

# MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

## SUMMER 2016

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

MULTIPLE NATIONAL AWARD WINNER



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Message from the Chief
- Help recognize our Youth who care!
- Home Security
- NotifyME Update



**Chief Anna Ruzinski**

I trust everyone is off to the start of a great year. As I write this I am trying to think spring weather for all. Of course with the warmer weather, we experience an increase of bicycle and motorcycle riders, as well as pedestrians. It is important for everyone to be aware of their surroundings and others you may encounter. Children playing outside do not always look before entering the roadway to chase a ball or a pet. If you do ride a bike, realize that you are subject to the same rules of the road as motor vehicles, such as stopping at stop signs. All too often we see bicyclists thinking cars have to yield for them and that is not the case. Please use common sense.

On another note, some citizens have been wondering what to do with increased sightings regarding coyotes in the Village. We have



### Upcoming Events

Parade	07/03/16
Picnic	07/14/16
Silent Auction/ Safety-Fair	09/10/16

enlisted the experience of Department of Natural Resources biologist Dianne Robinson who shed some light on the species and recommended ways for dealing and living with coyotes at our Neighborhood Watch May 12, 2016 meeting. We are trying to put the taped presentation on the MFNW Website and Falls Cable Access.

April 30, 2016 we held our annual drug drop-off event in conjunction with Community Memorial Hospital and the Department of Justice. It seems odd saying it was a success! On some accounts we took a lot of unwanted drugs off the street to be disposed of properly. On the other side it is unfortunate that we have that many unused drugs out there. We had 673 cars come through in four hours. This is our most to date. I want to thank all the Neighborhood Watch members that came out to volunteer for this worthy event. I know I worked with Michelle, Monty, Don, Linda, and Tony to name a few. I certainly apologize if I forgot to mention anyone. It was a long day. Officer Scott Bellows has been with me from the start of this project and this was our eighth year! I am happy to report that I am waiting for a grant to be approved that would put a drop-off box in the police department lobby allowing citizens to drop off unwanted drugs 24/7 in the safety of the station. When that is

set up, I will certainly let the citizens know.

You may have seen in the media that car thefts are becoming an issue in many surrounding municipalities. We have not been immune to this trend. However, several of the thefts that have occurred in the Village have been crimes of opportunity. For instance, letting your car warm up while unattended creates an opportunity for the criminal. Simple common sense can make you less of a victim. What is good news is that we have worked and apprehended many juveniles responsible. Our district attorney understands the impact that such a crime has on a victim and community. Juveniles who commit these types of crimes in our county are being waived when possible to adult court.

I wish everyone a safe and great summer!

God Bless,  
Chief Anna Ruzinski

## MFNW Youth Award — Opportunities to Recognize Good Deeds

There are many great young men and women who reside in Village of Menomonee Falls who are doing many great things for their family and community. Neighborhood Watch would like to recognize them for their helpfulness, kindness, sharing and other good deeds. To make a nomination visit the Neighborhood Watch website at [www.mfnw.org](http://www.mfnw.org) and click on the Youth Award tab to complete the electronic application. Recipients of the Neighborhood Watch Youth Award will be recognized at a future MFNW meeting and will be awarded a certificate of appreciation along with a gift certificate. We are asking for your help to identify these youths who standout as leaders in their community who are well deserving of this award.

## Home Security: Safety Tips & Home Security Surveys

### Home Security: Safety Tips \* & Home Security Surveys.

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 are 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 radio 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 photos or make videos of items, list description and

serial numbers.

**Check the Locks:** In almost half of residential burglaries, thieves walk in through unlocked doors or crawl through unlocked windows.

Make sure every external door has least a 1" bolt.

Secure sliding glass doors with commercial available locks, 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 Na-

tional Crime Prevention Council. [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

\*\* Menomonee Falls Police Department web site.

#### \*\*Home Security Surveys.

Home Security surveys are offered by the Menomonee Falls Police Department, which are available to any Village resident who requests this service. Several Menomonee Falls police officers have been specially trained in this Crime Prevention sub-specialty, which assists residents in "target-hardening" their home in order to promote residential safety and minimize thefts, burglary, and other serious crimes.

Contact the Special Investigations Bureau 262-532-8730, between 8:00am and 4:00 pm. Monday through Friday, to schedule an appointment or for more information.

## Notify ME Update

Increase your Awareness of Safety and Crime alerts and more about Village activities on the Village Notify Me Program (as of April 6, 2016)

In 2008 the Village of Menomonee Falls with the support of the Police Department introduced the **NOTIFY ME** program. The Notify Me program is designed to provide residents with a tool to increase their awareness of the operations of many Departments within the Village. Updates are sent directly to residents who sign up with their e-mail address which is kept confidential. There are 17 published lists that you can select from to receive alerts. Listed below are the eight that Neighborhood Watch follows. Neighborhood Watch has stepped up to support this program and recognizes the importance of informing its residents. Neighborhood Watch has been following the program since 2010 and continues to promote Notify Me in Neighborhood Watch through our newsletters, website and on Facebook.

The following represents the progress of eight categories in the program. **These numbers represent the number of residents who have signed up for Notify Me:**

Category/ List title	November 12, 2010 (NW/baseline)	March 18, 2016	Percentage of +/- per Category
Business Watch	320	796	148% +
Crime Alerts	329	1269	285% +
Crime Prevention	336	872	159% +
Emergency Alerts	329	1131	243% +
Environmental Info.	194	580	198% +
Neighborhood Watch	657	1144	74% +
Public Announcements	360	1101	205% +
Traffic Alerts	152	705	363% +

To sign up for Notify ME visit the Village of Menomonee Falls website ([www.menomonee-falls.org](http://www.menomonee-falls.org)) or a link is available on the Neighborhood Watch website ([www.mfnw.org](http://www.mfnw.org)). Neighborhood Watch appreciates your support and consideration.