

MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

WINTER 2015

Visit our Website <http://www.mfnw.org>

M U L T I P L E N A T I O N A L A W A R D W I N N E R



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Message from the Chief
- Help recognize our Youth who care!
- MFNW on the Web
- We need to increase our Block Captains and membership. You can help.
- Crime Prevention Tips for the Holidays



Chief Anna Ruzinski

As we head into the holiday season, I want to thank our citizens and police department members for making this another great year for the Village. It is hard to believe that I have been your police chief for eight years. I am both honored and proud to serve in that capacity. Thank you for the support you give to the department.

Many people see the growth in the village and wonder if the police department needs to grow as well to deal with potentially rising crime issues. Let me assure you that we are constantly monitoring patrol strategies and crime trends to ensure the safety of our citizens. Some people believe that crime is rising in the

village and some perceive the village is not as safe as it once was. Let me assure you this is still one of the safest communities in the country with a population of over 25,000.

For those who believe crime is rising, let me share some statistics with you. From January through September, 2007 our total of all crimes committed was 3062. For this year, through September of 2015, that number is 775. That is a reduction in crime of 75% in the last eight years! Calls for Service that officers take or generate have risen from 21,928 to 33,698 for the same time period. Motor vehicle crashes have reduced from 649 to 537. This shows that patrol efforts and the hard work of department members from our civilians to our sworn have earned your trust in protecting the community.

There have been some trends in burglaries and thefts that occurred this past summer fueling the unsafe perception. But, the persistent work of our officers and detectives also cleared most of those crimes with arrests. They take crime that occurs on

their watch very personally and work hard to advocate for all victims. So I would like to put the false perception to rest.

We will continue to try and keep the community informed through our website, Neighborhood Watch and "Notify Me" communications. I ask that citizens remain vigilant as our extra eyes and ears and continue to call and help us when you observe suspicious activity. In 2016, you can look forward to the police department getting a "Drug Drop Off" box so that you can get unused medications out of your homes and disposed of properly. Heroin and opiate use still are a great concern for law enforcement and the health of our community. Until then, stay safe and healthy during the holiday season!

God Bless,
Chief Anna Ruzinski



Youth Awards — Opportunities to Recognize Good Deeds

Is there a young person in your neighborhood who does much better than is necessary or expected ?

If so, please nominate him or her for this award! At each Neighborhood Watch meeting, the nomination forms will be read, and the winner(s) chosen. Winners will be notified by phone and invited to attend a future Neighborhood Watch meeting to receive their award and gift certificate. Their names will be listed in the next Neighborhood Watch newsletter, and they will be invited to the annual Neighborhood Watch picnic for further recognition. This will be an on-going 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!

Our Web Presence

Visit our Website <http://www.mfnw.org>

Visit our website for Crime Alerts, Crime Prevention Tips, MFNW-Events Calendar, Newsletter Archives, Safety Tips and more. Our Facebook links are on <http://www.mfnw.org>



You can like our Facebook Fan Page

<https://www.facebook.com/menomoneefallsneighborhoodwatch/>

We place crime prevention tips, community announcements and our activities where we want the public to know what MFNW is doing.



If you're on Facebook you can join our closed private group. We place crime alerts, additional information for things specific to Menomonee Falls & MFNW and also communicate to gather volunteers and post events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163300750962/>

Help us Recruit New Captains, Rebuild and Expand Existing Watch Areas!

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, call Officer Nicholas Gapinski (262) 532-8721.

HOLIDAY Crime Prevention Tips

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON:

- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it! Always park in a well lit and well traveled area. Do not park in a remote dark area.
- When you return to your vehicle, scan the interior of your car to be sure no one is hiding inside. Check to see if you are being followed.
- Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. You will be ready to unlock the door and will not be delayed by fumbling and looking for your keys.
- When storing items purchased at the stores, place them out of sight. The best place is in a locked trunk.
- Do not leave your purse, wallet, or cellular telephone in plain view.
- Don't resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings. Don't chase someone who robs you, they may have a weapon. Instead call 911.
- Lock your vehicle and put up your windows even while you are driving.
- If you go to an automatic teller machine for cash, check for people around and make sure it is well lit and in a safe location.
- Carry only the credit cards you need and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Beware of the "a good deal" scams. Things are not always what they appear to be.
- Drive defensively. Traffic is heavier during the holidays. Drivers may also have indulged in too much holiday spirits.