

# MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

SPRING 2013

MULTIPLE NATIONAL AWARD WINNER



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **SERVPRO** Presentation highlights damage prevention
- Help recognize our Youth who care!
- We need to increase our Block Captain corp. You can help.
- Police Memorial Service — May 26th
- Learn about Virtual Watch
- Youth Leadership Conference
- Other Upcoming events listed

## SERVPRO Experts Present Fire/Water Damage Prevention Tips

The January Membership Meeting was highlighted by not only words of inspiration from Chief Ruzinski, but with a presentation by the premier and local Fire/Water clean up company SERVPRO. Andy Kahrs, Manager and veteran of years of helping people recover from disasters, and Sales Rep., Ashley Haut showed the large crowd the results of fire and water damage to homes and businesses. More importantly, they gave practical advice on how to prevent these occurrences from happening.

For those of you unable to attend we are giving you here a brief summary of those tips. We won't make you guess: cooking, specifically putting something on the stove and forgetting it is the number one cause of fires. Prevention? Stay close to the stove when cooking and turn off the burner if you leave the room. Other common causes of fires are: lint in the dryer vent, candles, smoking, and dirty chimneys. Prevention of these happening should be common sense and awareness.

In our climate, water damage is very common due to burst pipes and recently, flooding. The most common

place for water damage to happen is . . . the kitchen. That is where most water is used, and the place where leaks occur. Dishwashers, ice makers and leaky sinks are the biggest culprits. Remember in those frigid nights to leave pipes exposed to the heat in the room. Bathrooms and the laundry room are close behind when it comes to causing water damage. Check those hoses, clamps and your sump pump to avoid those nasty flooded basements.

Andy finished the presentation with tips to avoid further damage from fire or water after it happens. The biggest is, of course, to get an expert in to help you clean up and get your home livable ASAP!

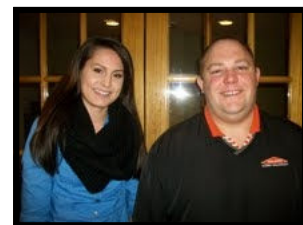
SERVPRO can be reached 24 hours every day of the year at 262-250-1101 to come to the rescue. Because of the overwhelming positive response to the presentation, Andy and Ashley will return for a repeat performance and more information at the September meeting.



A fire in your chimney could do this!



One broken pipe—and this is what happens!



Ashley Haut and Andy Kahrs from SERVPRO



## Youth Awards — Opportunities to Recognize Good Deeds

### Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch YOUTH AWARD

That is the official name of the program we have run for years to recognize our youth who demonstrate a caring attitude and do something that contributes in some special way to the well-being of a neighbor or the entire neighborhood or even the entire village. In the past, those recognized have assisted an elderly neighbor by helping

with property repairs or upkeep. Others have jumped in when a parent needed help with a child-care situation due to an emergency. The purpose of the award is to let the entire community know we have young people who care and demonstrate that through action.

We encourage you to nominate those who go the extra mile to make this a better community and their neighborhood one in

which people take care of each other. Nominations are not restricted to neighbors. You may have heard of a situation at a school; you may have heard through co-workers or family of a recognizable action by a youngster.

Block Captain Diane Harley has taken this project under her wing, run it for a long time and looks forward to hearing from you. Nominations can be submitted in several different and

easy, convenient ways.

Simply email us at: [www.mfnw.com](http://www.mfnw.com) with a short paragraph explaining why you feel the individual should be recognized. Include your contact information.

Awards (a plaque and gift certificate) are presented at a membership meeting in formal fashion. The recipients family is invited and the smiles of the parents is well-worth seeing.

## President's Corner

2013 will be a very exciting year for the Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch. We have several events planned such as the Block Watch Captains Social in March, the NW picnic is back and we will be starting our new web based "Virtual Watch Neighborhood Watch Program". It is designed to appeal to our 2900 residents in the Village who reside in apartments or condominiums.

We have been invited back to serve food at the Optimist Club Fishing Derby on Saturday May 11 from 9:00 - noon. We have also started our planning for this year's Silent Auction held in September in con-

junction with the Fire Departments Safety Fair. We are planning on introducing the Neighborhood Watch Youth Award program into the schools and promoting this fine program that recognizes our youth for good community service.

I wish to express my congratulations and welcome to our newest Executive Board members Brian Fritsch and Barb Hilbert (Members at Large).

