



MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ~ MENOMONEE FALLS, WI ~ Spring, 2012

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2011 RECIPIENT of the  
**"All Star Award"**  
from the  
National Association of  
Town Watch (NATW)  
organization



# MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MOVING FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR 2012 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

With the resounding success of the 2011 National Night Out still reverberating throughout the village and surrounding communities, the Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch, with the full support of the police and fire departments, set Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 5 – 9 P. M. as the date and time for this year's event.

According to NW President Bill Schmitz, there was no doubt about moving forward. The Target Corporation is a large supporter and contributor to this and similar events throughout the USA. Here, once again the Menomonee Falls Target store will be the host location. Manager Richard Robinson actually encouraged the enlargement of the event based on feedback about last year's event. To guarantee a successful evening, a huge tent will be erected on the Target parking lot to protect the food vendor, entertainers and guests. Last year there was a close call with storms just missing the area, so the idea of tenting much of the grounds will assure the guests all will be protected should Mother Nature stir things up.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! With the plans to enlarge the festivities, we need many more volunteers to head and staff the various committees now being formed. We need your talents to help organize and run the various parts of the evening. There will be set-up and take-down of equipment, food, entertainment procurement, vendor and exhibitor coordination and numerous other chores. Call Bill Schmitz at 414-651-7948 and he will make sure you get an assignment. Remember, the more the merrier. Those who helped last year found a great deal of satisfaction in being a part.

National Night Out is one more way your Neighborhood Watch organization is able to show how it is growing and becoming a vital and important part of this community. Get on board and join in the fun and get some of those good feelings for yourself!

More information will be forthcoming as things fall into place. Stay tuned!

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*A Message From*  
**THE CHIEF**

We have enjoyed a very mild winter so far this season for which I am grateful. This issue this presents is when we actually do get some snow it is like learning to drive all over again. Please be careful during snowy weather when the roads become slick. I say this because our end of 2011 statistics showed our traffic crashes up 53% from 2010. This greatly concerns me. I recommend that all citizens be cognizant of their driving. Drivers must be defensive and aware of their surroundings. It might not be that you are necessarily driving poorly, but you cannot control other drivers. With the increase in crashes, hit and run types increased by 113%. We are analyzing that data to see if there is a correlation to the mandatory insurance law, but that may be hard to prove.

Our Part I crimes, that tend to be the more serious and violent, ended up with an increase of 9%. That may sound bad at face value, but all of it is directly attributed to the burglary spree in the downtown area this past summer and the theft from autos that were taking place in some of the south end subdivisions. I'm happy to report that we employed some more

intensive patrol strategies and were successful in clearing these offenses with arrests. I am cautiously optimistic that this problem is cleared up for now. That does not mean citizens should not secure their homes and property. Too many times valuables are left in plain sight in vehicles creating the opportunity for thieves. Simple steps of removing those items and the temptation to the thief can go a long way in keeping you from being a victim.

Part II crimes ended up with a decrease of 8% overall for the year. These are a lot of the quality of life crimes that are a nuisance for residents. Some of the offenses in this category are vandalism, disorderly conduct, and weapons violations. Because of this decrease total crime was reduced by 1%. I do not want to jinx anything, but overall crime has decreased every year since I have been chief. We will strive to continue these goals.

Many of you may be wondering if the MFPD has had any issues with the new carrying concealed weapons (CCW) permits and law. I am happy to report there have been no issues. We have trained all of our officers on the proper handling of calls regarding CCW. As citizens you must realize that CCW with a permit is legal in our state and someone walking with a gun, concealed or not, does not constitute a violation. I do not foresee any increase in weapons violations because of the new law. Those applying and receiving CCW permits are law abiding citizens executing their rights. Criminals are not going to worry about getting a permit to carry a weapon. To that extent the new law changes nothing.

In speaking with the Neighborhood Watch Board regarding the 2012 National Night Out celebration, it was decided to try and have the community get together again this year. Please do not hesitate to share your talents and head one of the committees for this worthwhile community event. The oversight committee will be putting out further information. We want you! On behalf of the Menomonee Falls Police Department we look forward to a safe year.

