

## 2015 National Night Out



Since 1983, the first Tuesday of the month of August has been designated as National Night Out. That makes Tuesday, August 4 the National Night Out annual observance date for 2015. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), is designed to generate neighborhood support and participation in crime prevention efforts and to enhance police and community partnerships. Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, many communities celebrate with a variety of events to help neighbors get to know one another and to build community spirit. This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> year of National Night Out observances that demonstrate a community's commitment to keep their neighborhood free from crime.

From the NATW: "Once upon a time, we kept our porch lights on. We opened the door even if we didn't know who rang the bell. And we could always leave the back door unlocked during the day. National Association of Town Watch is the nation's premiere non-profit crime prevention organization dedicated to the development and promotion of crime prevention in communities across the nation. NATW is a network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations and concerned citizens. Through that network, NATW was able to launch the annual National Night Out campaign."

Fast Facts about National Night Out:

- It is neighborhood and law-enforcement-based.

- It focuses on crime and drug prevention at the neighborhood level.

- It is also a chance to build community spirit and strengthen relationships with local police

- It demonstrates a neighborhood's unified commitment to being involved in fighting crime

- It is observed each year in thousands of communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world

### What happens that night?

- Activities vary from community to community...a simple gathering at a neighborhood park, to live musical entertainment and food

- They usually run between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., but can begin earlier or later depending upon organizers choice

- Police officers visit as many neighborhood gatherings as possible

## How can I get involved?

Go to an event and have fun

Help organize an event for your neighborhood...pool party, cookout, dessert potluck

Let your local police department know what you have planned and invite them to attend

Get information about how to organize a Neighborhood Watch group for your community

## Who is my Neighborhood Law Enforcement Contact?

**1<sup>st</sup> District (greater Rockville area) Officer Michael Prather**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> District (greater Bethesda area) Officer Dana Stroman and Oliver Janney**

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**3<sup>rd</sup> District (greater Silver Spring area) Officer Joy Patil**

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**4<sup>th</sup> District (greater Wheaton area) Officer Sharif Hidayat**

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**5<sup>th</sup> District (greater Germantown area) Officer Marcus Dixon**

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**6<sup>th</sup> District (greater Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village areas) Officer Scott Zimmerman**

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