

Chief's Update



From the Chief's Desk

Monthly Update • **January 2026 Recap**



A Note from Chief Thompson



Kicking off 2026 with a focus on safety, service, and community partnership.

As we begin the new year, I want to thank our hardworking officers for their continued commitment to keeping Middleton safe through another busy holiday season. January was an active month for our department, particularly with traffic safety initiatives and winter driving enforcement.

We concluded our annual **Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over** campaign in early January and continued focused traffic enforcement as weather conditions created additional safety challenges. These efforts are about prevention, visibility, and keeping everyone who travels through our community safe.

By the Numbers: Drive Sober Campaign



High-visibility enforcement helps prevent impaired driving and serious crashes.

- 10 OWI arrests (Dec. 12 – Jan. 1)
- 16 speeding violations
- 21 operating after revocation/suspension violations
- 8 traffic sign or signal violations
- 4 drug arrests

Traffic Safety Focus



Extra attention and monitoring around school arrival and dismissal times.

We will continue to monitor traffic conditions and safety concerns around **Middleton High School** and **Kromrey Middle School**. We appreciate driver patience as we observe patterns and work to address congestion and safety challenges in those areas.

- 3 felony arrests

Significant Case Highlight



Reminder: charges are allegations, and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

On January 24, 2026, an officer conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle operating without headlamps. During the stop, evidence led to the recovery of a privately made firearm, commonly referred to as a “ghost gun,” along with drug paraphernalia. The driver was arrested and booked into the Dane County Jail on multiple charges.

Privately made firearms are fully functional and untraceable weapons. A similar firearm type was used in the 2018 Paradigm Shooting. As a reminder, charges are accusations and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Community Outreach



From classrooms to community talks, engagement builds trust and keeps residents informed.

- Officer Blankenship presented on scams and mental health response at multiple community events
- Classroom visits in recognition of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- Annual Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) appreciation dinner
- Lunch service and engagement at Kromrey Middle School

Welcome to Our New Officers



Welcome Elle Lenzini, Jacob "Jake" Brandt, and C.J. Curtis to the Middleton Police Department.

In January, we proudly welcomed three new officers to the Middleton Police Department: **Elle Lenzini, Jacob "Jake" Brandt, and C.J. Curtis**. Each brings a diverse professional background and a strong commitment to public service. They are currently attending academy training and we look forward to welcoming them into active duty later this year.

Looking Ahead



Join us this year at events and programs designed to connect with the community.

- **Valentine's Day Senior Center Visits** – Sharing roses and smiles with our senior community
- **Citizens Academy Applications** – Applications opening soon for our 10-week adult program (Wednesday evenings)
- **Chief's Chat** – April 16, 2026 at 1:00 PM, Middleton Senior Center
- **National Night Out** – Wednesday, August 5, 2026 | 5:00–7:00 PM

Safety Tip of the Month



Winter driving conditions can change quickly—slow down and stay alert.

Before heading out in winter weather, take a moment to:

- Clear snow and ice from windows, lights, and your roof
- Slow down early and brake gently — especially at intersections
- Stay alert and avoid distractions like phones

Safe winter driving protects everyone on the road — not just you.

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