

MENOMONEE FALLS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WINTER 2017

NATIONAL AWARD
WINNER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Message from the Chief / K-9 Update

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Chief Anna Ruzinski

Many new exciting things are happening in the Village these days. Main Street is getting a face lift as it continues to find more ways to bring pedestrians into the area. The first ever beer garden held on Centennial Plaza has been a great gathering space for the community. Development for housing, businesses, and restaurants is growing to give residents more reasons to enjoy the community. Having a safe and welcoming community is part of what makes Menomonee Falls great.

Based on our low crime rates, we know this is a safe community. However, we cannot rest on our laurels! Residents must remain vigilant in helping the police department by reporting suspicious persons or vehicles in their neighborhoods. Our biggest crime problem remains theft of and from vehicles. No matter how secure you may feel in your own home, leaving valuables in plain sight in your unlocked

vehicle on your driveway creates an opportunity for criminals. Furthermore, leaving your keys in your vehicle, locked or unlocked, is never a good idea! Of the 31 vehicles taken in the Village at the time of this report, 28 were taken with keys in them. Please spread the word that locking your vehicles, taking your keys, and not leaving valuables in plain sight WILL lessen your chance of becoming a victim. Who does not want to protect themselves and their families if they can? We are also working with Milwaukee and surrounding suburbs to assist in identifying the offenders responsible and hoping to stop this rash of auto thefts. Please do not hesitate to call. We would rather check someone out and find there is no cause for concern, than have another victim.

On a more positive note, your president Brian Fritsch has done a great job with the website and Facebook page. The entire Neighborhood Watch Board is comprised of wonderful volunteers who really are the pulse of the organization. It was nice to see some new faces of citizens wanting to find out more about Neighborhood Watch by attending the September Board meeting. I encourage members to like the Facebook page and invite a friend to the next meeting. Sometimes because we enjoy a safe community,

it is easy to become complacent and take things for granted. But I assure you, we need the citizens in Neighborhood Watch to be our eyes and ears to assist the police in maintaining the safety we all enjoy.

The last item I'd like to speak about is John S. Taylor Park. If you haven't had a chance to stop by, please take a look. It is now a true and fitting memorial to Officer Taylor who gave his life in service to this community on August 6, 1977. It was truly an honor to work on this project and I want to give a big thank you to the Village, area businesses and service clubs, as well as the citizens and retirees who donated to help defray the cost of the project. It is a wonderful space to walk through, or sit in reflection. It is a great space to welcome people into the downtown area, while not forgetting the sacrifice of Officer Taylor and his family.

Here's hoping you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday season.

God Bless all of you, this community and our first responders.

Sincerely,
Anna M. Ruzinski
Chief of Police

K-9 Update



The MFPD K9 unit has been in existence since April of 2010 and it consists of 1 K9 named Tyson. Tyson is a Belgian Malinois that was born in the country of Hungary on May 10, 2009. He is a dual purpose dog that is trained in locating narcotics such as marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine. He is also trained in patrol work which includes tracking, article searches, building searches, and area searches. These searches can include searching for suspects in crimes and any other resident that may have gotten lost.

Tyson has been productive since we got back from school at Southern Police K9 in Nashville, NC. We have located about \$200,000 worth of evidence taken in crimes and had numerous narcotic arrests. We routinely assist the WKSO

Metro Drug Unit with search warrants and taking drug dealers into custody. We are members of WLECHA (Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association) and have won 4 awards in 2012-2015. Those awards are awarded based on submissions from the entire state of Wisconsin where there are over 130 K9 teams. We also get certified through NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Association). This certification gets us certified as a team in 9 different phases of patrol and narcotics work. We are looking to the future and want to continue this program after Tyson retires. As of right now barring any unforeseen circumstances, we are looking for Tyson to be working at least through 2019. The Menomonee Falls Police Department currently accepts donations for the K9 Unit/Fund. I am looking for ideas for fundraising to get the community involved in raising funds for a new K9. One other option is the Total Health Facility located at N82 W15485 Appleton Ave in Menomonee Falls. They are halfway to their goal of \$10,000 for helping purchase a new K9. Donations can be made at their business as well.

Take Care, K9 Handler Chris Harding

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.

Upcoming Events



- **OPTIMISTS FISHING DERBY**
Saturday—May 12, 2018

Crime Prevention Tips!!!

Over the summer months the Menomonee Falls Police Department investigated several thefts of vehicles. As of the end of August 2017 twenty-two (22) out of the twenty-nine (29) vehicles that were stolen had the keys left in a vehicle which was unlocked. The thefts have not been limited to any particular area of the village, and all have occurred while cars were parked at the victims' homes.

The Menomonee Falls Police Department is asking citizens to take precautions to help prevent these crimes. Menomonee Falls remains a safe place to work and live. However, the police department relays on citizens to be conscientious about making them-

selves a lesser target of crime and to report suspicious activity in a timely manner.

What you can do:

- Keep all doors and windows of your vehicle locked, even at home.
- Do not keep the ignition key / electronic key (vehicles with keyless ignitions) and garage door openers in the vehicle.
- Remove all valuables, including purses, wallets, money (even change), computers and cell phones, from your car when you park, even at home.
- Park your car in a well-lit area, as close to your destination as possible.
- Report suspicious activity when you see it. Don't wait.