



West Allis Police Department

www.westalliswi.gov

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

March-April-May 2015



Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 302-8000 Community Services Bureau: 302-8050 Lt. Jeff Nohelty: 302-8054

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: FREE LANDLORD TRAINING

The 2015 Landlord Training classes will be held on Thursday evenings, from April 9th through May 7th - Sponsored by the West Allis Police Department

The West Allis Police Department will once again sponsor FREE Landlord training for West Allis Landlords. Informational sessions are held in the courtroom at the West Allis Police Department, 11301 W. Lincoln Ave. The starting time is 6:30 pm - Presentations last approximately 2 hours. Below is the list of tentative topics. The dates and topic schedule is currently being finalized. **For detailed information, please contact Sgt. Rod Nelson at 302-8059, or the Landlord Training Calendar Hotline at 302-8166 for exact dates of each topic.** There is no need to pre-register – you can attend any or all of the classes. Tentative topics include:

- ◆ Tenant Laws: Presented by State Bureau of Consumer Protection
- ◆ Building Inspection: Building Inspection, Fire Inspection and Section 8 Rental Assistance Program.
- ◆ Drug/Gang Identifiers: Know the signs of drug and gang activity. The role of the Police & Ongoing management (Civil Nuisance Ordinance).
- ◆ Lease Agreements: Learn about a new standard agreement. Applicant Screening.
- ◆ Lead Abatement: Presented by the West Allis Health Department. Refuse/Recycling, Rodents & Insect Control.
- ◆ Crime Prevention tips: Presented by Sgt. Rod Nelson of the West Allis Police Dept.
- ◆ Tax Laws for Landlords: Presenter to be determined.
- ◆ Eviction and Collections: Presenter to be determined.



WANTED: BLOCK WATCH CAPTAINS

The West Allis Police Department is looking for additional Neighborhood Block Watch Captains. As a Block Watch Captain, you will be asked to deliver the quarterly Neighborhood Watch newsletter in December, March, June, and September, as well as assist in organizing Neighborhood Block Watch meetings as requested by your neighbors or the Police. Block Watch Captains determine their level of activity. For example, we have committees for Newsletter Distribution, National Night Out, and special events. There are others who simply distribute the quarterly newsletters. Your support at any level is needed and greatly appreciated.

Block Watch Captains can organize neighborhood meetings with a Crime Prevention Officer to discuss topics such as: neighborhood crime trends (thefts / burglaries), home security strategies, self protection, scams, suspected drug activity in the neighborhood, or other crime related topics to fit the neighborhood's need. Meetings can be held in your home, backyard, garage, or at the Police Department. If you are interested in becoming a Block Watch Captain or would like additional information, please contact Lisa in the Community Services Bureau at 302-8050. All new Block Watch Captains receive a free family membership to CAAD (Community Alliance Against Drugs), a \$20.00 value.

Upcoming Events

West Allis Central Lions Pancake Breakfast

March 15, 2015
8am -1pm

Knights of Columbus
1800 S 92nd Street. West Allis, WI. \$5.00 per person. Children 4 & under FREE

WAPD Citizens Police Academy

Tues. 7-10pm, March 17th – May 19th
WAPD, 11301 W. Lincoln Ave.

Landlord Training Program

WAPD courtroom –
Thurs. at 6:30pm
April 9th-May 7th

West Allis Community Dinner / Dance

Sat. March 21
Zoofari Conference Center 10001 W. Bluemound Rd, Milw, WI from 6-11pm

City Clean Up

Sat. April 18th 9:00am,
WAPD Substation,
6900 W. National Ave.

DPW - Spring Yard Waste Collection

Sun. April 5th through
Sunday, April 19th

West Allis Ala Carte

Sun. June 7th, Noon-6:00pm, W. Greenfield Ave. / 70-76th St.

2015 National Night Out

Monday, July 27th



The West Allis Police Department continues to receive reports of distraction burglaries, thefts, and scams victimizing older residents. As always, we encourage residents of all ages to report suspicious activity to the police.

Recent reports include complaints of scammers phoning older residents, posing as their grandchild, and claiming to be in jail after taking an unannounced vacation to Canada. On each occasion, the caller provides an actual name of the victim's grandchild and pleads that they wire the funds to bail them out of jail. The "grandchild" then hands the phone over to someone posing as a Canadian Police Officer, who verifies the arrest and provides instructions on how to wire the "bail money" to their location. In a panic, several victims have wired the funds only to learn later that the call was a hoax.

