



Cherryhurst Civic Club Newsletter

August 2003

August Club Meeting: National Night Out

The 20th Annual National Night Out (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2003.

The Cherryhurst Civic Club will participate in NNO by hosting a neighborhood pot-luck at the Cherryhurst Park Building from 7 to 8 p.m. Residents are asked to leave their porch lights on to show their support for National Night Out.

National Night Out Pot-Luck, an event Cherryhurst has held many times in the past, will take the place of our regular monthly meeting.

The Civic Club will provide hot dogs and soft drinks. Residents are encouraged to bring their favorite dish for a community pot-luck dinner.

Regular Civic Club meetings will resume on September 18--the third Thursday of the month.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Houston City Council set to Vote on Parking Restrictions August 5

Houston City Council is scheduled to meet this Tuesday, August 5 to vote on the Residential Parking Permit program detailed in our June Newsletter. The meeting will take place at the City Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, 901 Bagby St., at 1:30 p.m.

The following is item 5 from the Agenda: "RECOMMENDATION from Director Department of Planning & Development for the designation of seven residential parking permit areas and related parking regulations in the University Place and Neartown-Montrose Super Neighborhoods." You can view the Agenda at <http://www.ci.houston.tx.us/citysec/agenda.html>.

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The History of National Night Out

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a non-profit, crime prevention organization which works in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Since 1981, NATW has been dedicated to the development, growth and maintenance of organized crime and drug prevention programs nation-

wide. NATW's network has grown to include over 6,000 crime, drug and violence prevention organizations.

National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced by the Association in 1984. The program was the brainchild of NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin.

In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally. At that time, he noted that in a typical "crime watch community," only 5 to 7% of the residents were participating actively. Due to the growth and success of these programs, he felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a national program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations - but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out was introduced early in 1984 - with the event culminating on the first Tuesday in August.

That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out. Nationwide, 2.5 million Americans took part in 1984. The seed had been planted. In subsequent years, participation has grown steadily. The 19th Annual National Night Out on August 6, 2002 involved 33 million people in 9,700 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases



worldwide. National Night Out 2003 will culminate on August 5th.

While the traditional “lights on” and front porch vigils remain a part of NNO, activities have expanded considerably over the years to include block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, contests, rallies and meetings.

Peskin said, “It's a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It [NNO] is a night to celebrate crime prevention successes - and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days.”

Cherryhurst Featured in Houston Chronicle ‘This Week’ Section

An article and photo about Cherryhurst were featured in the Houston Chronicle’s ‘This Week’ section Thursday, July 30. You can view the article on the Chronicle’s web site at:

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/story.hts/thisweek/zone10/news/2016823>

A link to the article can be found on our web page at <http://www.cherryhurst.com>.

Cherryhurst Yahoo Group

Residents are reminded to join the Cherryhurst Civic Club Yahoo Group as an easy way to receive information about Cherryhurst Civic Club Meetings. Anyone who is a resident or has an interest in Cherryhurst is welcome to join--group membership is free.

To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cherryhurst/> and click on the “Join This Group!” button. Group membership is free.

Members receive the Newsletter electronically each month.

Newsletter Distribution Volunteers Sought

If you can assist with the distribution of the Cherryhurst Newsletter, please call Mark Johnson at 713-542-3868 or email at mtjtx@earthlink.net

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