

# MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## WINTER 2016

MULTIPLE NATIONAL  
AWARD WINNER

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Message from the Chief / Crime Prevention Tips for the Holidays / 2016 Silent Auction / 501(c)(3)**



<http://www.mfnw.org>



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



**Chief Anna Ruzinski**

It is hard to believe that 2016 is coming to a close. We accomplished many things this year, but 2017 will be a big transition for our Protective Services in Menomonee Falls. Up to date this year, we have been able to maintain our low crime rate in the Village. Through the end of September our major crimes are down 1% from the same time last year. The big increase was auto thefts. As you may have seen from the news there were groups of young people looking around for opportunities to steal autos. Their opportunities were heightened by victims leaving keys in cars and sometimes leaving them running. But through the hard work and dedication of the MFPD, several arrests were made. With the support of

our District Attorney, Sue Opper many juvenile offenders were waived to adult court.

Our Fire Department began paramedic service in August upon receiving approval from the State on our Operational Plan to institute a paramedic unit. This higher level of care will enable MFFD paramedics to administer a higher level of care to our citizens. Even though we have a hospital close by, minutes matter when administering certain medications and procedures that can assist in greater chances for better recoveries.

Our biggest change is coming in February, 2017. At that time Menomonee Falls will no longer be operating its own dispatch center. We will be consolidating with Waukesha County Communications Center (WCCC.) We feel this is the right time for a consolidation as technology in this field advances. Our equipment is old and in need of replacement at a great cost. Currently, all cellular 911 calls go to WCCC first and have to be transferred to our dispatch before a squad is sent. As more people get rid of their land-lines, it is important for us to get you the quickest response when you need

help. Because our current dispatchers do a number of clerical duties, we will be keeping most of them as Police Support Specialists. For our citizens, this means our business office will go back to being staffed 24/7 for your convenience. None of our non-emergency phone numbers will change, so there should be little change that citizens will notice. I ask for your patience and support as we work through the process

Speaking of support, on behalf of all the men and women of the MFPD, I want to thank all of you who have sent treats, letters and cards of encouragement during a difficult year for law enforcement. A special thanks to Eileen Curran, the citizen behind the "We Support our Police" signs and those who have posted the signs in yards. Our officers really feel appreciated by the community and a renewed sense of conviction to their job, and the community. The support is overwhelming and we are blessed. I wish you all a safe and heartwarming holiday season.

God Bless,

Chief Anna Ruzinski

## 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.

# 2016 SILENT AUCTION

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch Inc. has been in existence for over 30 years and one of the biggest challenges facing our organization and many other civic groups is fund raising.

As Neighborhood Watch grew it left our organization to come up with a new method to raise additional revenue. Due to this need the first silent auction was headed by Block Captain Crystal Weissenborn along with the assistance of volunteers and Police Officer Jim Kirchberger over a decade ago.

The Silent Auction was established as a means to generate greatly needed funds to support the cause of the Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch Program which in past included supporting the DARE program, Crime Stoppers, the Police Memorial service, the Menomonee Falls Food Pantry and many other deserving organizations in the community.

We are happy to report that the 2016 silent auction was a great success with over 80 individuals, business and organizations making donations of items and money to support the auction which raised over \$2000.00. Neighborhood Watch would like to thank Howie and Crystal Weissen-

born, Monty Ringe, Lowell and Mary Carl, Brian and Paula Fritsch, Carol and Bill Schmitz, Marta Bartolacci, Dave Curran, Nick Gapinski, Barb and Don Hilbert, and Cathy Mariscal for all the time and effort to making the 2016 silent auction a great success.



Please keep in mind that Neighborhood Watch participates in several events throughout the year besides the silent auction (i.e. fishing derby, July 4th parade, etc.) and the need for donations and volunteers is paramount to the success of the Neighborhood Watch Program. If you have any questions regarding donations or wish to volunteer please visit our website at [www.mfnw.org](http://www.mfnw.org).

## 501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization

The Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch has been a strong, volunteer-based community partner with the Menomonee Falls Police Department, and has helped citizens to become aware of public safety issues in their neighborhoods and to inform them of ways that they can assist the police department in keeping our village safe. To help in its mission, Neighborhood Watch donates money to different community organizations and causes. Neighborhood Watch has

relied on a few fundraisers throughout the year to generate the funds, but a large source of funds has been the result of donations from businesses and individuals residing within Menomonee Falls.

Neighborhood Watch has found that some of the businesses and individuals that use to freely donate have now tightened up the criteria that an organization must meet in order to receive the donations. In order to meet the newer donation require-

ments, Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch changed its legal status this past summer and became a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The major benefit is that any donation to the Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch can now be deducted on the donor's tax return as a charitable contribution. Because the donations can now be deducted, businesses and individuals that have a limited budget for charitable contributions, now have a financial benefit for donating to Menomonee

Falls Neighborhood Watch. In soliciting donations for the Silent Auction during the Safety Fair in September, we noticed that businesses with a presence in the Falls were more willing to donate when they found out about our tax-exempt status, than they were prior to the change. We are hoping that as more businesses find out about Neighborhood Watch's tax-exempt charitable status, we will be able to raise more money that we can in turn distribute to the community.