

Menomonee  
Falls



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch — Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin — Fall 2011

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF OF POLICE,



*Anna Ruzinski*

**"...Target was a great corporate partner for the National Night Out Event ... and can't wait to host again next year wanting to make it bigger and better. For the first year of doing a community-wide gathering it was terrific."**

As fall approaches it looks like we've made it through the heat and humidity. The summer brought some challenges as far as crime goes, but I'm happy to report the officers worked hard to clear up two crime trends that were plaguing the Village. First we were experiencing a rash of burglaries in the four corner area of Appleton Avenue and Main Street. The police department adjusted our patrol strategies and instituted a directed patrol mission to stop the burglaries from occurring. These strategies contained investigative and patrol skills. I challenged the officers to catch a burglar in less than a week. They responded and did just that! Through patience and perseverance a 32 year old man from Milwaukee was arrested attempting to pry the back door of one of the downtown businesses. He has been charged through the district attorney's office and we are continuing the investigation to tie him to other burglaries. He is also suspected of numerous burglaries in Wauwatosa.

Speaking of Wauwatosa, its police department arrested two males, a 20 year old, and 16 year old, for a burglary in Wauwatosa. The type of burglary resembled one committed in Menomonee Falls. A MFPD detective went to interview the subjects and received a confession for the MF burglary. This was separate from the other incidents. Through good coordination with Wauwatosa, they arrested two for us and we reciprocated! More importantly we stopped a crime trend.

If you didn't attend the National Night Out Celebration this year held at Target's parking lot you missed a great community gathering. A big thank you goes out to the committee for their hard work. Lowell Carl, Bill Schmitz, Dennis Farrell, Don Greif, Greg Jonas, Crystal Weissenborn, Jim Kirchberger and the NW Board kept me informed and put together an outstanding evening. Target was a great corporate partner that can't wait to host again next year wanting to make it bigger and better. For the first year of doing a community-wide gathering it was terrific.

If you did attend you know one of the displays dealt with teaching people to lock their car doors and not leave expensive personal items lying in plain view. This brings me to the next good arrest. Pockets in the Village were experiencing numerous thefts from autos. Subdivisions and areas were being targeted on different evenings. We finally caught a break when a citizen saw an individual in her neighbor's car and hers. She quickly called police. Officers were able to find the suspects and make the arrest. A 19 year old Menomonee Falls man has admitted to trying car doors and entering vehicles that were unlocked with the intent to steal. He has been charged with numerous thefts. Incidentally, he is the same individual we arrested a couple of months back for a garage burglary, where he entered an open garage.

I am hoping that this story encourages people to be vigilant and lock up their property so these crimes of opportunity are not so easy. I know I have been preaching this since I became your chief four years ago. Now more than ever this should explain why.

Finally, as we approach another school year, please be cognizant of children walking to school and school buses dropping off or picking up our precious children. Please join us at the Safety Fair on September 10, 2011, that kicks off with a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at 9:30am. A silent auction at the fair benefits Neighborhood Watch. Remember to sign up for e-notify to stay current on crime trends and news from the Village.

*Sincerely, Chief Anna M. Ruzinski*

*What's  
Inside?*

**National Night Out Re-Cap • MFNW Meeting Dates • Bike Safety  
Home Safety Tips • Village Fall Leaf Pick-Up • & more!**



## Threatening Weather Fails to Dampen National Night Out / 25th Anniversary Celebration

The Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch National Night Out and 25th Anniversary, celebrated in the Menomonee Falls Target parking lot the evening of August 2nd was a smashing success in spite of facing the threat of storms. Joining in sponsoring the event were The Menomonee Falls Police Department and the Menomonee Falls Fire Department, along with numerous local businesses, including Target and Culver's.

The evening opened with the presentation of the colors by The Menomonee Falls Police Department Color Guard and the singing of the National Anthem by Police Chief, Anna Ruzinski.

Various Police and Fire equipment, including the MFPD S.W.A.T. team, Survive Alive House, Mobile Command Center and more were on display and open for tours. Police and Fire Personnel were on hand to meet and greet all of the estimated 1000 attendees.

Many more exhibitors had displays with valuable information on safety and crime prevention. For the kids, the Y, the Recreation Department and others had fun games and contests. "Chuggy the Train" was on hand to give rides around the premises, and for an extra special memento of their visit, kids had a take-home photo of them taken with police motorcycle officer, Scott Bellows.

For the hungry, Boy Scout Troop #109 provided hot dogs and drinks. To snack on while exploring the grounds and listening to the entertainment, Tri-City Bank gave away free popcorn.





