Annual Report 2007

Town of Menasha Police Department

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This report was researched and prepared by
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Community Liaison Officer.

Introduction

Welcome to the Town of Menasha Police Department's annual report highlighting the activities and events of the past year.

The Town of Menasha lies in the "Fox Cities" area of Wisconsin, near the northwest corner of Lake Winnebago, about thirty minutes southwest of Green Bay. The Town of Menasha has enjoyed steady growth for many years, and is presently the second largest township in Wisconsin with a population of over 17,000.

The Town of Menasha has a service area of 12.3 square miles that includes two major federal highways that intersect within those boundaries. Approximately 66,000 vehicles cross USH 10 each day, and another 91,000 vehicles travel on USH 41 each day. In addition, the Town of Menasha maintains approximately 100 miles of local roadways.

The agency has a variety of zoning types within its jurisdiction, ranging from industrial/commercial to agricultural/residential. The economy of the area is based upon the paper industry and the town is home to many large corporations including Pierce Manufacturing, Kimberly Clark, SCA Tissue, CelluTissue, Outlook Corp., Great Northern and many other great businesses.
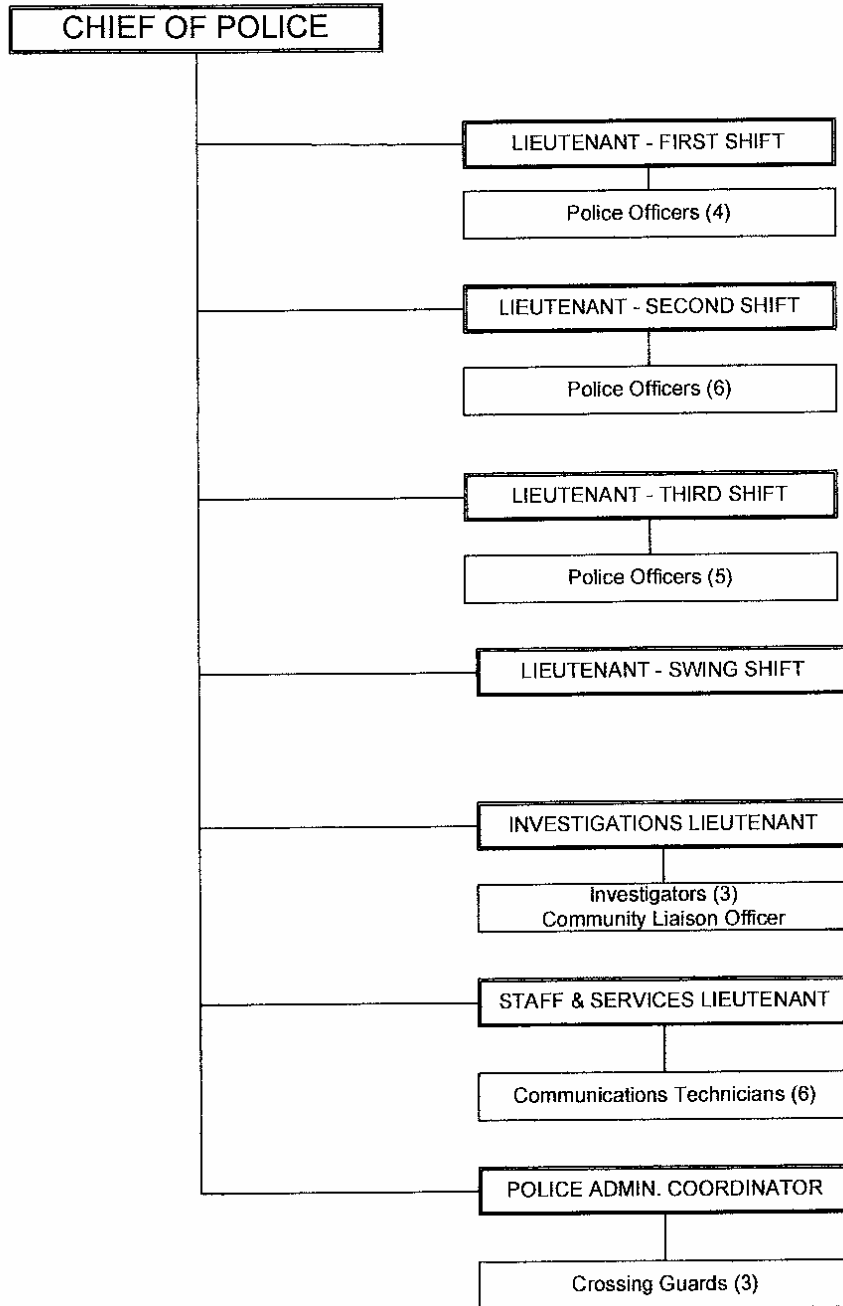
Mission Statement