This year working in partnership with the Menomonee Falls Police and Fire Departments your board will focus on our core mission to fight crime, promote Safety and

Crime prevention and to expand our outreach in the community. Our new Membership Committee, lead by Officer Jim Kirchberger will go into action. His team is made up of Fred, Lee and Brian. Their assistance will help to increase our Village-wide participation in NW and will help introduce the "Virtual Watch Program" in areas experiencing more crime.

To all of our current Block Watch Captains and Co-Captains: thanks for your support and hard work. It is appreciated. As the weather warms up, please introduce yourself to your new neighbors and give them a Police Department

Neighborhood Watch introduction packet and window sign and make them feel welcome and explain your role in NW. Request your packets from Officer Kirchberger.

I look forward to seeing you at our next membership meeting on May 9th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 262-703-0389 or by e-mail at [mfnw@wi.rr.com](mailto:mfnw@wi.rr.com). Thank you.  
Bill Schmitz, President

## Police Memorial Service / National Police Week

In 1962 President Kennedy proclaimed May 15<sup>th</sup> as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15<sup>th</sup> falls, as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, the week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers around the United States who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and pro-

tection of others.

This year National Police Week will be May 12 through the 18<sup>th</sup>. Our Menomonee Falls Police Department, in conjunction with Neighborhood Watch, hosts a memorial service at the John Taylor Park on Appleton Avenue, and this year it will be at **2:00 P. M. on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**.

Not only is the service for fallen officers but in Menomonee Falls we take time to thank the officers and fire department personnel who currently do a great job of keeping all of our residents safe! If you have attended many, some, or have never had an opportunity to be at this memorial service, we would encourage you to come to the park to say thank

you and support these public servants!  
John Taylor park on Appleton Avenue is named after the Menomonee Falls Police Officer who died while on duty in 1977.



## National Night Out - August 6, 2013

### National Night Out Celebration, Tuesday, August 6th, 2013

After two very successful years of holding a village-wide National Night Out Celebration, the Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors, after receiving many

requests from our neighbors, has decided to go back to celebrating our fight against crime through individual block watch parties. The past two years have greatly increased the awareness of NNO to all residents and with the advent of many new residents moving in to our

village we felt it would be a perfect way to welcome them and celebrate our fight against crime together. The Police and Fire Department along with Neighborhood Watch board members will be participating in visiting as many block watch parties as possible throughout the

evening. We hope that many of you will plan a NNO party. If you want to schedule a visit by our caravans, please contact Officer Jim Kirchberger at 262-532-8723 or [jkirchberger@menomonee-falls.org](mailto:jkirchberger@menomonee-falls.org).

# A Message from the Chief



**Chief Anna Ruzinski**

Just as we were extremely proud to receive our 2009 Neighborhood Watch Best in the Nation Award, I am proud to announce another well-deserved award. A neighborhood research site, NeighborhoodScout ranks the safety of cities

on their website, [www.neighborhoodscout.com](http://www.neighborhoodscout.com). Menomonee Falls was ranked 60<sup>th</sup> in the top 100 safest cities with a population over 25,000. We are the only city in Wisconsin that made the top hundred! This rating is based on the total number of crimes per 1,000 residents. I encourage you to visit the website and share this information with neighbors. I did share this information with the Village Board at the February 18, 2013 meeting. This award is a direct reflection of our great police department, and our continued great interaction with

Neighborhood Watch, citizens, and businesses. Congratulations to our Village! Now more than ever it is important that citizens understand the importance of exchanging information at the scene of a vehicular crash. Under the federal Driver Privacy Protection Act (DPPA) law enforcement can no longer share personal information we gather from the Department of Transportation. This means an officer cannot give someone's driver's license to another individual to facili-

tate exchange of information. The citizens can share the information among themselves. Furthermore, when you come to the police department to request the copy of an accident all driver information must be redacted from the report. This includes the requestor's information. I'm sure at some point this will be challenged in the court, but until then, law enforcement must follow the DPPA with very few exceptions. Wishing everyone a happy and safe Spring!

## Help us Recruit Block Captains!

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**--- WHAT IT IS and WHAT IT IS NOT!**

Sometimes, when people think of Neighborhood Watch, it makes them think that they have to do a lot more, need lots of police training, and may have to put themselves in danger. Neighborhood Watch members do not have to confront bad guys, conduct foot patrols at night, or learn fire-arms training. A neighborhood can have an active Neighborhood Watch if everyone merely keeps alert on what is going on around them as they go about their daily business.