Another common scam involves elderly residents being visited by scammers claiming to be roofers, tree trimmers, WE Energies employees, or city workers. In most cases, the suspects are able to talk their way into the victim's home, at which time the resident is distracted by conversation or asked to retrieve an item. At this point, the suspect or an accomplice rummages through the resident's belongings, often targeting cash or jewelry. It isn't until the suspects leave the residence that the victims realize their property is missing. In some cases, these "workers" are hired and paid by the victim, then leave to "go get supplies" and are never seen again.

The Community Services Bureau has been notified recently from residents that they are receiving phone calls from someone identifying themselves as being employees of Microsoft and they indicate to the resident that there may be an issue with their computer. They get the resident to allow the caller to access their computer remotely and then tell the resident that the computer has an issue and need to pay a fee to fix it. If the resident does not pay the fee your computer is shutdown remotely by the caller and you will have to take your computer in for service.

Tips to avoid being victimized:

- If you did not initiate the call to inquire about some type of service you need done, hang up the phone.
- Never give out personal banking information, credit card numbers, or social security numbers to someone who has called. Popular scams include promising information on a new miracle health product, a charitable donation, or confirmation of a sweepstakes.
- Avoid investments that promise huge profits with no risk. "High-return" investments are not guaranteed and legitimate companies will tell consumers about possible risks involved.
- Never hire someone who shows up at your door and never allow anyone inside your home. If you are told your roof or driveway needs repair, the scammer may take the money and never do the work.
- Never make an "on-the-spot" decision. If the person says you have to make the decision immediately or will miss the opportunity, it is likely a scam. Legitimate companies do not pressure people to act without taking the time to look into the deal.

Utilize the National Do Not Call Registry by calling 1-888-382-1222 from the phone you wish to register or by visiting www.donotcall.gov (this will help limit phone calls from telemarketers.)



WARMER WEATHER MEANS AN INCREASE IN GRAFFITI

Graffiti continues to degrade our community and the West Allis Police Department is determined to combat this problem, but we need your help. With spring just around the corner, the Graffiti Abatement Program is already underway. Last year, this program cleaned up over **123** graffiti complaints and other similar acts of vandalism. This is a 72% reduction of graffiti since the program started in 2008

Our goal is to clean up graffiti complaints within 72 hours of the report being received. In certain circumstances, we have also placed cameras in areas that are routinely targeted by vandals. The high tech cameras will capture photos of the vandals that can then be used by investigators to help solve the case, prosecute the vandals, and help recover the costs associated with the crime.

Please remember, citizen cooperation is critical for this program to be successful. Victims need to notify the police when graffiti occurs. Officers will be dispatched to gather essential information and photograph the graffiti for a police report. This information will be forwarded to the Community Services Project Coordinator and a list of cleanups will be given to our graffiti abatement specialist for removal or paint-over.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: CITYWIDE CLEAN UP–April 18th

This year's citywide spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. At 9:00am we will meet at the West Allis Police Department Satellite Station, 6900 W. National Ave., and provide volunteers with supplies and assignments. After the work is complete, all are invited back to the Satellite Station where lunch, sponsored by Papa John's Pizza – West Allis, will be provided. In addition to volunteers, we are also in need of clean up supplies such as newer light colored paint, work gloves, and environmentally friendly graffiti removal chemicals. If you are able to donate your time or supplies, please contact Lisa at (414) 302-8050.



Lastly, remember that if you know someone responsible for graffiti vandalism (or any other crime), the West Allis-West Milwaukee Crime Stoppers offers rewards of up to \$1,000.00 for information leading to their arrest. You do not have to provide your name when providing information on the Crime Stoppers Tip-Line, (414) 476-CASH (2274).

Come out and enjoy a fun-filled morning while helping clean up West Allis. Your participation is greatly appreciated!!!



THE WEST ALLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT TESTS OUR TOBACCO RETAILERS

The West Allis Police Department is again teaming with WI Wins as we conduct compliance checks of West Allis tobacco retailers. Several times each year, the WAPD sends an underage person into tobacco retailers and has them attempt to purchase tobacco products without identification. Businesses who sell tobacco to the underage person without requesting identification are ticketed. Retailers who comply with the law are given letters congratulating them for doing their part in keeping tobacco products out of the hands of our children.