The Town of Menasha Police Department exists for the purpose of providing an enhanced level of public safety in the community, protecting the constitutional rights of all people, and improving the quality of life of each citizen.

We are committed to:

- Problem solving

- Teamwork

- Openness

- Planning for the future

- Providing leadership to the police profession

Organizational Chart

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CHIEF OF POLICE
   │
   ├──────────────────── LIEUTENANT - FIRST SHIFT
   │                              │
   │                        Police Officers (4)
   │
   ├──────────────────── LIEUTENANT - SECOND SHIFT
   │                              │
   │                        Police Officers (6)
   │
   ├──────────────────── LIEUTENANT - THIRD SHIFT
   │                              │
   │                        Police Officers (5)
   │
   ├──────────────────── LIEUTENANT - SWING SHIFT
   │
   │
   ├──────────────────── INVESTIGATIONS LIEUTENANT
   │                              │
   │                        Investigators (3)
   │                        Community Liaison Officer
   │
   ├──────────────────── STAFF & SERVICES LIEUTENANT
   │                              │
   │                        Communications Technicians (6)
   │
   └──────────────────── POLICE ADMIN. COORDINATOR
                                  │
                            Crossing Guards (3)
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Sworn employees

Chief of Police	Rodney V. McCants
Lieutenant/Investigations	Douglas E. Jahsman
Lieutenant/Administrative	Tim G. Seaver
Lieutenant/Patrol	Scott A. Blashka
	Michael J. Krueger
	Rick Leneau
	Pete DeBoer
Detectives	Jerome T. Lingnofski
	Christopher P. Anderson
	Jason F. Feucht
Community Liaison Officer	Jason R. Weber
Officers	Thomas P. Tralongo
	Gary M. Cutler
	Scott M. Boehlen
	Gerard S. Stephanie
	Daniel L. Wiechman
	John M. Swenson
	Christine J. Williams
	Christopher L. LaSage
	Timothy W. Callan
	Seely C. Moe
	Chris Brandt
	Leah Olson
	Megan Hickey
	Michael Weinberger
	Jeremiah Gustafson

Civilian employees

Police Administrative Coordinator   Kathleen L. Hales

Records Tech. I   Linda L. Pagel

Communications Tech. I   Erin L. LeMahieu
Angela V. Oppor
Theresa M. Coenen
Nicole S. Schettle
Christy A. Wickert

Crossing Guards   Jacquelyn Lovejoy
Harold Steffen
Harland Goldschmidt
Joe Nowak

Police Commission   Michael Lettier
David McFadden
Robert Weyenberg
Joseph Reidel
William Van Eeckhout

Services

Historical Overview

Historically, law enforcement services were provided to the Town of Menasha by the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. Locally, the town had a constable position that was elected every two years. The constable's office was designed to serve a rural population of a few hundred people. The duties of the constable, set forth in Wisconsin State Statutes, included enforcing town ordinances and removing loose cattle, sheep, horses or other animals from town roadways.

The Town of Menasha Police Department was established on January 1, 1972 due to population growth. At that time, the police department had a full-time chief of police and three part-time officers. Since then, the police department has seen three changes in police chief and now is a full service police department employing 26 sworn officers and 7 civilian employees with a $2.8 million dollar budget.

The Town of Menasha Police Department provides all of the traditional services that the community expects, in addition to some quality of life "extras".