Rounding out the festivities, the Falls Baptist Men's Ensemble and their Chamber String Group entertained the throng as did The Accompany of Kids.

Many communities throughout the USA celebrated National Night Out this same evening. Your Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch Organization (The Number one Organization in the USA, as named by The National Sheriff's Association in 2009) decided that in this 25th year of its existence, a good way to let all our neighbors know about the fine work by your Police and Fire Departments was to celebrate in this fashion.

Event Chair, Bill Schmitz of the Neighborhood Watch summed it up nicely. "In spite of the threat of bad weather, Mother Nature came through and the kids were not disappointed. We wish to thank local Target management, especially store manager Richard Robinson, Assistant Manager, Chad Anderson and the many Target Store volunteers. Without Target's financial support and their employee's participation the event would not have been any where near what it turned out to be. The entire business community also bonded together to offer their financial support and provision of help. Chief Ruzinski should be very proud of her entire force that was the backbone of the logistics needed to make it work. Also, Captain Tod Doebler of the Menomonee Falls Fire Department and his staff provided the much-needed electric power and equipment the kids just love to look over and look into. Our community needs to be made aware of just how hard our police and fire personnel not only provide day-to-day protection of the community, but likewise are always ready to step up whenever asked to go above and beyond. This event was a perfect example of their commitment."



(L) Braving the weather to catch a fish! (R) The Lynch family, Menomonee Falls with little anglers Adam, Isaac and Sydney

(L) Dennis MacArthur (at right), along with his brother Rex (visiting from CO) keep the brats cooking! (R) Eager fans board the air-conditioned bus -- can't be late for the game!

Saturday, May 14th – the hooks were baited, and the fish were biting in Mill Pond, despite the cool, rainy weather! The **Youth Fishing Derby**, held by the MF Optimist Club & Badger Fishermen’s League, was held from 9am-1pm. One of the MFNW’s fundraisers, we sold concessions, including hot chocolate, to keep the fisherman warm. Thank you to all the volunteers and the Police Department making this a successful event.

Brats and dogs hot off the grill, fresh potato salad, cold beer, and baseball. What says “Summer” better than that? It was a beautiful evening, Monday, August 15th, the **MFNW Tailgate & Night at Miller Park**. Meeting under the Rotary Park shelter, everyone shared great food and discussed the night’s Brewer’s game to come. Soon the air-conditioned busses pulled in the parking lot – and they were on their way. It proved to be an exciting game – a Brewer’s win!

*Your* **MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Dennis Farrell, *President* . . . . . 262-251-1281
- Crystal Weissenborn, *Vice President* . . . . . 262-253-9807
- Lowell Carl, *Treasurer* . . . . . 414-640-5023
- Bill Schmitz, *Secretary* . . . . . 262-703-0389
- Don Greif, *Ex-Officio* . . . . . 262-251-7144

- 2011-12 MFNW MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**  
 2nd Thursday - every other month  
 Village Hall Board Room - 7pm
- November 11th ▪
  - January 12th ▪
  - March 8th ▪
  - May 10th ▪

*Everyone is welcome at the MFNW Membership Meetings! Bring a neighbor!*

**NOTIFY ME *stay* CONNECTED!**

Our Village website can be customized to your needs. Just log onto [www.menomonee-falls.org](http://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.



**TARGET®**

**We're guided by our commitments to great value,  
the community, diversity, and the environment**

## Home Security: Safety Tips



If you've just moved into a new home or apartment, rekey the locks and consider whether you need to upgrade to a security lock. Whenever possible, purchase keys that are protected against unauthorized duplication.

**Check the Doors:** Locks aren't effective if they're on flimsy doors. Make sure all exterior doors and frames are solid wood or metal. Doors should fit tightly in their frames, with hinge pins on the inside.

Install a peephole or wide-angle viewer in all entry doors, so you can see who is outside without opening the door. Door chains are not a security device - they break easily and won't keep out an intruder.

**Check the Outside:** To discourage burglars from selecting your home as their target of opportunity, make sure to: Prune back shrubbery or trees that hide doors or windows. Light porches, entrances, and yards front and back. Consider timers that turn on outside lights or install motion detectors. Keep your yard well-maintained. Store ladders and tools inside your locked garage, basement, or storage shed when you're not using them. Clearly display your house numbers so police and other emergency vehicles can find your

home quickly. Help the neighborhood stay in good shape. Dark alleys, broken street lights, litter and run down areas attract crimes. Put lights and radios on timers to create the illusion that someone is home when you are away. Upgrade your home inventory, list things like electronics and sports equipment and computers. Take photo's or make video's of items, list description and serial numbers.

