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Police arm public against crime

The Superior Police Department has a new tool in the fight against crime – information.

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The Superior Police Department has a new tool in the fight against crime – information.

The police department is sharing a tool with the public so people can better protect themselves from crime.

“What it does is it provides pin-mapping to the department and to the public, and we’re going to put this link to our police department Web site,” said Superior Assistant Police Chief Charles LaGesse.

The searchable mapping software allows users to search individual neighborhoods, by type of crime and for specific date ranges.

“By clicking on any of the balloons, it will show me what is the nature of that crime,” LaGesse said.

Information provided includes the type and category of the crime, date and time the incident was reported, how many police squads responded to the incident and how much time officers spent responding to the incident. It also provides the general address where the incident occurred such as the 1600 block of North 18th Street where a drive-by shooting was reported Saturday or the 1300 block of North Fifth Street, where a business was robbed last week.

The software also provides an incident number so people can access specific information about incident, LaGesse said.

“It also has this really cool street view feature where I can say what does it look like at that spot,” LaGesse said. “It’s just kind of a gee whiz that’s neat thing.”

While the police department has had crime mapping software on its Web site since 2007 to assist landlords in monitoring their property for potential nuisance ordinance violations, LaGesse said the old mapping software wasn’t as easy to use as My Neighborhood Update.

CADmine ®, which provided the original mapping software, has upgraded its software to provide the easier to use features. LaGesse said the services it provided are still available.

“By zooming into the map I could pick a given area,” LaGesse said. “If I wanted to know a particular – what happened by my house in the last month, I could zoom in see those calls, and just the type of calls I’ve indicated. It also provides a graph of how many of those types of incidents happened just in the area shown on the map.”

Graphs show trends for specific categories of crime over the last year.

“We believe an informed public … so they can take steps to protect themselves and their property,” LaGesse said.

The crime maps are available at www.ci.superior.wi.us/index.aspx?nid=174; click on Cadmine Statistics. The mapping software is also available direct at http://myneighborhoodupdate.net.

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