The three main areas of service are patrol, investigations and administrative. In addition to these "basic" services, the Town of Menasha has an active focus on crime prevention in the community.
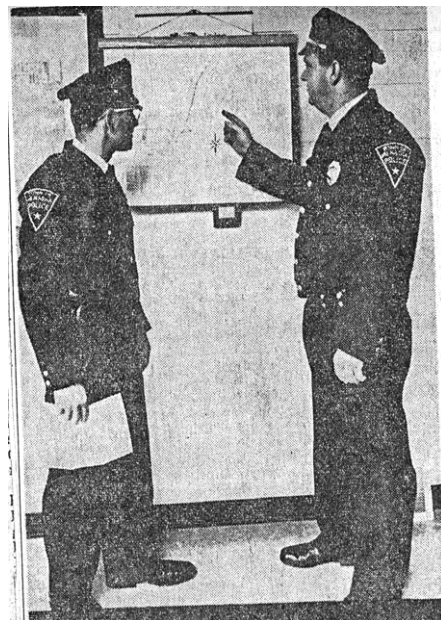
Patrol

The most visible part of any police department is the patrol car or officer on their "beat".

The Town of Menasha presently has 15 officers and 4 lieutenants that are assigned to this division. These officers are then split among 4 patrol shifts, each with a lieutenant, that provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. At any given time there are between 3 and 5 officers working each shift, depending on the time of day.

Officers primarily conduct their patrols from police cars. The Town of Menasha utilizes five marked patrol vehicles. This has traditionally been the primary means of providing police services, but we have also initiated alternative patrol methods.

Our officers also get out of their patrol cars and will either patrol certain areas of the town either on bicycle or foot. These efforts afford the officers the opportunity to interact more freely with the residents outside of the "confines" of a patrol car. Officers are also periodically assigned to a specialized directed patrol. This places officers in certain areas of the town due to a high call volume.

The patrol division is responsible for traffic enforcement, answering calls for service, some investigative work, and preventive patrol. In 2007; officers answered 8,047 calls for service, initiated 4,422 traffic enforcement contacts, and investigated 199 traffic accidents; in addition to performing many other tasks.

Investigations

Criminal investigations are an important aspect of the services that we provide. Each Town of Menasha police officer has received training to conduct thorough and complete investigations. Officers routinely investigate these complaints, and frequently resolve the issue at hand without any additional assistance.

For those complex investigations requiring more time and follow up than the patrol officer can provide, the detective division will assist. The Town of Menasha has three detectives, an evidence technician and a supervisor assigned to this division.

Our detectives attend regional investigators meetings with other Fox Valley agencies to share and obtain important information regarding criminal activity in and around the Town of Menasha.

One of our detectives is assigned to the Lake Winnebago Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG). This is the regional drug enforcement group comprised of 13 officers from law enforcement agencies within Outagamie, Calumet, Winnebago, and Fond du Lac counties.

The Town of Menasha Police Department strives to conduct thorough investigations and as a result, maintains a clearance rate above that of the national average.

Communication & Records

The Town of Menasha Police Department's Communication and Records Division serves the citizens in a variety of ways. This division is open to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2006, the Communications and Records division received and responded to 25,485 phone calls and assisted 5,721 people who came in to the lobby,

In addition to serving the citizens of the Town of Menasha, the Communications and Records division provides support to our sworn personnel. The division monitors cameras placed in and around the municipal complex, and routinely provides searches of Federal, State, and local databases to assist officers with locating information that is pertinent to their cases and investigations. In 2006, this division provided 6,178 assists.

In addition to searching these databases, the Communications and Records Division is responsible for maintaining the information that is entered into these systems. Information is entered into local, State, and Federal databases, and must be done so in accordance with various laws and system regulations. These entries include missing persons, stolen and recovered articles and vehicles, and arrest warrants. In order to ensure a high standard of accuracy, routine audits are conducted on these systems.

The Communications and Records Division is also responsible for typing all of the officers' dictated reports. Any incident that involves an officer's response and investigation typically will require that officer to dictate a report. In 2006, 18,646 pages of reports were typed. These reports are then filed electronically and any attachments are filed in cabinets.

Community Involvement

The Town of Menasha Police Department not only provides the traditional law enforcement services as outlined earlier, but strives to enhance the quality of life in our community. Since 1994, the police department has assigned an officer as a Community Liaison Officer. This position oversees the Neighborhood Watch program, presents and implements programs to the public on a wide variety of crime prevention and safety related topics, and works with many civic and community based organizations.

