

The Crime Reporter



Sponsored by TRICOM: Winnebago County Citizens, Businesses and Law Enforcement
Working Together on Crime Prevention, Health and Safety

January/February 2010 Edition

Local Coalition gets a new Name but its Mission Remains Strong

The end of 2009 marked a historic moment in the evolution of Winnebago County's tobacco, drug and alcohol prevention movement. The local coalition reestablished itself with a new name and identity at a celebration event on December 17.

re:TH!NK, formally known as the Tobacco-Free & Drug-Free Communities Coalition, was established in 1994 as the Winnebago County Tobacco-Free Coalition. Its focus was educating the community about the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke. Since 2000, the Coalition has maintained a full-time health educator and coalition coordinator funded by the WI's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TCP) to build capacity at the local level to accomplish its goals:

- Reduce youth initiation and prevent youth access to tobacco
- Eliminate non-smoker exposure to secondhand smoke
- Promote cessation and resources for those who use tobacco and want to quit
- Identify and eliminate disparities related to tobacco use



The Coalition expanded again in 2008 after receiving a federal Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to address youth tobacco use, underage alcohol use and drug abuse. This grant provides funding for an additional staff person to increase work at the local level to accomplish the DFC goals:

- Strengthen collaboration among communities, private nonprofit agencies, and Federal, State, local governments to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth.
- Reduce substance abuse among youth, and over time, among adults by promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse.

The Winnebago County Health Department is the fiscal agent for both grants and houses the two staff people who are dedicated to comprehensive prevention, outreach education, and program and policy development and in the areas of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Illegal/Prescription Drugs.

Currently, re:TH!NK is a partnership of volunteers, organizations and agencies throughout Winnebago County. Each year the coalition and its partners provide prevention education, outreach programs and resources to the community and develop and promote local and state policies in an effort to increase the health of the residents of Winnebago County and positively impact the community environment.

Some of the coalition's 2009 activities and accomplishments include: passage of the statewide smoke-free air law, creation of the "Good Drugs Gone Bad" outreach toolkit about prescription drugs, coordination of five Winnebago County school districts to participate in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), and obtaining funding from WI's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program for 2010.

There are over 100 named partners who are affiliated with over 50 groups/organizations actively involved with re:TH!NK. General coalition meetings are the third Wednesday of the month from 2:30-4:00pm at the JP Coughlin Center, 625 County Rd Y, Oshkosh. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like more information about how to get involved with the coalition, please contact Emily Dieringer or Lisa Brown at 920-232-3000 or rethink@co.winnebago.wi.us.



Established in 1994, the Tri-Communities Crime Reduction Coalition,

TRICOM, is a coalition that brings together the law enforcement, business and citizen communities. TRICOM is committed to health, safety and crime-prevention. Its Visions is: "One community focused upon a caring safety-conscious, health-driven and crime-free environment."

In order to make the communities of Winnebago County safe and crime-free, the Mission of TRICOM is to identify gaps in crime prevention services, conduct research on needs and programs to fill these gaps, be a networking hub and connector of resources that enhance the work of its partner organizations, and enhance community involvement opportunities in crime prevention and safe neighborhood programs.

For further information about TRICOM contact Chairman Dan Hinton at (920)236-4820 or (920)727-2882 ext. 4820.



Residents who believe that crime prevention is a good investment have a new option: The **Winnebago County Crime Prevention**

Fund is an endowment fund, established to provide lasting financial support for crime prevention activities throughout Winnebago County. The fund is an initiative of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation and all law enforcement agencies throughout Winnebago County. For more information contact the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation at (920) 426-3993.

Be a mentor to a child. You can make a difference!

You can be a Best Friend and make the world better... one child at a time. Call Best Friends of Neenah-Menasha at (920)729-5600 for more information.



TRIAD

Don't Wait, Get Involved Soon...

TRIAD is a national program that unites police, sheriff and seniors to share experiences and prepare to

defend against frauds and scams or other senior issues. Our mission is to enhance the quality of life of older adults, through education and active participation in statewide programs and projects, by partnering with Law Enforcement, Senior Serving Agencies and Seniors to help reduce criminal victimization of older adults.

We are ALWAYS looking for new members to join us.

Be Observant – Call About Crime!



CALL 1-800-621-CASH (2274)

www.winnebagocrimestoppers.org

center or you call the Winnebago County-Wide Crime Stoppers at 1-800-621-CASH (2274) or go to the website at www.winnebagocountycrimestoppers.org REMAIN ANONYMOUS! Cash rewards up to \$1000 if your information leads to the arrest or conviction of a criminal. Help protect your community and others, get involved to make Winnebago County a safer and more secure community.

Please help law enforcement, if you see a crime in progress call the Winnebago County Emergency 911

THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator..
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom- and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
8. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door- understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at faketv.com.)

8 MORE THINGS A BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:

1. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
2. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
3. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
4. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
5. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets
6. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
7. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
8. If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

Sources: Convicted burglars in North Carolina, Oregon, California, and Kentucky; security consultant Chris McGoey, who runs crimedoctor.com; and Richard T. Wright, a criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, who interviewed 105 burglars for his book *Burglars on the Job*.

Be Educated, Be Involved, Take a Stance in your Neighborhood

The key to safety in your neighborhood realistically is just being a good neighbor. Do you know the names/faces of those who live next door? Would you be suspicious if a moving truck pulled in next door and started loading up televisions and stereos? Does an adult in a car asking questions of a small child on the sidewalk strike you as odd? Have you ever answered the door to find someone selling meat or offering to do home improvements? These are all situations the police would find suspicious and we would prefer to investigate them while they are occurring instead of after someone becomes victimized. The police department needs all neighborhoods to have citizens who will take an interest in their neighborhoods and their neighbors. Neighborhood watch groups were started to break down barriers and unite people toward a common goal of safety near your home. Tricom, your citizen's crime prevention coalition, suggests wherever you live contact your local crime prevention officer to initiate a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood. We are not asking anyone to get personally involved in investigating suspicious activity. Rather, call the police when you see suspicious activity occurring. By joining forces we can make all of the communities in Winnebago County safer places to live.

For more information about Neighborhood Watch Programs:

In *Menasha*
call 967-3500



In *Neenah*
call 886-6000



In *Oshkosh*
call 236-5742



In *Town of Menasha*
call 720-7109



Elsewhere in *Winnebago County* call 236-7309



Thank-you to the businesses that allow us to distribute The Crime Reporter and to TRIAD members and Crime Stoppers member Melanie Hunt for their help in preparing the newsletter.