

MEQUON POLICE DEPARTMENT VANDALISM UPDATE

Over the past several months, the Mequon Police Department has taken reports of numerous vandalism complaints. Vandalism and the summer months, with children out of school, tend to go hand-in-hand.

This summer, the amount and the extent of the vandalism was unusual. The vandalism began with minor incidents of mischief without causing damage: toilet papering, egging, pulling mailboxes from the ground. It soon escalated to criminal acts of damage to property, theft, and burglary.

In June, the police department recognized that a particularly large group of vandals was roaming the city's subdivisions between 1:00 and 4:00 a.m. and causing a great deal of damage and malicious mischief. Officers recognized that most of this vandalism was being done by individuals who were too young to drive, probably ages 12 to 14.

Toward the end of summer the police department caught a group of individuals responsible for some of these acts, and almost all of the vandalism stopped throughout the city. We do not believe that these individuals were responsible for all of the acts of vandalism, but believe that they were responsible for a large portion of it.

Residents and business owners should do the following to assist the police in preventing and solving these activities:

1. Call the police. We need the public's help to solve community issues.
2. Contact us in a timely manner. Contacting us at the time the event is occurring gives us the best opportunity to follow-up.
3. Be the best witness you can be to what you see and hear. Physical descriptions of people and vehicles are very important. To help you remember, write down what you see or hear.
4. Keep your homes and vehicles locked.
5. Secure your valuables and put them where they cannot be seen.
6. Be a good neighbor. Watch for suspicious activity at other homes or businesses in your area.

With children returning to school, the daytime burglaries will most likely begin again. Please be mindful of this when you see individuals in the area of your home or business who you do not recognize and you are suspicious of their presence.