You do not have to necessarily

be close with your neighbors. You just have to know who they are so that you can distinguish what is suspicious activity in your neighborhood from what is normal activity. A Neighborhood Watch is not about being paranoid... it is about making simple, practical measures to protect yourself and your property.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN YOU KEEP INFORMED!**

In order to participate most effectively in our Neighborhood Watch Program, it is important to keep well informed. You can do this by

keeping an open ear to what you hear and a watchful eye to what you see in your neighborhood. Talk with your neighbors; encourage them to tell you and/or the police about any suspicious or unusual occurrences. Exchange information with your neighbors about what you have seen or heard happening within your neighborhood.

Attend every Neighborhood Watch meeting. Make it a point to talk with other people attending these meetings and get to know other members of your Neighborhood Watch program and community. Remember .... the better informed

you are the better prepared you will be to help prevent crime.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP THE CAUSE**

Currently there are neighborhoods without a Block Captain, meaning no Neighborhood Watch presence. If you have conversations with fellow residents and a discussion of Neighborhood Watch comes up, and they indicate they do not have a Block Captain, ask if they would be interested. If so, have Jim Kirchberger get in touch with them. His number is 262-532-8723

## Virtual Watch— A Neighborhood on the Internet

### Announcement! Neighborhood Watch Virtual Watch Program

The Menomonee Falls Police Department and Neighborhood Watch are introducing a new web based program for the spring of 2013. The Virtual Watch program will be in addition to our "Award Winning Block Watch program". It is designed to appeal to the over 2900 neighbors who reside in apartments, con-

dominiums or live in rural areas of our community. Details of the program will be unveiled shortly on the Police Department and Neighborhood Watch web site. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Bill Schmitz at 262-703-0389 or Brian Fritsch at 262-252-3570.



## MFPD 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Conference

On Tuesday, April 16, 2013 the Menomonee Falls Police Department will be hosting their 6<sup>th</sup> Youth Leadership Conference at the Community Center. The Conference, sponsored by Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch, will be attended by 75 middle school age students from North Middle, St. Mary's, St. Anthony's, Grace Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, and Bethlehem Lutheran Schools. Students are selected by their respective school staffs as demonstrating positive leadership qualities. The workshops include Financial Responsibility presented by First Bank

Financial Centre, Self Discipline presented by Karate America, Effects of Shoplifting presented by Kohl's, Did I Make the Right Choices presented by inmates from the Felmers Chaney Correction Facility and Internet Safety presented by MFPD Detectives Chris Cybell and Jay Weber. During the pizza lunch students will hear a motivation talk by Falls Indians Varsity Football Coach John Baker. If you would be interested in acting as a chaperone for this worthwhile event, please contact Officer Jim Kirchberger at his number below..

## Odds and Ends

### 2013 Fish Derby

Every spring the Menomonee Falls Optimist Club sponsors a Fish Derby at Mill Pond Park. They do a wonderful job of introducing youngsters to the fun of fishing, very near to their home.

This year the Fish Derby will be held on Saturday May 11th from 9 A.M. to noon.

Neighborhood Watch will sell food and refreshments. This is one of our ways to raise our profile in the village as well as raise funds. We will be passing out literature and answering questions about our great organization. Maybe we will recruit a few Block Captains!

### Support our Sponsors!

The following businesses contribute to us and help us keep you informed and safe:

- Target Corporation
- Heiser Toyota
- Village of Menomonee Falls
- Waste Management
- Culver's
- HI-CO Ltd.
- First Bank Financial Center
- Cornerstone Bank
- The Trysting Place
- A.J. O'Brady's
- Erie Insurance
- House of Insurance
- Blairs True Value

### Aluminum Cans Collection

#### Cans for Cash!!!

An ongoing effort to boost our treasury is our aluminum can collection project. Bring them to the regular meetings. A repository is placed just outside the Village Hall doors.

Discussions are underway to find ways to increase the awareness of this program, which has been headed by Don Greif and Dennis Farrell since its inception. Look forward to updated efforts and plans to increase our collections!

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

#### And Events

**April 16th** — Youth Leadership Conference

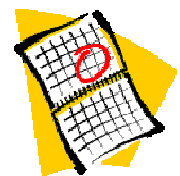
**May 9th** — Membership Meeting

**May 11th** — Fish Derby

**May 26th** — Police Memorial Service

**July 11th** — Membership Meeting

**August 6th** — National Night Out



**Follow us on the web ([www.mfnw.org](http://www.mfnw.org)) and Facebook**

### **Menomonee Falls Contact Information:**

**Chief of Police, Anna Ruzinski**

**Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch Liaison Officer, Jim Kirchberger — 262-532-8723**

**Police Department Non-emergency Number/Business Office — 262-532-1700**

**Fire Department Non-emergency Number — 262-532-8823**

**In an Emergency — Call 911**