The Wisconsin Wins (WI Wins) campaign is a science based, state level initiative designed to decrease youth access to tobacco products. WI Wins was launched in the spring of 2002 as part of a comprehensive approach to preventing youth access to tobacco.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services contracts with local partners, such as the West Allis Police Department, to conduct investigations to establish retailer compliance with the law. Local initiatives also include retailer education and training, media outreach, and community education.

WI Wins uses positive reinforcement to reduce illegal tobacco use to minors. It congratulates local clerks who do not sell tobacco to youth, while educating those who would. This approach creates pride by reducing youth access to tobacco products and provides youth a chance to make a difference in the community

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The West Allis Police Department will be offering its Spring - 2015 Citizen Police Academy beginning on Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 and continuing each of the following nine Tuesdays. Please consider joining this fun-filled educational program. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know the police officers, command staff, and learn about the inner workings of the West Allis Police Department.

The Citizen Police Academy is a *free* ten-week program, with one-three hour session held each week. This program is designed to provide citizens with a first hand look at the operations within the police department. Weekly topics include: police hiring requirements, an overview of the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau, Crisis Response Unit (S.W.A.T.), Traffic Enforcement, Criminal Investigations, court room testimony, the Fire Arms Training System, firing range participation, Defense and Arrest Tactics, a K-9 demonstration, the Special Investigations Unit, Identification Bureau -

fingerprinting / forensic evidence, accident investigation (reconstruction), information / stats regarding OWI arrests, dispatch operations, and information on our Police Reserve Unit.

A framed certificate of completion will be awarded to each person who successfully completes the academy; this will take place at a semi-formal graduation ceremony, which typically includes Chief Charles Padgett, Mayor Dan Devine, and members of the Fire & Police Commission. **Call Lisa at 302-8050 for details.**

WEST ALLIS COMMUNITY DINNER/DANCE



The West Allis Community Improvement Foundation in partnership with the West Allis Rotary Club and WA-WM Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the 26th Annual West Allis Community Dinner/Dance on Saturday, March 21, 2015, 6-11 p.m. at Zoofari Conference Center, 10001 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI. The event will benefit the (Champion for a Child Program). The Dinner/Dance will feature a buffet dinner & “Taste of West Allis” sweet table, dinner music & dancing to the Big Band sound of Command Performance, and an exciting Silent Auction. Tickets are now available at \$50/person or \$400/Table of 8. For more information, call the Foundation at (414) 302-8292 or visit www.westalliswi.gov.



April Is Alcohol Awareness Month

Did you know.... **Binge drinking** means drinking 5 or more alcoholic drinks within a short period of time for men, or 4 or more drinks in a short period of time for women. Wisconsin continues to be the state with the greatest percentage of adults who admit to binge drinking. Studies show that:

- If a person’s first use of alcohol is at age 12 or younger – lifetime alcohol dependence is 41%
- However, if their first use of alcohol is at 21 years of age – lifetime alcohol dependence drops to 11%

Talk to your children. The West Allis-West Milwaukee Community Coalition provides support for the West Allis community to help raise healthy, drug free children. Visit the Coalition website www.wawmcc.org for resources, important news, upcoming events and ways you can become involved.



DONATE TO THE VA VETS

The West Allis Community Celebrations Committee is sponsoring a special project for the Memorial Day Holiday in honor of the veterans who reside full time at the VA on National Ave. The Committee will be putting together gift bags for about 50 vets and are looking for donations of regular size non-perfumed soaps (like Ivory or Dove) and non-perfumed shampoos, facial tissue, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and large print word search puzzles (popular with the vets). The Committee will also provide each veteran with a \$10 coupon booklet they can use at the VA Canteen.

If you are interested in helping out these veterans, many of them without family or loved ones who visit, please drop off your donation at City Hall by May 15. Committee representatives will assemble the items and visit the veterans over the Memorial Holiday weekend to deliver the gifts.

Questions? Call Committee Chairperson, Ald. Rosalie Reinke, at (414) 543-0587 or email reinke@westalliswi.gov.