



Perris Press Release

Contact: Joe Vargo, Perris Public Information Officer

Phone: 951-956-2120

jvargo@cityofperris.org

Perris National Night Out: July 30

Police and firefighting demonstrations, crime-prevention tips and a visit from McGruff the crime dog are among the highlights Saturday when the Perris resident celebrate the community's "National Night Out" at City Hall.

Begun 28 years ago as a community crime-prevention effort, the National Night Out has grown to involve millions of Americans in hundreds of cities and small towns.

The purpose of the Night Out is 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.

The National Night Out in Perris takes place from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at City Hall, 101 North D Street.

In addition to Perris residents, the City's annual event will include participants from Canyon Lake and Menifee, which also are served by law officers based in Perris.

"It gives us a great opportunity to interact with the community," said Perris Police Chief James McElvain.

Police vehicles will be on display and members of the department's dive team will be on hand to answer questions about their duties. The department's canine unit also will provide a demonstration of their techniques. Fire department vehicles also will be on display.

Free hot dogs, hamburgers, soda and water will be provided. A dunk tank will be set up at City Hall where the public can attempt to sink volunteers willing to get all wet to support the community event. McElvain took a few spills last year and said it is "very possible" he will be back in the wet seat again on Saturday.

Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Joanne Evans, a former firefighter, said the National Night Out if a great way for the community to learn about the services its police and public service workers provide to the City. This year, the event takes on even more significance, because it is one of a series of public celebrations honoring Perris' Centennial.

"It's a great way to meet your neighbors and take part in a great community event," Evans said. "It will really be great."

Community partnerships with Target and Miller-Jones Mortuary and Crematory are helping make Saturday's event possible.