



Tying The Community Together

Menomonee Falls NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2008



Message from our Chief of Police -- Anna Ruzinski

To all of you involved in Neighborhood Watch, I'd like to thank you for assisting the MFPD in making this a safe community for all. In my first year as your chief, crime has gone down in the Village as compared to last year. But that doesn't mean we don't need to be ever vigilant in deterring and preventing crime. I'm hoping you have noticed a greater police presence around the Village. We are striving to keep the officers out on patrol and to interact with citizens and business owners, and their efforts are working.

In regards to crime, I want to give you an update on a crime trend we sent out on e-notify concerning daytime residential burglaries. There was a group of individuals targeting homes on the south end of the Village. Their method of operation involved knocking on the home owner's door to see if anyone was home. If someone was, the suspect would make up a story that he was looking for a car for sale he saw on Craig's List. If nobody answered, they would break in and open the overhead garage door allowing the accomplices to drive in a van. They would load up the van with televisions, electronics, jewelry, etc. and drive out leaving the garage door open.

I am happy to report we arrested four individuals we believe were responsible for this trend. Due to the diligence of the MFPD, one of our detectives observed a suspicious van pulling into a drive-way. Unfortunately, the suspects got nervous and drove off, but not before a traffic stop was made and the four were taken into custody. We are currently working on building a case against these individuals. However, several are out on bail. We will continue to be aggressive in stopping these burglaries so spread the word to your neighbors. If you have any suspicious people come to your door or are driving around your subdivisions, get the best description you can and call the MFPD. It should be noted that none of the suspects lived in Menomonee Falls.

Another effort we did was to send underage people into licensed premises to see if the establishments were compliant in liquor license laws. Unfortunately, on our first pass, almost 20% were in violation and sold

alcoholic beverages to underage patrons. The ability for our young people to have access to alcohol is not a trend I want to see. I'm happy to report when we repeated the process that, percentage dropped tremendously and things are back on track.

I'd like to take a moment to talk about the C.E.R.T. training that recently had to be canceled in October. Citizen Emergency Response Training is a part of emergency preparedness that is very important to ensuring your family is ready. As an Executive Board member of the Southeast Wisconsin COAD (Citizens and Organizations Active in Disaster) I encourage you to consider this training. The MFPD will be starting our citizens' academy early next year and I am looking to combine the C.E.R.T. program into that curriculum. Attendees would graduate with two certificates. This would be the first type of this combined programming that I'm aware of. It would be a natural fit.

Finally, I wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. Thank you for caring about your community. God Bless.

*Sincerely,
Chief Anna M. Ruzinski*

What's Inside?



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AUTUMN LEAF COLLECTION



Leaf collection is provided by the Village, not as a service to these areas, but as a proactive way to prevent leaves from collecting and obstructing the storm water drainage systems causing potential flooding within these areas. This pickup, beginning in mid October and ending in late November, is specifically for leaves only and does not include brush, grass

clippings, yard waste or other debris. Village crews will collect the leaves utilizing special leaf vacuum trucks, leaf pushers, front end loaders and dump trucks. Leaf collection by the Village will continue until the majority of the leaves within the streets are removed, or the until the first measureable snowfall, whichever comes first. Any material, other than leaves, that is placed in or along the street will not be picked up by the Village. Placement of brush, yard waste or other debris in or along the street is a violation of Village Ordinance 82-66 and may result in the issuance of a municipal citation. You may contact the Village of Menomonee Falls at (262)532-4200 for information on obtaining a no cost Yard Waste Permit for Village residents for proper disposal of brush and/or yard waste material at the Waste Management facility on Boundary Road.

Welcome Neighbors!

Julie Patterson..... Mineola Drive

Neighborhood Watch groups in Menomonee Falls total more than 120 and involve over 3,200 homes ... and is still growing! We welcome our newest group and acknowledge their volunteer Neighborhood Watch Captain.

POCKET PEELERS Now Available

The MF Police Association is selling Pocket Peelers to benefit the Criminal Justice/ Fire Science scholarship fund. The discount coupons can be used in Waukesha, Milwaukee, Washington, and Ozaukee Counties. Proceeds will be used to provide scholarships to MF High School seniors who enroll in a Criminal Justice or Fire Science Program at a two or four year college. The booklets are on sale for \$10.00 each and may be purchased at the Police Department's business office, M-F 8:00 am to 6:30 pm.

MFNW RECAP OF EVENTS

Menomonee Falls NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

2008 SILENT AUCTION & TREASURE SALE

Saturday, September 13 • MF Community Center

Despite the threatening weather, we had a steady stream of "customers" browse the tables full of carefully screened "treasures", and donated items. The Community Center was the perfect setting! A concession counter offered hot dogs, cookies, and baked goods. **Thank You** to all the dedicated volunteers -- from picking up all the items, screening, pricing, arranging, and clean-up. We hope to have an even better outcome next year!

