



## Join me and the Renton Police Department in celebrating the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out!

### America's Night Out Against Crime – A Nationwide Celebration of Neighbors and Neighborhoods

By Kevin Milosevich, Chief, Renton Police Department

On Tuesday, August 7, I'll be joining neighborhoods throughout Renton and combining forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out" crime/drug prevention event. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, increase neighborhood support in anti-crime efforts, and unite our communities. It is a great chance to learn about crime prevention, while celebrating with your community and spending time with your neighbors. Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over **34 million** people participated in National Night Out 2006.

I'm inviting Renton neighborhoods to organize events in their individual complexes, neighborhoods, and communities. National Night Out is a fun, pressure-free opportunity for residents to get to know their immediate neighbors and come together to talk about safety and crime prevention. Barbeques, dessert socials, potlucks, and block parties are a great environment in which to make new friends and build the foundation for relationships that reduce crime and help keep our neighborhoods safer for everyone.

Neighborhoods hosting National Night Out events are encouraged to register their event with the police department. Employees from the Renton Police Department and members of other city departments will visit registered events. It's the perfect occasion for police personnel and other city officials to meet with our citizens, hear their concerns, share information, and build police-community partnerships.

If you are planning your neighborhood's first National Night Out, remember that it may be challenging to get strangers together for a party. Get them out of their homes with creative ideas. Are there lots of children? How about including a tricycle race or a water balloon toss as part of your event? Consider a putting competition! A multi-cultural potluck would be another great way to share favorite dishes, and food is an excellent conversation starter.

If you would like to register your Night Out event with the Renton Police Department, please call 425-430-7520 or email [tvickers@ci.renton.wa.us](mailto:tvickers@ci.renton.wa.us). National Night Out is a very popular event, and only the first 20 registered neighborhoods are guaranteed a visit by police and city personnel.

Even if your neighborhood is not participating in National Night Out, show your support for crime prevention and community awareness by turning on your porch light on Tuesday, August 7!

*This invitation first appeared in the July 24, 2007, Renton Reporter.*