**Check the Locks:** In almost half of residential burglaries, thieves walk in through unlocked door or crawl through an unlocked window. Make sure every external door has least a 1" bolt. Secure sliding glass doors with commercial available locks or with a broomstick or wooden dowel in the track to jam the door against intruders. Insert a pin in a hole drilled in a sliding door frame that goes through the fixed frame to prevent anyone from lifting the door off its track. Secure double-hung windows by sliding a bolt or nail through a hole drilled at the downward angle in each top corner of the sash and part way through the outside sash. Secure basement windows as well. Don't hide keys in mailboxes, planters or under doormats. Give an extra key to a neighbor you can trust.

*These tips are from the National Crime Prevention Council. [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)*



# Basic Concepts of Bicycling in Traffic

From an Article By Arthur Ross for the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin

The basic concept to keep in mind when riding a bicycle safely in traffic is that your bicycle is a vehicle. The rules for riding a bicycle in traffic are the same as for driving a car. Following these rules of the road is the safest way to ride and your best defense against being involved in an accident.

## REMEMBER THESE 5 CONCEPTS WHEN RIDING:

1. Ride on the right side of the road, always in the same direction as other traffic. Remember that bike lanes go one way only, in the same direction as other traffic on the street.
2. Ride as far to the right as practicable, not as far right as possible. Practicable means safe and reasonable.
3. Turns are made the same way on a bicycle as they are when driving a car. Traffic in the lane you want to move into has the right of way. Always look behind you and signal. In some situations, it may be wise to walk your bike to safely busy streets or intersections.
4. Obey all traffic signs and signals - they apply to bicyclists as well as motorists.
5. Ride defensively. Be aware of what is going on around you. Remember that trees, shrubs, fences, bright sunlight and darkness can make it difficult for you to see and for others to see you. At night, use a headlight and a red rear reflector or red flashing light. Watch for others' mistakes.



*Hanson Soft Water -  
Soft Water Specialists &  
Your Source for Water Treatment*

---

N88 W16662 Main Street  
Menomonee Falls  
M-F 7:30-4:30 or by appointment  
Phone 262-251-8740



**QUALITY RUBBER STAMP CO.**  
DON GREIF  
W140 N8496 Lilly Road • Menomonee Falls, WI 53051  
(Corner of Lilly Rd & Fon du Lac Avenue)  
**262-251-5545**

**1 Day SERVICE**  
**QSTAMPS.COM**

- Rubber Stamps
- Self-inking Stamps
- All types of seals
- Business Cards
- Labels
- Engraved Name Plates & Tags
- Engraved & Personalized Gifts

**qualityrubberstamp@yahoo.com**

## BEST SKILLS FOR TEEN DRIVERS

Teen drivers are most likely to have a car crash within the first year of receiving their licenses. But aggressive driving and thrill seeking aren't the primary culprits in these accidents—driver errors are.

A study by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm identifies the most common errors that teens make while driving. The study found that these three critical errors played a role in nearly half of all serious crashes involving teen drivers:

**INABILITY TO RECOGNIZE HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS.** Most new drivers don't scan their surroundings frequently to detect and respond to hazards—and they're particularly vulnerable when driving at night.

**DRIVING TOO FAST FOR ROAD CONDITIONS.** Teens often overestimate their driving abilities and drive too fast to negotiate curves or stop safely.

**DISTRACTIONS.** Playing loud music, talking on cell phones, and texting are dangerous distractions for drivers. But the distraction of friends in the car may be greater: The risk of a crash doubles when a teen has one peer in the car and triples with two or more friends on board.

Addressing common errors and promoting safe driving skills may be the keys to reducing the number of crashes involving teen drivers. Parents and other adults can make a difference in their teen's driving practices by supervising driving under different conditions, reinforcing decision-making skills, and setting expectations for the teen's use of the car.

# Radisson®

MENOMONEE FALLS

BEAUTIFUL, URBAN DESIGN ACCOMODATIONS  
14 MILES FROM MILWAUKEE CITY CENTER



N88 W14750 Main Street • Menomonee Falls, WI  
Phone: 262-251-5153 • Fax: 262-251-5156 • 1-800-333-3333  
[www.radisson.com](http://www.radisson.com)

# Culver's®

Welcome to delicious.™

Step into a Culver's and you'll experience fresh,  
delicious food served with a great big side of  
friendly smiles and warm hospitality!

