

July 30, 2012

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **National Night Out Springfield to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods**

**7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012 , Meador Park**

- Live music by Delta Sol Revival
- Bring a canned good for FREE pool admission
- Crime and safety informational booths
- Tour police and fire vehicles
- Prescription Drug Take-back
- Games and Children's activities
- Inflatables

Springfield Police Chief Paul Williams is hoping to send a message to criminals: neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Williams suggested Springfield neighbors come together for the first citywide National Night Out, a local observance of a national public safety event taking place across the country on Aug. 7. This free event is a result of collaboration between Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Park Board and the City of Springfield and will bring together law enforcement, as well as agencies and organizations that promote health and safety.

The event doesn't replace the annual neighborhood-based event, billed as Neighborhood Night Out. Individual neighborhoods and homeowners associations are encouraged to hold their own event on Friday, Aug. 24 to will allow residents to get to know their neighbors.

National Night Out celebrates the culmination of year-long crime prevention activity in all Springfield neighborhoods: people working together in associations and other groups to prevent and address crime and other neighborhood problems. It also promotes healthy neighborhoods and encourages people to get out and get to know one another.

“It is an occasion to celebrate past successes, discuss current challenges or issues, and re-dedicate to collaborative efforts with neighbors, police, businesses and others to improve the quality of life in our city,” said Chief Williams.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over **37 million** people participated in National Night Out. The Springfield Police Department uses a variety of crime prevention strategies to increase ways that citizens can protect themselves, and their property.

**Community Policing** is a collaborative effort between the police department and the community they serve that identifies problems of crime and disorder, and involves all elements of the community, in the search for solutions to these problems. It is founded on close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members.

**Police Area Representative (PAR) Officers** use problem-oriented policing to produce long-term solutions to the problems of crime or decay in communities. Police, residents, and other agencies or organizations, work together to identify and find the causes for neighborhood crime problems, then develop responses to those problems. In most cases, the responses developed through problem-oriented policing are joint police-community actions, which also involve participation by a variety of other departments within the City of Springfield. By doing this, the PAR Officers are able to resolve long-standing neighborhood issues, thereby avoiding an escalation of those specific incidents.

Citizens can locate their PAR officers at the City's website.

**Crime Prevention** Crime Prevention Officers coordinate and help organize neighborhood watch groups and perform commercial and residential security surveys using established Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Crime Prevention Officers can also present programs on varied topics including robbery prevention, drugs, residential security, and personal safety. Crime prevention tips are also available on this Web site. If you're interested in starting a neighborhood watch group or need other information from the Crime Prevention Officers, contact them at 417-874-2113 / 417-874-2188 or by [e-mail](#).

**Neighborhood Watch** is a voluntary program organized by concerned citizens to reduce crime in their communities. Working with local law enforcement agencies, citizens can learn when and how to report suspicious activities, assist in property identification, conduct home security surveys, and implement home security measures and precautions.

**Community Partnership of the Ozarks** is a nonprofit agency that aims to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on our agency, please visit our website at [www.commpartnership.org](http://www.commpartnership.org).

The City of Springfield **Neighborhoods and Planning Office** also provides services and support to sustain and revitalize Springfield Neighborhoods.

Planners work to coordinate policies and provide services for Springfield's neighborhoods. Neighborhood plans and programs are developed with citizen involvement for review and adoption by City Council.

The Neighborhoods and Planning Office uses a variety of community planning and policy skills to take action toward these objectives. This office creates neighborhood plans, develops policy to address neighborhood issues, fosters neighborhood organization, serves as a liaison between citizen and city departments, and promotes neighborhood beautification.

## **Additional Resources for Neighbors:**

- [Getting Started with Neighborhood Watch](#)
- [Neighborhood Watch Training Session Attendance Form](#)
- [Neighborhood Watch Public Service Announcement](#)
- [Springfield Police Department Neighborhood Watch Brochure \(PDF\)](#)
- [USA on Watch - National Neighborhood Watch Program Manual \(PDF\)](#)
- [City of Springfield Neighborhood Toolbox Brochure \(PDF\)](#)