steve was well known for his legendary tongue lashing of individuals or licensed premises that violated alcohol laws. Steve has been an unwavering proponent for a well funded, well staffed, well outfitted and well trained police force and will be missed by the members of the Middleton Police Department.





### **Special Recognition**

The Middleton Police Department and Municipal Court recently moved into their new facility on Donna Drive. This project, which was years in the making, could not have been done without the assistance and expertise of the Mayor, Common Council members, citizens and employees. Special recognition goes to the following:

#### **Elected/City Officials:**

Mayor Kurt Sonnetag, Council members Howard Teal, Paul Kinne, Gurdip Brar, Jim Wexler, Susan West, Hans Hilbert, Steve Leo, retired Council members Bill Hoeksema, Rob Conhaim and Andy Lewis, City Administrator Mike Davis and retired Financial Director Tim Studer.



#### **Building Committee:**

Mayor Kurt Sonnetag, Chief Brad Keil, Sergeant Steve Britt, Eileen Kelly, Tony Peterson, Ed Elskamp and James Lagro.





**Evidence bar-coding, purging and moving team:**

Captain Kakuske, Lynn Endres and Janelle Zimmerman



**IT:**

Todd Forman and Drew Montour



**Communication/Dispatch:**

Tom Adler and Barry Reynolds



**Fitness Center:**

Sergeant Troy Hellenbrand

**Decorating:**

Officer Greg Dixon

### **Keeping everything straight:**

Ann Ziltner

### **Significant Anniversaries:**

5 years: **Susan Buechner** (03/8/2005)

10 years: **Darrin Zimmerman** (05/27/1999), **Ken Smith** (05/16/2000)

20 years: **Patty Faust** (11/13/1989)

25 years: **Linda Kessenich** (04/01/1985)

35 years: **Don Mueller** (04/07/1975)

## **TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

With the advent of the warmer months, the Middleton Police Department is becoming more involved in events requiring traffic safety responses by officers. Expect to see more requests for such responses in the future as the City of Middleton continues to expand its tourism base.

- Quaker Steak and Lube began its Wednesday Bike Nights. Sgt. Mueller met with QS&L management prior to the start of the Bike Nights to discuss methods on how to lessen the perceived loud noise from some motorcycles as they leave the venue. QS&L placed new, larger signage at the exits reminding riders to be quiet throughout Middleton and to be good neighbors. They placed posters with the message “Loud Pipes Risk Rights” in the restrooms. They make several announcements throughout the events reminding riders to be courteous and quiet as they leave the area. They take a hard stand on any excess noise that is created on site, warning any violators and banning them if necessary. They have talked to the vendors to ask them to be good examples and to remind their customers to be good neighbors.
- On May 6, Mark Walther attended the Traffic Incident Management district meeting. The upcoming Centurian Bike Ride was one of the discussion points. This ride is scheduled for August 7 and 8. Up to 3,500 riders are expected to attend this two day event. Morey Field is the staging, start and finish area. Their website indicates there will be a 40K family ride on Saturday followed on Sunday by challenging 80K and 100K races. This event is projected to grow to 10,000 participants in future years.
- May 12, saw Officer Jeff Winer participating in the second Ride the Train. He rode the train with other area law enforcement officers who would radio to waiting squads that a violation by vehicles was observed. We had four officers watching the various crossings. One citation was issued when a school bus failed to stop for the flashing railroad signal on South Avenue. The bus had no students aboard. This incident demonstrated the danger that the engineers observe every day in their travels.

