



NEWS RELEASE

Grand Rapids Police Department



APPROVED: Chief Kevin R. Belk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

FOR RELEASE: July 31, 2009

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009

NOTE: Celebration taking place on the West Side on Monday, August 3

On Tuesday night, August 4, 2009, Grand Rapids will celebrate its 26th National Night Out event. Residents are being asked to turn on their outside lights and spend the evening outdoors on their porches, lawns, streets, or in the parks talking with their neighbors. Many neighborhoods throughout the city will be hosting a variety of special events. City Officials, Police Department, Fire Department, and Community-Oriented Government team representatives will visit the different events throughout the evening. The goals of this special event are to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts;
- Encourage police/community cooperation; and
- Demonstrate neighborhood unity in fighting crime and deterioration

Thanks to the 26-year partnership of city services, neighborhood and business associations, police, and involved residents, the City of Grand Rapids has continually improved the overall quality of life and safety in this community.

Although violence continues to rear its ugly head throughout our community, residents remain hopeful and continue to find new ways to build and maintain healthy and active businesses and residential neighborhoods. Citizens are joining together, in many partnerships, to listen and support the needs of our youth. It is important that the National Night Out event highlight the many creative ways that citizens, young and old, are promoting a safe and healthy environment in the city of Grand Rapids.

Neighborhoods throughout the City of Grand Rapids have chosen to make this night particularly significant as they coordinate the following activities:

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1 Monroe Center, N.W., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2906

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATION
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2009**

**WEST GRAND NEIGHBORHOOD / JOHN BALL PARK COMMUNITY
SOUTHWEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD / STEIL CENTER BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

Contact Persons: Roberta Pelton (451-0150)
 Jane Grischke (451-0150)
 Mary Bueche (456-9190),
 Marie Cimochowicz (456-9190)
Event Address: Steil Center Boys & Girls Club (235 Straight Ave NW)
Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

The neighborhoods will have a variety of booths both inside the (air conditioned) gym, as well as the bike licensing, bike obstacle course, and minor bike repair outside. A Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck, Grand Rapids Police Officers and K-9 Unit, and an AMR (Ambulance) will be there for information/demonstrations. Silent Observer will also have their bright red “hummer” on hand. There will be children’s games for the young and teens as well as a craft table for entrepreneurs. McGruff will be paying a visit. There will be raffle prizes for residents participating in a perception survey. Also, there will be a hot dog roast with beverages and chips.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATIONS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009**

ALGER HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

The Alger Heights Neighborhood Association is partnering with local businesses, churches, Alger Middle School, and the City of Grand Rapids.

Contact Person: Sam Evans (802-4111)
Event Address: Alger Middle School – North Lawn (921 Alger St SE)
Time: 6:00 - 10:30 p.m.

The fun begins at 6:30 p.m., with activities including games and prizes. The Grand Rapids Police Department and Fire Department will be there with a fire engine and the S.W.A.T. truck. Learn ways to prevent crime in our neighborhood and keep your home and family safe. Fingerprint kits for the kids will be available. A DJ with family friendly music will be there. Sign up for a limited number of free bike helmets from Safe Kids to be raffled off. Bike registrations and free recycle bins will be available before the movie starts. There will be other giveaways from local businesses. At sunset (about 9:00 p.m.), the movie “Bolt” will be shown in the northeast part of the Alger Middle School grounds near the water park. Seating is on the grass so bring a blanket or low lawn chair and bug spray. Enjoy free popcorn and lemonade. JB’s Pizza will be selling pizza slices, bread sticks and pop. No alcohol or smoking, and no glass containers, please. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. The restrooms will be available. In case of rain, the movie will be shown downstairs in Seymour Church.

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BAXTER NEIGHBORHOOD

Baxter Neighborhood Association is partnering with the Neighborhood Associations of Michigan and Grand Rapids Weed and Seed for National Night Out.

Contact Person: Marian Barrera (821-3740)
Event Address: Joe Taylor Park (on Baxter between Diamond and Neland)
Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

There will be G's music along with youth games, face painting, fire safety activities, bike helmets (must have an adult and bike), registration for bicycle helmets, fingerprint kits, Dean's Transportation Safety Bus, Silent Observer (Hummer), and AMR (ambulance). There will be a Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck and Grand Rapids Police K-9 Unit, and Grand Rapids Police Officers will be on hand to answer residents' questions. There will also be booths for Grand Rapids Weed and Seed, Video game technology, and Get the Lead Out, etc. Hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served. (There is no cost.)

