



## ARE YOU READY

### to do your part to prevent crime and drug use?

August 1, 2006 will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out (NNO). The National Night Out program is designed "to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back."

#### ARE YOU READY?

#### --Plan – Prepare – Practice – Stay Informed--

**Plan.** Create a plan for hosting a National Night Out in your neighborhood.

- Contact and inform neighbors of your interest in holding a National Night Out event.
- Designate a home or area of the neighborhood to hold the festivities.
- Plan with neighbors what kind of recreation or activities could be available to have a fun, safe, family-oriented event.
- If your neighborhood does not want to host an event, check with your local police department to find out how you can join a nearby celebration.

**Prepare.** When a plan is made within the community/neighborhood, register as a participant of National Night Out (NNO). When registration is complete, an organizational kit will be sent, containing various helpful materials for hosting a successful NNO. Registration can be done at <http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/reg.html>.

**Practice.** Use the National Night Out event to establish a personal or community-wide commitment to making healthy, safe decisions for your neighborhood and community.

**Stay Informed.** The National Night Out message does not need to last only one night.

- Remain attentive to criminal and drug activity in your area.
- Keep police informed about any illegal activity occurring in the community; this will improve the safety of your neighborhood, and it will help police be present as partners in your community.
- Become informed about *Project 365*; set a goal to improve an area of the community within 365 days. Read more about this project at <http://nationalnightout.org>.

(See the other side of this sheet for additional resources.)

## Resources:

- Contact local law enforcement for more information regarding nearby events:
  - Elk River Police Department – Contact Cheryll Edinger at 763-635-1250. The City of Elk River website also has a registration form available at [www.ci.elk-river.mn.us](http://www.ci.elk-river.mn.us). The deadline for registration is July 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - Big Lake Police Department – Call 763-263-2500.
  - Becker Police Department – Call 763-261-4300.
  - Sherburne County Sheriff's Department – Contact James Hintermeister at 763-241-2500.
- For more information on National Night Out, be sure to check their website at <http://nationalnightout.org>.
- If you would like to contact someone regarding NNO or crime and drug prevention, email the National Association of Town Watch at [info@natw.org](mailto:info@natw.org)
- Check out the D.A.R.E. website at [www.dare.com](http://www.dare.com) to learn about other programs targeting crime and drug use prevention.

August 1<sup>st</sup> National Night Out events are currently scheduled at:

- Big Lake Police Department
- Kolbinger Park, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Becker
- Various neighborhoods in Elk River

The above information is provided by the Sherburne County Are You Ready Workgroup: Sherburne County Sheriff's Department-Emergency Management, Sherburne County Public Health Department, Sherburne County Social Services, Becker Police Department, Big Lake Police Department, Elk River Police Department, Elk River Fire Department, Caring Rivers United Way, American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Fairview Northland Hospital, USDA-Farm Service, University of Minnesota Extension, Elk River Star News, West Sherburne Tribune, and community volunteers.