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New crime-mapping Web site helps Green Bay police, public track incidents

Project lets them track patterns of incidents

By MIKE HOEFT

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Getting information about crimes in Green Bay is as easy as clicking a mouse because of a new crime-mapping Web site provided by the Green Bay Police Department.

"It helps police put resources where they need them," said police Capt. Todd Thomas. "If we see a pattern or trend, we can address it sooner."

Lt. Bill Bongle, who spearheaded the project, has given presentations on the new system to neighborhood groups as part of community policing efforts.

It's an electronic version of the old colored pin-in-a-wall system that helps officers visualize where crimes are happening, Thomas said. But the advantage is that the Web site works in near real time, he said.

Information usually is available within a day or two of the incident.

Markers show call locations, types of incidents — ranging from disorder to traffic stops to animal complaints — and the amount of time spent on a call. The site allows public users to zoom in or out on the map. Another section can isolate calls for a certain time period. The site also displays a trend chart for that time period so users can see peaks and valleys of call volume over time.

The system can access police calls dating back five years, Bongle said.

The Brown County Sheriff's Department hopes to make available a crime-mapping system, too, for countywide incidents.

"It's something we've been looking at for some time," said sheriff's Capt. Randy Schultz. One factor in creating a database is the ability to interface with other agency systems.

The state, for example, is looking to expand its listing of state crashes to include all crimes, he said.

"Then you could see crimes not only in Brown County, but other counties as well," Schultz said. "To me, that's the wave of the future. This generation's biggest challenge will be taking advantage of technology. With limited resources, we have to look at ways to make deputies more efficient."

Additional information

(Links will open in a new window)



<http://www.myneighborhoodupdate.com>
target="new" style="color:#72A440;">>Crime-mapping Web site



<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/textalerts.shtml>
target="new" style="color:#72A440;">>Sign up for news, weather, Green Bay Packers and high school sports text alerts.

This technology "hits a triple," Schultz said. "It's good for the agency, the officers and the community."

Additional Facts

Check it out

Find the Green Bay police's crime-mapping Web site at www.greenbaypressgazette.com/Datamine or www.myneighborhoodupdate.net.
