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‘National Night Out’ fights crime with police-community partnerships

Neighborhoods throughout Sarasota County will join thousands of communities nationwide for the “26th Annual National Night Out” crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out will be from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 4, in Payne Park, 2100 E. Laurel St., Sarasota.

Residents in neighborhoods in the city of Sarasota and throughout the county are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening in Payne Park with neighbors and Sarasota County law enforcement agencies. The event is free and will feature games and activities for kids, food, drinks and music.

The All Faiths Food Bank and the Sarasota County Humane Society will be accepting food donations for families and pets.

National Night Out is co-sponsored by Sarasota County, City of Sarasota, the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office and the city of Sarasota Police Department. Sarasota is a National Award winner for outstanding participation.

The national sponsor is the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), with events in over 15,000 communities from all 50 states. More than 37 million people are expected to participate in “America’s Night Out Against Crime.”

The event is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

“This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity,” said National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin. “National Night Out showcases the importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement to assure safer communities.”

For more information, contact:

- Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000

- Sarasota County Web site at www.scgov.net
- National Night Out Web site at www.nationalnightout.org/nno

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