Sincerely,

*Chief Anna M. Ruzinski*



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Dennis Farrell 262-251-0080



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS...a little history

From Sheriff - September/October 2011 - Betsy Cantrell

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention strategies in the country. For almost forty years citizens have played an important role in the safety of their communities, and the Neighborhood Watch program has remained valid and worthwhile to this day.

In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a crime prevention initiative focused on residential areas and involving local citizens. There simply weren't enough law enforcement officers to be on every corner patrolling every road around the clock. Clearly it was time for citizens to get involved and cooperate with law enforcement. The National Sheriff's Association responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch Program in 1972 to assist both citizens and law enforcement.

Citizens met with officers, received information about observing and reporting possible suspicious activity, and began to take an active part in making their own neighborhoods safer through education and common sense. Posting Neighborhood Watch signs helped to put would-be criminals on notice that residents are on the lookout and would not hesitate to summon law enforcement support. And the idea spread to apartment buildings and businesses as citizens partnered with police. National Night Out activities annually called attention to the role of citizens cooperating with police.

In the aftermath of 9/11, strengthening and securing communities became more critical, NW programs responded to the challenge, expanding beyond their traditional crime prevention role to help neighborhoods focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response and terrorism awareness. This broader role is needed year-round to this day. The role of detecting suspicious activities is being shared by citizens and law enforcement.

Law enforcement officials have often noted their appreciation for the cooperation and assistance of citizens involved in NW, just as citizens have grown to appreciate the work of law enforcement - and are justifiably proud of their role in community safety. A typical example of the public view of the program is a recent headline in a community newspaper which read, "Best Tool to Fight Crime: Community." Neighborhood Watch works.



## MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

# YOUTH AWARD


*Is there a young person in your neighborhood, school, church or youth organization who is courteous, helpful, and kind?*

If so, please nominate him/her for this award! Using a blank sheet of paper, state the name, address and phone number of the young person you wish to nominate, and a short paragraph explaining why you feel he/she deserves this award. Please include your contact information also. Bring it to the next Neighborhood Watch meeting. Not able to attend? Email to [mfnw.com](mailto:mfnw.com) or 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. The winner(s) will be notified by phone, and 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 is 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!



The Village website can be customized to your individual needs. 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.

## Your MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**2012 MFNW MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**  
 2nd Thursday - bi-monthly  
 Village Hall Board Room - 7pm  
 - May 10th -  
 - July 12th -  
 - September 13th -  
 - November 8th -

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

MENOMONEE FALLS  
**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
*Calendar of Events*

 *When you see the hand...it means*  
**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

-  Thursday, April 5 ..... Falls Youth Leadership Conference / Community Center / 8am-1pm
- Thursday, May 10 ..... Membership Meeting / Village Hall Board Room / 7pm
-  Saturday, May 12th ..... Fishing Derby / Mill Pond Park / 10am-1pm **TENTATIVE**
-  Sunday, May 27th ..... Police Memorial / John Taylor Park / 2pm
- Monday, May 28th ..... MF Memorial Day Parade
- Tuesday, July 3rd ..... MF Independence Day Parade
- Wednesday, July 4th ..... Community-Wide Picnic / Village Park / **details TBD**
- Thursday, July 12th ..... Membership Meeting / Village Hall Board Room / 7pm
- Monday, July 16th ..... MF Night Out at Miller Park Tail-Gate & Game / Rotary Park / 5pm
-  Tuesday, August 7th ..... National Night Out / MF Target parking lot / 5-9pm / **ACTIVITIES TBD**
-  Saturday, September 8th ..... Falls Safety Fair / MFNW Silent Auction / MFHS
- Thursday, September 13th ..... Membership Meeting / Village Hall Board Room / 7pm
- Thursday, November 8th ..... Membership Meeting / Village Hall Board Room / 7pm

### 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, Eric Henning

**(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)