- May 15, had two events requiring our assistance. The Restoring Hope Transplant House Ride for bicycles began at the Capital Brewery and required lengthy traffic control by several officers, reader boards set up by Mark Walther to help direct traffic, and temporary No Parking signs placed around the area to facilitate safe movement by the bicyclists. The annual Fast Eddie motorcycle ride left from Quaker Steak and Lube and required an officer to stop traffic at Hwy 14 and Deming so that the participants could leave the area as a group.
- The annual MG&E Shareholders Meeting was on May 18 at the Marriott Hotel. All uniformed officers on duty were assigned traffic control for about one half hour in order to facilitate the safe exit of pedestrians and vehicles from the parking lots onto the streets, in addition, private security helped out in the lots.
- A subgroup meeting of the Dane County Traffic Safety Committee met on May 20 to brainstorm ideas to improve traffic safety in Dane County. Law enforcement, judges, assistant district attorneys, DOT reps, Safe Communities reps and Dane County Public Health reps attended. Areas of concern were: Move Over law (education and enforcement), Yield laws (education), red signal violations (enforcement), education and stepped up enforcement on youth drinking, OWI enforcement and coordination with the District Attorney's Office and community education on the newly enacted laws such as Liability Insurance requirements, texting ban, changes in the absolute sobriety laws and the first time OWI with a minor passenger now being a misdemeanor crime. The Committee will be working on implementing these in the future.
- Roll the Cure motorcycle ride had our presence for traffic control to leave the area on May 23.
- The annual Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement period began on May 24 and will continue to June 6. The Middleton Police Department is participating as a non-funded agency again this year. By participating and sending in our results to DOT, we are eligible in a drawing for thousands of dollars to be used for the purchase of traffic safety related equipment. The drawing will be at the annual Governor's Conference on Traffic Safety in August.
- Officer Mike Wood began his motorcycle patrol in May with 13 days set aside for that patrol. In May he made the second most traffic stops on the Department, indicating that the program is working as envisioned.

Sgt. Terry Hanson has initiated an OWI Enforcement Team concept with the Department. Two saturation OWI patrols were performed in May, totaling 61 man hours, none at overtime as officers who participate have agreed to have schedules flexed in order to take part in this important traffic safety initiative. On May 10 the effort involved four officers who made 28 stops, issued eight citations and 25 warnings. Two arrests for OWI were made; one for 4<sup>th</sup> offense the other for 1<sup>st</sup> offense. On May 14 the effort involved five

officers who made 50 stops, issued 21 citations and 34 warnings. Two 1<sup>st</sup> offense OWI arrests were made.

Directed traffic patrols were performed for about 31 hours, down a bit due to the Click It or Ticket patrols which will be recorded separately when the program ends in June.

Ninety-four enforcement actions were taken: 21 Speeding citations with six warnings, 26 Seat Belt citations with one warning, six Registration citations with 19 warnings, five OAS/OAR citations, one Failure to Obey Sign/Signal citation with three warnings, one citation each for OWI, Hit and Run, Operating Without License and Violation of Restriction and one Equipment warning.

## **TRAINING**

### **Specialized Training**

AR 15 Armorers Course, 24 hours, Kasdorf

International Association of Chiefs of Police Leadership Course on Violence Against Women, Philadelphia, PA (all course fees, travel, room and board paid for by IACP), 32 hours, Foulke

Special Events Team Joint Training, Volk Field, joint training with Fitchburg and Sun Prairie PD, 16 hours, Zimmerman, Geiszler, Quamme, Sellek and Moen

### **In-Service Training**

In-service training was held May 5, 7, 21 and 27. Officers completed mandatory biennial EVOC training, vehicle contacts and backing maneuvers in the morning at the Madison International Speedway in rural Oregon and firearms training in the afternoon at the DCLETC. The next in-service is scheduled for September.