**MENOMONEE FALLS**  
**W186 N9581 Bancroft Drive**  
**Hours: 10:30am - 10:00pm**



## When Those Leaves Start Falling

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.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS for OUTDOOR FIRES

- Permission for all outdoor fires is obtained by calling 532-8899 on the day you wish to burn and providing your name, address, and a description of the type of material being burned.
- Outdoor fires and the disposal of ash residue is not permitted on or within any street, drainage ditch, alley, parkway, public place or public right-of-way.
- Outdoor fires are subject to the size, location, day of the week, and time restrictions.
- Fires may not contain rubbish, garbage, trash, material made of or coated with rubber, plastic, leather or petroleum based products or any flammable or combustible liquids.

### YARD WASTE FIRES MUST.....

- be at least 50 feet away from any structure.
- occur on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. (Excluding legal holidays).
- occur between 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- be in a pile no larger than five feet in diameter and three feet in height, or in a metal container no larger than 55 gallons.
- be attended by a competent person of legal age with a garden hose connected to a water supply or other fire extinguishing equipment available.
- be conducted after permission has been obtained by calling 532-8899. Burning Regulations



## HALLOWEEN Safety

- Purchase only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. When creating a costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame.
- Avoid billowing or long trailing features.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep decorations away from open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters, etc.
- Use extreme caution when decorating with candles, and supervise children at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside Jack-O-Lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins away from all combustible items. Pumpkins can also be illuminated with small, inexpensive flashlights.
- Keep exits clear of decorations, ensuring nothing blocks escape routes.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torchlights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames or other heat sources. Be sure children know how to stop, drop and roll in the event their clothing catches fire. (Stop immediately, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish flames.)
- Instruct children who are attending parties at others' homes to locate the exits and plan how they would get out in an emergency.
- Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume
- Do not allow children to eat candy until it has been checked by an adult. Many local hospitals will X-ray candy for free.
- Make sure young children Trick or Treat with an adult, older children should Trick or Treat in groups
- Teach children basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars, going into homes or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating
- Plan a safe route, and set a time for children to be home. Let children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas
- Children should only stop at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult

# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter *Update*

Responding to requests from residents of Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch, Menomonee Falls Police Department and Neighborhood Watch will resume the printing of newsletters for all neighborhoods associated with block watch captains. There will also additional copies printed for the Community Chamber and will be available in the lobby of the Village Hall. Businesses are encouraged, along with residents in Apartment or Condo complexes who are interested in receiving the newsletter to contact Bill Schmitz at the numbers below.

## Helpers Needed

Bill is looking for (6) helpers who will be willing to drop off bundles of newsletters to the block watch captains for their distribution to their neighbors. Please contact:

Bill Schmitz at 262-703-0389 or  
e-mail @ mfnw@wi.rr.com

Security Home and Business Inspections are provided by MFPD at no cost.  
To schedule an appointment,  
Contact Officer Kirchberger at 262-532-8723.

Residential Fire Prevention Inspection:  
For a Courtesy Residential Fire prevention inspection contact :  
Captain Doebler @ 262-532-8810

# Business Watch

Menomonee Falls Police Department working in partnership with the Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch announces the formation of a committee to expand the current **Business Watch Program** and improve its effectiveness in Menomonee Falls. The Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch has won the 2009 Excellence Award for the Best Neighborhood Watch in the United States and appreciates the opportunity to use its expertise to assist in the expansion of the Business Watch. As a base line, we are looking at a web based program to improve the speed of communications and to minimize meetings.

The Police Department is requesting your input as Business Partners in Menomonee Falls on how you think a Business Watch Program should be structured and effective, and can benefit your business and the community.

We welcome your ideas so we can build a successful program. Please forward you ideas or questions to:

Officer Jim Kirchberger  
[jkirchberger@menomonee-falls.org](mailto:jkirchberger@menomonee-falls.org) or 262-532-8723

Lowell Carl @ 414-640-5023, or

Bill Schmitz @ [mfnw@wi.rr.com](mailto:mfnw@wi.rr.com) or 414-651-7948

# Davians

*Banquet & Conference Center*

*Servicing All Of Your  
Event Needs*

N56 W16300 Silver Spring Drive  
Menomonee Falls  
262-781-3333

[www.davians.com](http://www.davians.com)

## Menomonee Falls PRESCRIPTION CENTER



N85 W15882 Appleton Avenue  
Menomonee Falls  
**262-255-6660**

## BRISCO COUNTY

Wood Grill & Saloon

N96 W16865 Cumberland Ct.  
Menomonee Falls  
**262-251-8330**



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. Not able 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.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**CHIEF OF POLICE, Anna Ruzinski**



**SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU**

Lt. Chad Mueller

**Juvenile Officers:** James Kirchberger,  
Paul Lenz, Jay Weber

**Detectives:** Steve Torn, Barry Babler, 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](http://www.menomonee-falls.org/police)