FALLS SAFETY FAIR

Saturday, September 13 • MF High School

The fair was once again a great success. Despite some inclement weather, many people came out to enjoy the fair. There were many new exhibits at this year's Falls Safety Fair in the effort by MFFD and MFPD to better educate citizens in a wide range of safety topics. There were also many demonstrations, great food, and games for the children. Hope to see you next year!



Holiday Safety Tips



Christmas Trees can be a serious fire hazard. Here are a few *basic tips* to keep your natural tree fresh and healthy, and to protect your family:

Make sure the water level never drops below the bottom of the tree • secure tree in a sturdy stand so it cannot be easily tipped over • keep tree away from space heaters, fireplaces and burning candles • keep a fire extinguisher easily accessible • avoid placing tree in high traffic areas or exits • if you choose to have an artificial tree, make sure it is fire retardant • discard tree as soon as it shows signs of drying out

Decorations • do not use tinsel. It is easy for children to swallow and can get wound around a small child's fingers • glass ornaments should be placed high on the tree • smaller ornaments should also be out of reach of children • place non-breakable ornaments, ones without sequins or beads, on lower branches • tie them on with ribbon or string instead of hooks • some plants such as mistletoe (and its berries), holly, and poinsettias, can also be toxic. Keep them away from babies and small children • avoid using spray-on snow, which may give off harmful fumes • put wrapping paper in the garbage immediately after opening presents • dyes present in the paper can be toxic • never burn wrapping paper in the fire place

Lights • check for loose connections, frayed ends, bad electrical sockets and plugs, or other damaged wiring • don't put more than three strands end to end--this can cause circuits to burn out • turn lights off when you go to bed • small, new lights are safer than the older, larger bulb style that generate more heat and dry out your tree faster.

Toys • as you shop for children on your list, pay attention to the details that may make a toy dangerous • "think big" when choosing toys - avoid small parts that could be a choking hazard • look for stuffed animals with eyes, noses, or other decorations that are securely sewn on • pay attention to the age recommendation on the label

Parties • designate a non-drinking driver when going to parties • if you are hosting a holiday gathering, be sure to have non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving

Your Home • use your home burglar alarm system if you have one • if you plan to travel for the holidays don't discuss your plans with strangers • have a trusted friend or neighbor keep an eye on your home • don't have gifts visible from windows • have your lights on a timer to give the appearance of someone being home • in the event of an extended visit away from home, arrange to have someone take care of snow removal

Shopping • try to shop during daylight hours whenever possible - if you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member • pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible • keep cash in your front pocket • avoid carrying large amounts of cash • place your packages in the trunk or under your seat where no one can see them • beware of strangers approaching you for any reason - at this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings • if you run out to your car to drop off packages while shopping, make sure to move your car to a new location before heading back into the mall - this will help lead anyone that may be watching you to believe that you and your packages have headed home for the night • request for a security guard to escort to your car • get into the car, lock the doors and exit the area immediately - criminals prey on shoppers who sit in their cars to make phone calls or review their purchases for the day - don't leave yourself susceptible to such a risk.

For further safety information, visit the National Crime Prevention Council website at www.ncpc.org

Have a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!

MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

YOUTH AWARD

Is there a young person in your neighborhood who is courteous, helpful, and kind? If so, please nominate him or her for this award! Please fill out the form below and bring it to the next Neighborhood Watch meeting. If you are unable to attend, mail it to:

Diane Harley - N89 W17052 Roosevelt Dr. - Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

At each Neighborhood Watch meeting, the nomination forms will be read, and the winner(s) chosen. They will be notified by phone, and will be sent their award certificate and gift certificate. Their names will be listed in the next Neighborhood Watch newsletter, and they will be invited to the annual Neighborhood Watch picnic for further recognition. This will be a an ongoing award, so please continue to send in names of deserving youth in your neighborhood. If they are honored for being good neighbors now, hopefully they will continue to be good neighbors for the rest of their lives!

YOUTH AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NAME OF YOUTH:

ADDRESS:

PHONE: NOMINATED BY:

Write a short paragraph explaining why you feel this young person deserves an award for being a good neighbor.

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MENOMONEE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Anna Ruzinski

Special Investigation Bureau

Lt. Rick Plumley
Juvenile Officers: James Kirchberger, Paul Lenz, Jay Weber
Detectives: Steve Torn, Dennis Moran, Vito Sorce, Chris Cybell

(262) 532-8720

Non-Emergency Number

(262) 532-1700

To contact our department in non-emergency situations.
This number will connect you directly with our dispatch center.

Business Office

(262) 532-8700

For general information/questions.

www.menomonee-falls.org/police

“WE CARE” PROGRAM

Sign up at the service counter of your Pick ‘n Save grocery store, using our designated organization’s number, which is 502000. Then, each time you present your Pick ‘n Save Advantage card at the checkout, a donation from that grocery purchase is added to your organization’s account.

IT’S EASY... go into the store and fill out an application change card and designate Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch as the organization!