## **SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER REPORT**

### **Middleton High School**

#### **Travis Kakuske**

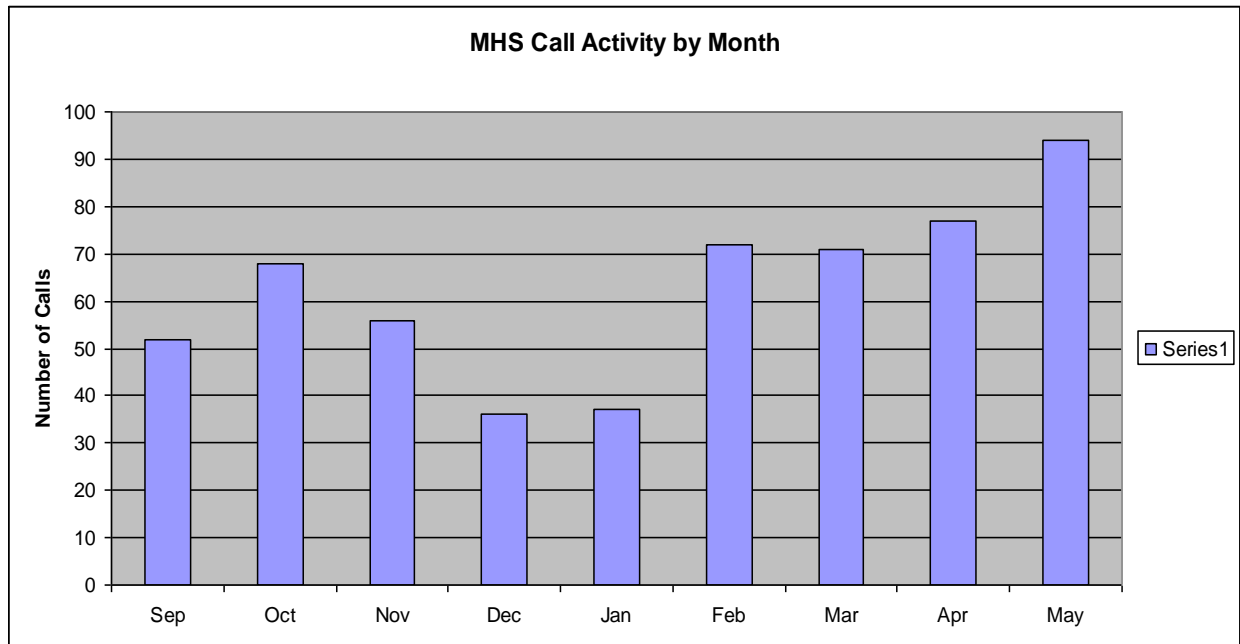
During the month of May, there were 94 police calls at Middleton High School (MHS), the busiest month of the school year thus far (see the chart below). Some of those incidents included 12 check person calls, nine assist citizen calls, eight status offenses, seven disturbances, eight drug-related calls, and three thefts. From those calls, 26 municipal tickets were issued at MHS in May. Those tickets included six for daytime loitering by minors, three for resisting/obstructing an officer, three for disorderly conduct, six for possession of a controlled substance (marijuana), three for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for damage to property, one for possession of tobacco, two for receiving stolen property, and one for trespassing. In addition to municipal tickets, I also referred seven criminal charges to the Dane County District Attorney. Those charges



included three for theft, two for damage to property, one for disorderly conduct, and one for possession of a dangerous weapon on school grounds.

I also engaged in other proactive activities in May, including instructing ten health classes on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. During this presentation, students had the opportunity to ask any questions they had relating to drugs/alcohol, or law enforcement in general.

May 8 was prom for MHS students, which was held at the Monona Terrance in Madison. I assisted with supervision of this event, which went smoothly and there were no problems reported. Last month I also attended three Dean meetings, as well as a meeting attended by the MHS Deans and social workers to discuss the school's response to alcohol and drug-involved students. In May I also attended the monthly Dane County SRO meeting, which was held at the new Middleton Police Department on Donna Drive.



**Kromrey Middle School**  
**Matt Sherry**

May was the last full month of school. It was a relatively slower month. I also assisted Officer Kakuske at the high school more.

I went to Northside Elementary to do a review of Keeping Safe with grades kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I also presented internet safety to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. I assisted Associate Principal Bill Deno with a Facebook presentation to parents. This was put together through the KMS PTA. About 25 parents came to learn more about Facebook and the struggles they might face with their children involved with Facebook. I also attended a meeting at Sauk Trail Elementary regarding some students participating in some possible gang-like activity. Their parents were also involved in this meeting. Officer Kasdorf and



I spent a morning going through all of the elementary schools in Middleton doing safety assessments. The safety concerns were forwarded to the principals as well as the district safety director. During the last few weeks of May, I spent four days total at Sauk Trail speaking to 5<sup>th</sup> graders about marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, and internet safety. I spoke to all three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. I also attended the weekly building consultation meetings and bi-weekly attendance committee meetings. On the last Friday of May, all of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Middleton elementary schools came for their Kromrey tours. I spoke briefly at the tours and provided my office for a stop on the tour.

Call volume was relatively slow. I totaled six calls for service. Five of those were at Kromrey and two at Middleton High School. One disturbance resulted in a charge of criminal damage to property and a criminal charge of disorderly conduct. I took two calls for drugs at MHS. This resulted in three citations for possession of a controlled substance, one citation for possession of drug paraphernalia, and two citations for daytime loitering by a minor. One status offense call resulted in four daytime loitering by minors citations.

## **COURT ACTIVITY**

### **Dane County Adult Criminal Referrals**

49 Adults  
67 Criminal Counts  
6 Civil Forfeitures

### **Dane County Juvenile Criminal Referrals**

12 Juveniles  
21 Criminal Counts  
0 Civil Forfeitures