Special Olympics Torch Run

The Police Department has participated and helped organize the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Wisconsin Special Olympics. For the second year in a row, the Town of Menasha was the starting point for the Fox Valley portion of the Torch Run, which was held on June 7, 2007. Participants included several Town of Menasha Police Department employees and their families as well as several other Fox Valley law enforcement agencies.

National Night Out Rally

Each year the Town of Menasha sponsors a town wide "Night Out" celebration to raise awareness of local anti-crime programs and also highlights many of the other services offered to town residents. The event, which occurred on August 6, 2007, attracted approximately 1,000 people!

Through National Night Out, the Town of Menasha Police Department strengthens neighborhood spirit and partnerships within the community. We work with citizens to send the message to criminals that the Town of Menasha is organized and we are fighting back!

TRICOM

The Town of Menasha Police Department has actively worked with TRICOM since its conception. TRICOM (Tri-Communities Crime Reduction Coalition), is a non-profit organization comprised of citizens and business people who work with the Crime Prevention Officers throughout Winnebago County. The group is involved in many programs including: publication of the **Crime Reporter**; production of the monthly cable TV show **"Everybody's Business"**; maintains the Outreach Prevention Center vehicle and trailer and the McGruff robotic dog cruiser; and networks with many other organizations in Winnebago County such as Youth Go, Winnebago County Human Services, and TRIAD.

Neighborhood Watch

The Town of Menasha Police Department actively participates in the Neighborhood Watch effort. Presently there are 24 active neighborhood watch groups throughout the town. The Community Liaison Officer assists the block captains with the organization and implementation of these groups and periodically works with the watches throughout the year. The watch groups meet throughout the year and many have block parties which are a great way for neighbors to get to know one another.

G.R.E.A.T.

The police department has taught the G.R.E.A.T. program to middle school students since 1997. G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) is a school based, law enforcement officer instructed classroom curriculum. G.R.E.A.T. lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid using delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. In addition to the school year program, the Town of Menasha Police Department, along with the cities of Neenah and Menasha police departments, sponsors a summer G.R.E.A.T. program which is a "camp like" program for middle school aged kids the three communities.

School programs

The Town of Menasha Police Department also gives presentations throughout the school year on a wide variety of topics. Some of the programs offered include Officer Friendly, Eddie the Eagle gun safety, Halloween safety, and periodic classroom visits.

Statistics

Uniform Crime Reporting

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which began in 1929, collects information on the following crimes reported to law enforcement: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Figure 1 compares those crimes over the past 5 years.

Crime in the Town of Menasha

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Violent Crime					
Murder	0	0	1	0	1
Forcible Rape	3	4	4	2	6
Robbery	1	3	0	0	2
Aggravated Assault	6	11	7	5	2
Total Violent	**10**	**18**	**12**	**7**	**11**
Property Crime					
Burglary	55	51	54	44	48
Theft	187	154	138	177	182
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	15	15	9	6
Arson	0	0	1	0	2
Total Property	**250**	**220**	**208**	**230**	**238**
Total Index	**260**	**238**	**220**	**237**	**249**

Figure 1

<u>Arrests and Clearance Rates</u>

The UCR system also maintains a database of arrests and clearance rates of law enforcement agencies. Figure 2 shows how the clearance rates of the Town of Menasha compare to those of the state and national average for 2007. The Town of Menasha has consistently maintained rates higher than that of both the national and state averages.

	Town of Menasha	**State**	**U.S.**
Violent crime	72%	46%	46%
Property crime	34%	23%	16%

