



### **The History of NATW & “National Night Out”**

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a nonprofit, 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 nationwide.

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 21st Annual National Night Out last August involved 34.2 million people in 10,325 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

National Night Out 2008 will culminate on August 5th. Close to 10,500 communities are expected to take part nationwide.

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. National Night Out is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes."*

There will be displays outside the gym and inside on all types of crime prevention topics. The event is free to all and will provide you with valuable information, entertainment, a chance to meet your neighbors and much more.

Door prizes will be given out in the last half hour of the event. You must be present to win door prizes.

There will be fun and games for families, children and all to enjoy as well as entertainment, refreshments and food.

Numerous law enforcement and other government agencies will be at NNO with inside displays and demonstrations.

Outside activities will take place, weather providing, and the gym will be air conditioned for your comfort.

Port Wentworth Leisure Services will help organize and make the event an enjoyable time for all.

***Please mark your calendar this year and come out to Port Wentworth Gym and grounds for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out Celebration. Join your neighbors and friends on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.***

Tell your neighbor, friend and family. Come out and help your city and YOUR Community, "Take a Bite Out of Crime."

(For more information, visit [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org))

and visit our website at [www.cityofportwentworth.com](http://www.cityofportwentworth.com)- click on City Government, then Community Watch.

Download the registration form and return this form by Friday- June 6<sup>th</sup> to reserve a table, booth or display.

Return Registration Forms to:

Lieutenant Alan Baker  
Port Wentworth Police Department  
#323 Cantyre Street,  
Port Wentworth, Georgia 31407  
(912) 964-4360 Ext 34  
(912) 966-7405- Fax  
Email Lt. Baker at – [abaker@cityofportwentworth.com](mailto:abaker@cityofportwentworth.com)