



## HISTORIC BACKGROUND



### West Valley City National Night Out Program

West Valley City Communications Department, Neighborhood Services Office

3600 S Constitution Boulevard, Suite 230 | West Valley City, Utah 84119

[neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov)

[www.wvc-ut.gov/nno](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/nno)



## What is National Night Out?

### It is America's Night Out Against crime!

The 37th Annual National Night Out (NNO), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020.

In West Valley City, neighborhood and community events take place ALL August under the theme of "Neighborhood Nights." In August 2019, over 50 neighborhood & community events were held around the city.

### 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.

Along with the traditional display of outdoor lights and front porch vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods 'celebrate' NNO with a variety of events and activities such as:

- Block parties
- Cookouts
- Visits from local police and sheriff departments
- Parades
- Exhibits
- Flashlight walks
- Contests
- Youth programs

NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits the community derives from NNO most certainly extends well beyond the one night.



## A Brief History of NATW

National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of various crime prevention programs including neighborhood watch groups, law enforcement agencies, state and regional crime prevention associations, businesses, civic groups, and individuals, devoted to safer communities. The nations premiere crime prevention network works with law enforcement officials and civilian leaders to keep crime watch volunteers informed, interested, involved and motivated. Since 1981, NATW continues to serve thousands of members across the nation.

The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime", in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NATW's National Night Out program culminates annually, on the first Tuesday of August (In Texas, the first Tuesday of October).

NATW's Executive Director, Matt Peskin introduced National Night Out in 1984. The first National Night Out took place on Tuesday, August 7th 1984. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states.

The seed had been planted.

National Night Out now involves over 38 million people and 16,000 communities from all fifty states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

The traditional "lights on" campaign and symbolic front porch vigils turned into a celebration across America with various events and activities including, but not limited to, block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from emergency personnel, rallies and marches, exhibits, youth events, safety demonstrations and seminars, in effort to heighten awareness and enhance community relations.

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 represents the kind of spirit, energy and determination to help make neighborhoods a safer place year round. The night celebrates safety and crime prevention successes and works to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."



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