Figure 2

Figure 3 and 4 depict the actual number of total criminal arrests made by the Town of Menasha Police Department over the past 5 years, as well as a breakdown of the arrests in 2007.
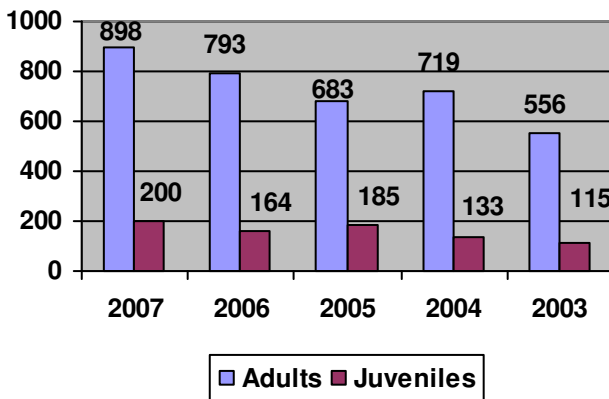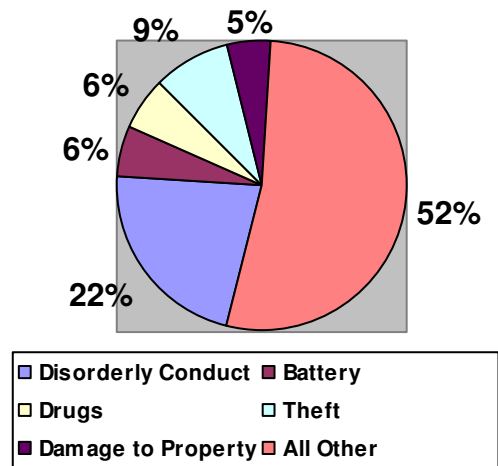

Figure 3

Figure 4

Town of Menasha Police Activity

Figure 5 shows the activity of our officers over the course of the last 5 years. Calls for service include a wide range of activities from vehicle lock-outs to medical calls to disturbances. These calls do not include any self initiated traffic enforcement.
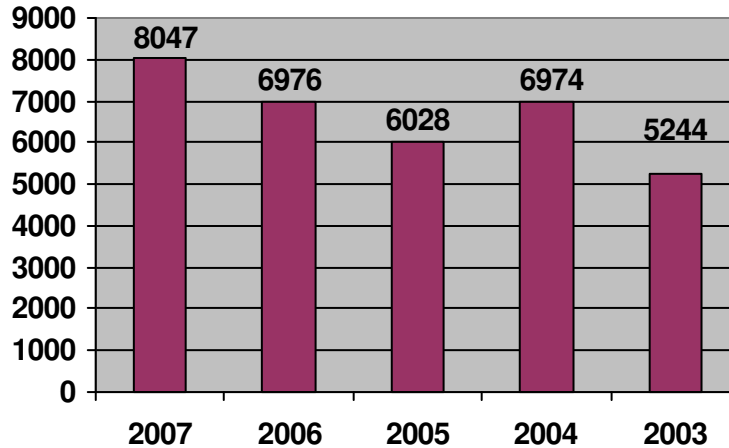

Figure 5

Figure 6 shows the increase in police calls for service as compared to the change in population, also included is a breakdown on the average number of investigations that are conducted per officer.

Year	Population	Calls for service	Avg. per officer
2007	17,180	8,047	503
2006	17,005	6,976	436
2005	16,924	6,028	402
2004	16,695	6,974	465
2003	16,485	5,244	350

Figure 6

Types of Calls

Officers respond to many different types of calls for service each day. Police calls are either documented by a police report, or for those calls that require minimal assistance are "short-formed", in which a police report is not generated. The chart below shows some of the more common types of calls for service that generate a police report.

Incident Type	2007	2006
Abandoned Vehicle	46	58
Alarm	135	159
Animal	215	228
Assists	671	625
Battery	12	13
Civil	36	23
Emergency Committal	69	76
Damage to Property	186	188
Death	24	23
Disturbance	225	188
Domestic Disturbance	72	69
Drugs	57	47
Harassment	110	87
Juvenile	134	170
Lost/Found Property	110	80
Missing Person	5	7
Motorist Assists	160	189
Noise	156	131
Open Door	14	43
Ordinance	290	226
Runaway	36	24
Sex Offenses	9	21
Suspicious Person	58	59
Suspicious Incident	165	149
Suspicious Vehicle	23	33
Trespass	15	17
Warrant Arrests	160	178
Weapon	6	7
Welfare Check	103	73

