



Montcalm County Connection

Neighbors Communicating With Neighbors

October/November 2009 Newsletter

MONTCALM COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS

**Thursday
October 29th
at 7 pm**

Come early at 6:30 for refreshments and get to know your neighbors

Crime Victim's Advocacy

Presented by:

**Teresa Good
Montcalm County
Prosecutor's Office**

LOCATION:

Village of Pierson
Municipal Bldg.

Corner of
Old Federal Hwy.
& Grand Street

CRIME VICTIM'S ADVOCACY

Recapture Your Security

Our current socio-economic situation sometimes calls for drastic measures. We need to cut back on our spending, combine errands when traveling, and decrease our leisure activities, to name a few.

Some people are so desperate they resort to committing crimes to provide for food, shelter, clothing, and habits. For certain individuals, desperate times call for desperate actions.

At some point in your life, you may become or may already be a victim of one of these desperate actions or some other criminal offense. Or maybe you know of someone who either has been or is a victim.

Regardless of what the crime is or how it is perpetrated, victims directly involved will be asked to participate

in a series of events revolving around our criminal justice and court systems. This, in itself, can be daunting and traumatizing for some. Becoming familiar with the processes and

At some point in your life, you may become or may already be a victim. Don't let this prevent you from continuing to enjoy life.

services that are available to help us navigate the legal system will enable us to better deal with our emotions, recapture our security, and continue with life.

Crime does not adhere to socio-economic boundaries. It can happen to the rich, the poor, the young, or the elderly, regardless of race or gender.

Some crimes are violent in nature; others rob us of our sense of security, and other crimes are merely a nuisance.

Teresa Good, the Montcalm County Crime Victim's Rights Advocate will explain, among other things, what our rights are as victims, how the court system operates, the importance of a Victim's Impact Statement, and how you can be notified when a perpetrator is being released. Ms. Good has worked for Montcalm County as an advocate for crime victims since 2000, and says she enjoys helping others and meeting the challenges that this position presents.

**BILL STEFFEN
WOOD-TV8
Coming in January**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive control, which one person exercises over another. Domestic violence is a crime.

Did you know ~

- Abuse is always a choice.
- Domestic violence is about power and control
- A woman is battered every nine seconds
- 55% of men who abuse their partners also abuse their children
- Most sexual assaults occur in the victim's home – the victim knows her attacker.
- It can happen to anyone. Age, race, education, religion, and socio-economic status do not matter.

If you are a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault, report the crime and then call a domestic violence center for help in dealing with this traumatic issue.

Montcalm County
Neighborhood Watch
Program
Dawn M. Miles
(616) 204-0378 or email
dmmiles@charter.net

Many domestic violence centers offer counseling for both the victim and their children. Emergency shelters are available in cases of need.

Family advocacy programs are also offered. These may range from information and referral services to legal support, housing, medical advocacy, and connections with other community resources to help you get back on your feet.

Information is kept confidential and your safety and well being is foremost.

For those that live in Montcalm or Ionia County:

If you are a victim of domestic violence, child abuse or have been a victim of a crime, **R.A.V.E.** can offer assistance. Call (616) 225-1995 today.
The Crisis Hotline is 1-800-720-SAFE (7233).

OR

If you live in Mecosta, Osceola, or Newaygo County:

Women's Information Service, Inc.
WISE

24-Hour Crisis Line
231-796-6600
or
1-800-374-9473

Courtesy:
Women's Information Service, Inc.

Do You Have An Email Address?

If you are receiving our newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service but have an email address, please send me a short message at:

dmmiles@charter.net

Emailing the newsletter to you will help alleviate the cost of printing and postage. Thank you.

Tips for Driving

- Please refrain from texting while you are driving.
- Be alert for deer this time of year.
- Keep your car in good condition with the gas tank at least half full.
- Drive slower on snow and ice. It may take you a few extra minutes, but you will arrive safely.
- Be cautious when approaching a school bus. Watch for children crossing in front of the bus or standing on the side of the roadway.
- You may wish to consider investing in a cellular telephone.
- If you are stranded on the side of the road, stay in your vehicle. Call for help if you have a cell phone. Do not open your door or window for anyone you do not know. It is acceptable to ask for identification from authorities.

Courtesy: Michigan State Police
<http://www.michigan.gov>