



2111 Marathon Avenue, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956-4771  
Phone: (920) 886-6000 - Fax: (920)886-6054  
E-mail: [police@ci.neenah.wi.us](mailto:police@ci.neenah.wi.us)

## PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** Monday September 21, 2009

**Re:** Fatal Hit and Run Follow up

The Neenah Police Department received a tip that led our department to the location of the van that struck and killed a female pedestrian at Wal Mart on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Hit and Run investigation is still ongoing and more details will be released later on today as they become available. At this time, the Neenah Police Department has the van in custody.

The name of the victim in this tragic event is 56-year-old Wendy S. Danke of Neenah. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

The Neenah Police Department appreciates the efforts of the media. With your support, we were able to disseminate information efficiently enough to solve this case. Without you it may have not been possible. We also appreciate your patience as we continue our investigation. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

Once again, thank you for your patience and efforts.

**Lt. Jeff Malcore**

---

*Together We Succeed*



## Press Release

**Date:** September 21, 2009

**Re:** Hit and Run fatality – vehicle recovered, updated information

The northeast Wisconsin news media has been very helpful to the Neenah Police Department in getting a message to the public to identify the fatal hit-and-run vehicle from Friday night. Many tips were generated.

Two of those tips led to a home in the Town of Menasha, where a van matching the suspect vehicle description was located in the driveway. It had no obvious signs of having been in any type of collision.

At about the same time, the Neenah Police Department was contacted by the Portage County Sheriff's Department. That agency advised us they were investigating an apparent gunshot suicide at a county park in their jurisdiction. The deceased subject had left several notes indicating, with significant specificity, that he was the driver of the vehicle in the fatal hit-and-run. The subject had expressed his remorse, and said he chose to flee because the van wasn't insured and he believed he was over the legal limit of alcohol. He indicated that he was unwilling to go to prison.

The van located in the Town of Menasha driveway is owned by the suicide victim. Neenah Police seized and secured the vehicle. A search warrant is being sought to collect evidence from the van.

The identity of the suicide victim is not being released at this time, to allow the family time to cope with this sudden tragedy and loss, and make notifications to other relatives and friends. He was 52 years old.

The Neenah Police Department is preparing a photo of the recovered van as well as a photo of the hit-and-run victim to share with the news media.