Traffic Enforcement

Figure 8 shows a yearly comparison of motor vehicle accidents.
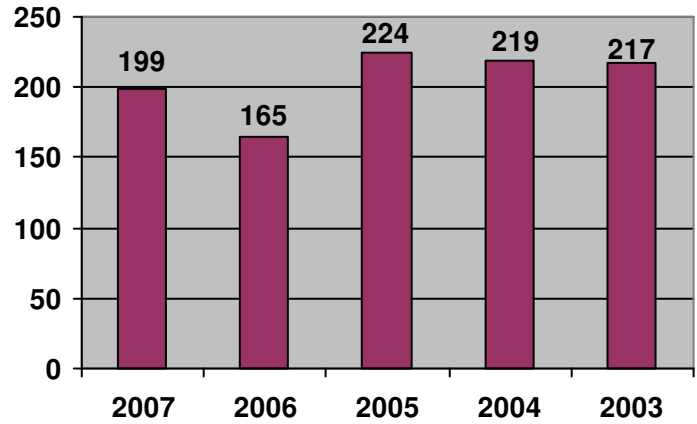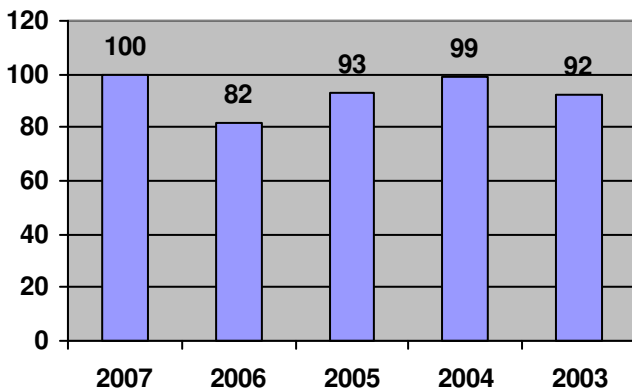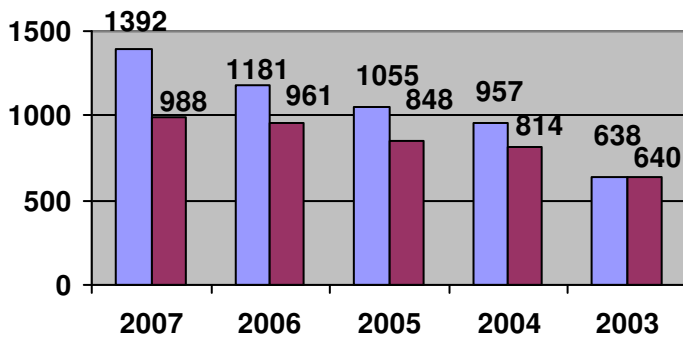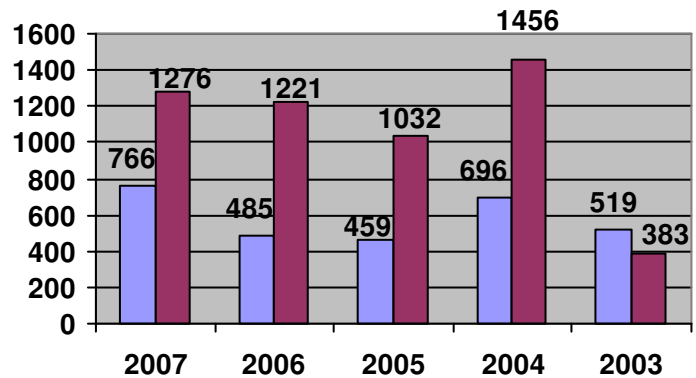
Figure 8

Figure 9 shows a yearly comparison of OWI arrests.

Figure 9

Figures 10 and 11 show comparisons between citations and warnings for both speeding and non-speeding offenses.

Town of Menasha Crime Clock

The Town of Menasha continues to be one of the
safest cities in Wisconsin and the Fox Valley. The
Town of Menasha experienced a crime rate of only
14 crimes per 1,000 people in 2007.

However, crimes still occur, even in the safest of
cities. This chart shows the frequency of crimes in
the Town of Menasha as compared to the U.S. and
Wisconsin.

Crimes	U.S. One every	WI One every	Town of Menasha One every
Violent Crime	22 sec.	32 min.	7 days
Homicide	31 min.	2 days	0 days
Rape	6 min.	8 hours	4 months
Aggravated Assault	37 sec.	90 min.	7 days
Robbery	1 min.	56 min.	1 year
Property Crime	3.2 sec.	3.3 min.	32 hours
Theft	4.8 sec.	19 min.	2 days
Burglary	14.4 sec.	4 min.	7 days
Auto theft	26.4 sec.	39 min.	46 days