

# MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## WINTER 2018

NATIONAL AWARD  
WINNER



501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Message from the Chief / Holiday Safety Tips

\*\*\*\*\* MFNW FUND RAISING \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.mfnw.org>



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief Anna Ruzinski**

I hope this message finds you all preparing for the upcoming winter and holidays! As I look at our crime statistics for the first three quarters of the year, we are doing well as a community. Burglaries and auto thefts are down 48% and 21% respectively. I want to thank every one of you who have locked up your cars and closed your garage doors to deter these crimes of opportunity from occurring. Please continue to follow these simple tips to target harden your property.

With the holidays and winter come other crimes of opportunity. Some small tips we can all live by are to not leave your car running to "warm up" while unattended. It only takes seconds to steal that vehicle. Please do not leave packages, purses, phones, or anything of value visible in your vehicle. I understand that with the holidays, we are all in a hurry to get things done, but simple precautions go a long way. Remember criminals are also going "shopping!" As always be aware of your surroundings. At times

we are so fast paced that we do not see suspicious things around us. As you pass individuals make eye contact. Criminals are less apt to commit a crime when they know someone is watching. Don't hesitate to call the police when you observe something suspicious in your neighborhood, parking lots, or in stores.

On the fire side of the house, ensure your holiday decorations are taken care of properly. Real Christmas trees can get dry in a heated house. Make sure to water it regularly. Follow directions on lights and how many strings can be strung together. Trust me, I use more lights than you can imagine! If need be use surge protectors to avoid a short out and possible electrical fire. Finally, if you have a fireplace, keep decorations away from the fire and use a protective screen so embers can't escape. The Fire Department will have green wreaths at the stations. If there is a fire, one bulb will change to red. Let's "Keep the wreath green!"

Finally, I want to say a few words about the critical incident we had in early November that ended with one of our officers shooting and wounding a felon. Many people have wondered what was happening and were not sure what to think. Please respect that I cannot share the final outcome until the Waukesha County Sheriff finishes the investigation surrounding and the District Attorney rules. However, know that we did everything possible to protect the neighborhood and ensure the felon was arrested. The suspect is

a 25 year old man from Milwaukee, who has numerous felony convictions on his record. The initial stop was for a gas drive-off. A vehicle pursuit occurred and the suspect hit another car on the roadway and continued. He fled on foot and broke into an occupied home and confronted the homeowner. The homeowner was quick to escape and flagged down officers in the neighborhood.

The suspect fled again through yards where officers cornered him behind River of Life Church. The suspect made movements and gestures that caused the officers to fear for the safety of them and others and the suspect was shot. Our Paramedics were quickly on scene to treat the suspect. It is important to note that no officers or innocent bystanders were injured in this incident. The entire incident lasted a little longer than a half hour. Our officers handled the incident professionally, relying on their training to have the best possible outcome. To ensure objectivity, I called in the sheriff's office to investigate. We are currently working on ways to be on social media so we can inform our citizens quicker with accurate information. Thank you all for your well wishes and understanding. I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season, no matter which holiday you observe. Here's to a safe, healthy New Year!

God Bless,  
Chief Anna M. Ruzinski

## Letter from the President

Hello neighbors!

First of all, I would like to say that this past year in Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch, our crime prevention efforts have gotten better and better. Over all our crime statistics here in Menomonee Falls are down. With new neighborhoods popping up all over Menomonee Falls, I am proud to say that our new neighbors are signing up to become members of Neighborhood Watch and becoming proactive in crime prevention.

This spring, Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch started a campaign for "Lock it or Lose it". It was very successful. The Neighborhood Watch captains were given postcards to hand out to their neighbors and then speak with the residents one on one regarding crime prevention and our Menomonee Falls Watch program. This was a wildly successful campaign. They are less break-ins into vehicles than the previous summer. That has a lot to do with our partnership with Menomonee Falls Police and our community watching out for each other.

We have also produced more Neighborhood Watch signs

## MFNW Fund Raising—Please Help

Our purpose is to "Promote Community Awareness and Increase Quality of Life" by expanding our watch membership throughout the entire village utilizing various communication and educational methods. Examples include flyers, mailings, email campaigns, newsletter printing, magnets (includes promotion and important village/police phone numbers), door-to-door promotion, hand-outs, signage (both in the subdivision and window clings/signs) and advertising (Facebook & local papers). Our communications will include

"Safety & Crime Prevention" tips, general membership meetings (including guest speakers), crime trends and crime reports.

We recently started our "Whistle Campaign" by just asking for donations at various Fire House Open

Houses and Neighborhood Watch / Group Meetings. Whistles are an excellent safety device.

Please make your tax deductible donations to our PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.me/mfnw>

Together we can make Menomonee Falls a better place to live.

and have had them put up in the village. If you are interested in having a sign at the entrance of your neighborhood, please contact Officer Jay Weber at Menomonee Falls Police Department. Each sign is a \$50 donation to MFNW. Our Menomonee Falls Police Department is one of the best departments in the country. We are so lucky to have so many good officers and our Director of Protective Services, Police Chief Anna Ruzinski. She is fighting for the safety of our community and our children. With that in mind, we will be seeing more officers on the road, more interaction with the officers, and more information. With all of our neighbors helping, we can continue to make Menomonee Falls a safe community.

**If you see something, say something.** *Don't wait.* If you feel something suspicious is going on, do not hesitate to call the Menomonee Falls Police Department. If it is an emergency, call 911. If you don't feel comfortable calling the police department, call your neighborhood watch captain and they will call the police department on your behalf. We are all in crime prevention together, be vigilant and be watchful and be safe.

Happy holidays to you and your families.

Cathy Mariscal

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch President

## Upcoming Events



- **OPTIMISTS FISHING DERBY**  
Saturday—May 11, 2019

## Crime Prevention Tips for Holiday Season!!!

- When parking your vehicle to go shopping, remember where you parked it. Always park in a lighted 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 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 phone in plain view.
- If someone tries to take any of your belongings, get to safety and call 911.
- 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 Safely. Traffic is heavier during the holidays.