BELKNAP NEIGHBORHOOD (NOBL)

Contact Person: Kristie DeKraker (454-8413)
Event Address: Coit Park (Coit and Fairbanks)
Time: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Residents are invited to come and visit with a Community Police Officer during National Night Out. A Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck will be on site.

EASTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Contact Person: Amber Z. Kilpatrick (451-3025)
Event Address: 415 Ethel Ave SE
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Residents will be celebrating National Night Out by attending an event at the Eastown Community Association (ECA) at 415 Ethel Ave SE. All neighbors are encouraged to attend in order to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. Please join the ECA, the Grand Rapids Police Department, K-9 Unit, the Grand Rapids Fire Department, and the Red Cross for free food, kids' activities, bike safety information and helmets, crime prevention and public safety information, and genuine community togetherness! There will also be raffles throughout the evening.

FULLER AVENUE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Contact Person: Argie N. Holliman-Chibuzo
Event Address: Fuller Avenue CRC - In the Parking Lot at Fuller and Hall
(1239 Fuller Ave SE)
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

There will be games, informational handouts, music, visits from City officials, and food for the neighbors from the Fuller area.

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GARFIELD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD (EAST & WEST)

Contact Person: Candice Chivis (241-2443)
Esther Reyes (241-2443)
Event Address: Garfield Park Neighborhood Association Lodge (334 Burton St SE)
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Garfield Park (Southeast and Southwest) will be partnering with the Kroc Center for National Night Out. Light bulbs will be handed out (as needed), along with safety tips. There will be a Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck on the site, as well as the Grand Rapids Police Department Officers and K-9 Unit. Informational handouts will be available. A movie "The Wizard of Oz" will be shown at dusk in Garfield Park. Refreshments will be provided.

HERITAGE HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

Contact Person: Barb Lester (459-8950)
Event Address: Foster Park (Intersection of State, Madison, and Cherry)
Time: 5:30-8:30 pm

Heritage Hill Neighborhood Association will be celebrating National Night Out by hosting a potluck picnic in Foster Park. There will be a Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck, Grand Rapids Police Officers and a cruiser, as well as a K-9 unit.

OAKDALE NEIGHBORS

Oakdale Neighborhood Association will be hosting a Bike Festival and National Night Out.

Contact Person: Tom Bulten (248-2848)
Event Address: Oakdale Park Church (961 Temple St SE)
Time: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Activities will include bike repair, bike helmets, bike games, and snacks. Also, an outdoor bike movie, "Emmanuel's Gift", will be shown. In 2002, Emmanuel Yeboah, a Ghanaian man born with a severely deformed right leg, rode a bicycle 600 miles across Ghana. He has a vital message in that people with disabilities are valuable contributors to any society. Come hear his story.

ROOSEVELT PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

Contact Person: Julie Niemchick (243-2489) or Maria Martinez (243-2489)
Event Address: Caulfield Park (1115 Caulfield Ave SW)
Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association will be partnering with the Grandville Avenue Library for National Night Out. There will be games for the kids, crafts, and food. The Grand Rapids Police K-9 Unit will be on hand to demonstrate its skills. A Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck and Grand Rapids Police Officers will be present to talk with the residents. Free snacks will be available.

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SECA NEIGHBORHOOD (Southeast Community Association)

Contact Person: Arnice Riley (245-4398)
Event Address: Jefferson School Park (1356 Jefferson Ave SE)
Time: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

An ice cream social will be held for residents. Also, a Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck and Grand Rapids Police Officers and the K-9 Unit will be available for questions, etc. Handouts will be available for the kids.

Contact Person: Trina Middleton
Event Address: GRPD Field Office (Cass Ave and Hall St SE)
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Residents are invited to join in the fun and activities at the GRPD Trailer at Hall and Cass. There will be Grand Rapids Police Officers, a Grand Rapids Fire Department fire truck and snacks to celebrate National Night Out.

Throughout the city, many non-staffed neighborhoods, block clubs, and apartment complexes will be having informal outside gatherings. Residents will get to know each other and talk about positive ways to improve their area.

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