



Tying The Community Together

Menomonee Falls NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

AUTUMN 2010



Message from our Chief of Police -- Anna Ruzinski

I feel summer has come and gone rather quickly this year. As I reflect on what has transpired in the Village and on the department since my last message, I can say we've had a full six months. As many of you know, on March 23, 2010, the MFPD teamed up with the MF School District, MFFD, and Community Memorial Hospital to hold an Active Shooter Exercise testing the emergency response to such an event in the high school at all levels. It involved over 400 participants and was a great learning experience in so many aspects. I can assure this community that the entities involved have a great respect for each other and working together to keep our Village safe.

Many of you have met "Parker" our new K-9 officer and his handler Officer Chris Harding. I am extremely pleased that Kohl's has been a good corporate neighbor donating the funds for us to have such a valuable asset in our police department. Other businesses in the Falls have also stepped, namely Friends of Nature on Main Street, who have donated all of Parker's food for life, and Family Pet Center on Appleton Avenue and Dr. Fellenz, for being the official veterinarian of the MFPD K-9 Unit. Without their help sustainability of the program would not be possible.

We tried something new this year with the July 3 parade. Because of safety issues in the past we closed down Appleton Avenue temporarily to allow people onto the median to "stake their claim" 24 hours in advance of the parade. This allowed us to ensure no pedestrian/vehicle crashes for the time period when most people find their spots for the much anticipated event. I sometimes believe it is more of an event to simply mark your territory, then the parade itself! We still have a few bugs to work out, but unless it becomes too unsafe, we will allow the tradition to continue.

This summer we experienced the big flooding in July that had many of us trying to negotiate roadways and damage to homes and businesses. The police, fire, and public works departments in the Village worked closely and quickly together to keep the situation under control and keep our residents safe. While we all experienced inconvenience and for some, severe damage to property, I'm glad no citizens were injured as a result of the incident. Again, the coordinated response was a direct reflection of the preplanning Village departments participate in together to ensure the best response available to provide proper service for our citizens.

I enjoyed attending both the Neighborhood Watch annual picnic and National Night out block parties. Attendance could have been a bit better on

both fronts, but those who did participate had a good time. Neighborhood Watch received an award from Crime Stoppers for its continued support over the years. Jim Kirchberger is currently working on our lobby wall in the PD that will showcase all the great awards our MFNW has received. Don't forget to stop by the PD in about a month to see the completed project. You deserve it for the great service you do for your neighborhoods and this community.

I am pleased to announce the MF Rotary club nominated the MFPD for the Waukesha County Executive's Award for best government entity for 2010. Though the department lost the honor to Hamilton School District, I'm told we were right up there and it was a tough decision. The thought that a civic organization came forward even to nominate us was a great honor.

The second Citizen Police Academy is starting the week after Labor Day. We again had no problem getting a full class for this session. I had

the opportunity of being the Incident Commander for the Citizen Emergency Response Training (CERT) Olympics, in which a team from our citizen's academy took several awards. It was no surprise to anyone in attendance that "Anna's Angels" received the award for best team spirit. Anna's Angels did me and MFPD proud, being the best coordinated team, not only in uniforms and cheers, but they excelled in teamwork and that was noted by everyone. Congratulations to Anna's Angels. I challenge the new class for this year to do as well as the Fall, 2009 class!

Crime statistics continue to fall with two exceptions. One area of increase is auto thefts. Though there is a significant increase in the number for the same time last year, almost all can be attributed to the car dealers and not random stealing of private vehicles. We also experienced an increase in burglaries. While it was a combination of businesses and homes and some arrests were made, please pay attention to any crime notification sent out and take simple precautions that lessen your probability of being a victim. We still experience theft from autos that citizens leave unlocked with valuables laying on the seat.

Hopefully I will see most of you at the Menomonee Falls Safety Fair and you will continue to support MFNW through the silent auction. Have a wonderful and prosperous fall.

Sincerely,
Chief Anna M. Ruzinski

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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.

Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You...

- Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
- Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
- Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
- Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
- If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
- If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
- A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
- It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
- I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
- Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
- Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
- You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)
- Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never ever look like a crook.
- The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
- I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
- I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
- I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets..
- Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
- To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
- If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina , Oregon , California , and Kentucky ; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book "Burglars on the Job".



Wasp And Hornet Spray Val Glinka teaches self-defense to high-school students. For decades, he's suggested putting a can of wasp and hornet spray near your door or bed. Glinka says, "This is better than anything I can teach them." It is inexpensive, easy to find, and more effective than mace or pepper spray. The cans typically shoot 20 to 30 feet; so if someone tries to break into your home, Glinka says, "spray the culprit in the eyes". It's a tip he's given to students for decades. It's also one he wants everyone to hear. If you're looking for protection, Glinka says look to the spray. "That's going to give you a chance to call police; maybe get out."
Maybe even save a life.

2010 another busy & fun year for Neighborhood Watch!



Dorothy & Don Neinow, and their grandchildren Isabel and Caleb Seay try their luck at the Fishing Derby.

May 15th - Fish Derby this year the weather cooperated -- and proved to be another successful event for the MFNW. Nifty Kids Hailey Rautanen, Samantha Sporer, Summer Reese, Samantha Reese, and Kyle Schwister had fun helping out at concessions.

May 30th - Police Memorial gathering at John S. Taylor, Jr. Park honoring fallen officers.

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 29th - MFNW Annual Picnic Mother Nature tried her best, giving us over 7 inches of rain on the planned picnic date -- we just postponed it week, and the weather was typical "summer" -- hot, humid, with a few mosquitos thrown in! We all met "Parker", the new MFPD K-9 officer, and his partner Officer Chris Harding. Then it was time for fresh chicken on the grill, and a variety of homemade dishes. -- then a game of Bingo!



Officer Chris Harding with his new K-9 partner "Parker".

August 3rd - 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.

August 9th - MF Night at Miller Park the hot, sticky Wisconsin summer evening couldn't keep this large group of Menomonee Falls Brewer Baseball fans away from Rotary Park. They enjoyed a good, old-fashioned American cook-out -- with hamburgers, brats, hot-dogs. While Dennis MacArthur and Howie Weissenborn manned the grill, Dennis Farrell tested everyone's knowledge with some "baseball trivia"!

THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their time and talent!



*Come And Get It!!
Enjoying the MFNW 2010
Tailgate at Rotary Park.*

**YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED!**

Everyone has busy lives and it's a challenge to find time for some of the "extra" things, but ...

The Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch relies on the volunteerism of individuals -- even an hour or two helping at one of our fundraisers would benefit many. We are one of the few community watch groups that do not require a membership fee -- our fundraisers allow us to remain that way. Please contact Crystal Weissenborn at 253-9807 to find out more.

**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.



Our Village website can be customized to your needs. Just log onto www.menomonee-falls.org. Then click on the  icon on left-hand side of webpage. Select only the information you wish to receive by checking the boxes -- fill in your email -- then click the "subscribe" button. You will receive a confirmation email with instructions on how to unsubscribe if you wish. Your email will be kept confidential and will not be sold.

Receive up-to-date news you want - directly to your email!

Receive the very latest **Crime Alerts** -- news of criminal investigations involving public safety and/or assistance that may directly effect you.

Receive current news from the **Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch** -- including safety awareness, how to safe-guard yourself and property, and all the upcoming community events.

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