

Fall Crime Reporter
Oct 13, 2011

For the past several years, police departments throughout Winnebago County have seen an increase in calls for service. Many of these calls can be classified as a nuisance type complaint and occur repeatedly at the same addresses. These chronic nuisance calls affect the quality of life in neighborhoods and can include offenses such as loud noise, disorderly people, fighting, damage to property, drug offenses, and the list goes on.

Solving these problems requires cooperation between the property owners and the police. The police respond to these calls and at times issue a citation or make an arrest, however on some occasions the problem continues.

Neighbors find that while the police show up when called, they rarely solve the problem. Meanwhile, police express frustration that neighbors don't understand the limits of police power. It is then that we need the cooperation of the property owner or business owner to gain compliance and relief for the neighborhood.

In response to this issue, several police departments in Winnebago County have enacted chronic nuisance ordinances. The ordinance is designed to minimize these types of complaints that tend to disturb the neighborhood and affect our quality of life. The ordinance allows for three nuisance calls on a property within a year. At that time the police department will meet with the property owner to explain the concern and the need for assistance in combating the problem(s). If the property owner fails to or refuses to provide any assistance, the police department can issue a citation for maintaining a public nuisance and bill the property owner for any future nuisance calls to that property.

This ordinance has been in place for a number of years in Oshkosh and the Town of Menasha and was just recently enacted in Neenah and Menasha. For the most part, these concerns are resolved prior to the third call! All of the police departments strive to work cooperatively with property owners in resolving problems at properties. It is our hope to maintain the quality of life that we have come to expect and enjoy!

Winnebago Countywide Crime Stoppers

Winnebago Countywide Crime Stoppers was formed in November of 1991 and incorporated on February 4, 1992. During the first year it was associated with the Area MEG unit and the Oshkosh Police Department.

Crime Stoppers is a cooperative effort between law enforcement agencies, the business community, the news media, and the public, providing law enforcement with information they need to solve crimes. Crime Stoppers encourages people to provide tips that can be vital in the successful solution of a crime by offering cash rewards for tips which lead to the arrest of a suspect(s), and by guaranteeing that the tipster's identity remains anonymous.

When a person contacts Crime Stoppers through its anonymous tip line, website, or text line, and the information leads to an arrest, they become eligible for a CASH reward. The 24 hour, 7 days a week Crime Stopper reporting systems maintain a caller's anonymity by assigning a secret code number which is used in the subsequent CASH reward.

Some of the programs Crime Stoppers supports are the Quick 50 program. This program is offered to area high schools and middle schools in Winnebago County. The purpose of the program is to increase safety in our schools by encouraging students to report weapons, drugs, alcohol, or bomb threats. A \$50.00 cash reward is paid to students who provide information leading to an arrest. Students wishing to remain anonymous may submit tips using the Crime Stoppers tip line, website, or speaking to the school's Police Liaison Officer.

The Park Watch was designed for the municipalities within Winnebago County to curb the incidents of vandalism and theft in area parks. Special Park Watch signs displaying the Crime stoppers anonymous tip line are posted in area parks. Citizens may contact Crime Stoppers by using the anonymous tip line or website, or by texting.

The Crime Stoppers Board of Directors is comprised of concerned citizens from Winnebago County. They are responsible for establishing policy, raising funds, and determining the dollar amount of rewards. Crime Stoppers receives funding from any local or state agency, and is a non-profit public 503 (c) (3) organization.

Crime Stoppers Mission: Crime Stoppers is an organization that rewards members of the community who anonymously assist police in solving crimes.

Crime Stoppers Vision: The vision of crime Stoppers is to encourage community involvement in solving crimes which will provide a safer place to live, work, and play.

(920) 231-Tips (8477) or text IGOTYA & your tip to Crimes (274637)