



Tying The Community Together

Menomonee Falls NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2009



Message from our
Chief of Police --
Anna Ruzinski

Hello Everybody!

As we head into our fall and winter (though I'm not sure we had a summer) please be aware of the Village's burning and snow removal ordinances. Both of these are designed for safety reasons and also show certain courteousness to our neighbors.

I'm happy to report that Trick or Treat was both safe and a success, as I'm sure your kids brought home lots of treats. Just always make sure to inspect those treats, but we had no reports of any tampering.

As we get close to the end of the year and just having our last celebration as the best Neighborhood Block Watch in the country for 2009, I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication to this community. I was worried with the economy that we'd see an increase in petty crimes. So far that has not been the case. Through September, violent crime was reduced 25% as compared to 2008. Overall crime was reduced by 19%. I believe these numbers will hold through the end of the year.

... citations are issued to remind you to drive safely. Also, keeping officers on the road with a good presence keeps the community safer. Because of this, we have had **no fatal vehicle crashes this entire year.**

When I am out in the community I always get asked questions regarding how many officers are out there giving out traffic citations. Though people ask jokingly, I tell them citations are issued to remind you to drive safely. Also, keeping officers on the road with a good presence keeps the community safer. Because of this, we have had no fatal vehicle crashes this entire year. I hope I'm not writing this prematurely, because that is a phenomenal statistic. In fact, all vehicle crashes through September are down 38% from the previous year, with over 25% fewer injuries. I am proud of the safe atmosphere our department has created on our roads.

I'd like to invite you all to our first Police Citizen Academy graduation on December 15, 2009 at Village Hall. As you know I started the citizen's academy to give citizens a better understanding of law enforcement and some insight into our department. The academy has been going extremely well. I encourage you to speak to Neighborhood Watch members who are presently in the academy to find out what they've learned and to see if you might consider being in next year's class.

On behalf of your police department I want to wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and a healthy new year. God Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Chief Anna M. Ruzinski

What's Inside?

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Your Unused Cell Phone Could Help **Save A Life**

your unused cell phone may provide the critical link between law enforcement and someone in trouble

How many times have you upgraded to a new cell phone?

And what did you do with those old cell phones?

The **911 Cell Phone Bank** was created in May of 2004 to provide an ongoing and readily available source of emergency cell phones and funds to meet the unexpected and urgent needs of participating law enforcement and affiliated victim services agencies.

It has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars and provided tens of thousands of emergency cell phones to victim service organizations nationwide. We successfully relieve our participants from the operational burden of managing an emergency cell phone program by receiving donated cell phones, then sorting, cleaning and repackaging them.

Each year, over 100 million people upgrade their old cell phones. Most of them simply toss them into a drawer and forget about them. This program's mission is to maximize the benefits of retired cell phones, while minimizing their environmental impact. Reusing cell phones ensures that the greatest possible value is recovered, and literally gives old phones new life.

The **Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch** will be the "receiver" of your unused cell phones. Our responsibility will be to send all donated cell phones to 911 Cell Phone Bank for processing. Then, 911 Cell Phone Bank sends the refurbished 911 cell phones OR the cash value of donated cell phones back to the MFNW. We will then distribute the 911 cell phones, and use any funds received to further crime prevention in Menomonee Falls.



Log onto 911CellPhoneBank.org for more information.

You can drop off any unused cell phones at the MF Police Dept., or bring them to any MF Neighborhood Watch membership meeting.

Another busy year for Neighborhood Watch!

May 16th - Fish Derby after being postponed a week due to the weather, MFNW had a successful day manning the concessions, as the kids fished at Mill Pond Park.

May 24th - Police Memorial gathering at John S. Taylor, Jr. Park honoring fallen officers.

June - MFNW received the **"2009 National Award for Excellence in Neighborhood Watch"** from the National Sheriff's Association.

July 3rd - 4th of July Parade the MFNW participated in this yearly event -- offering "Aluminum Can" pick-up, as a service to the village, and as a fundraiser.

July 14th - MFNW Annual Picnic at Rotary Park. Everyone who attended enjoyed the "summer feast", and beautiful weather.

July 21st - MF Night at Miller Park proved to be another great event. After the "tailgate" party, we welcomed local dignitaries, including our own Chief Anna Ruzinski, in "officially" accepting our national award for excellence.

Then, with the busses loaded, we headed to Miller Park for the Brewer game.

August 4th - National Night Out many Block Captains signed up ahead of time, so their "block party" would be visited by the "National Night Out" Caravan -- consisting of police and fire personnel, vehicles, and local dignitaries.

September 12th - MF Safety Fair/MFNW Silent Auction This year, the MFFD invited us to join them at this great event, and it proved to be a perfect fit for our Silent Auction, one of our main Fundraisers.

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their valuable time to these events!

Village Leaf Collection

Leaf collection is provided by the Village, not as a service, but as a way to prevent leaves from obstructing the storm water drainage systems causing potential street flooding. 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. Leaf collection by the Village will continue until the majority of 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.

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.

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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 a Neighborhood Watch function, for further recognition. This will be 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.

MENOMONEE FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Anna Ruzinski

Special Investigation Bureau

Lt. Chad Mueller

Juvenile Officers: James Kirchberger, Paul Lenz, Jay Weber

Detectives: Steve Torn, Dennis Moran, Vito Sorce,

Chris Cybell, Steve Rudie

(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!

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