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Contact: Harrisonburg Police Department  
**Corporal Chris Monahan**  
**540-435-7028**  
www.harrisonburgva.gov/police

## Harrisonburg Police Encourages Community Involvement in National Night Out

Harrisonburg, VA – The Harrisonburg Police Department invites neighborhoods in the City of Harrisonburg to participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Night Out – America’s Night Out Against Crime - being held on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. It is anticipated that over 16,500 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases around the world will participate in this national event. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug-prevention awareness, generate participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and send a strong message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and prepared to fight back. “National Night Out showcases the vital importance of a police-community partnership,” said Harrisonburg Police Chief Stephen Monticelli, “We all need citizen involvement for a safer Harrisonburg.”

For 2015, this event is being sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, ADT, Nextdoor.com, Fun Flicks, and co-sponsored locally by Target, Chick-fil-A, and the Harrisonburg Police Department. From 5 to 9 p.m., on Tuesday, August 4, 2015, residents in neighborhoods throughout Harrisonburg are asked to spend the evening outside with their neighbors and with the Police. While the traditional “lights on” and front porch vigils remain a part of National Night Out, activities have expanded to include events such as block parties, cookouts, youth activities, and visits from Police and Fire Department personnel, elected officials and community leaders.

There will be a National Night Out Caravan with scheduled stops in Harris Gardens, North East Neighborhood, University Place, Purcell Park, and Mosby Heights. While there may not be a scheduled stop in your area, everyone is welcome to host their own event or join the Court Square Kickoff at 5 p.m. If you are hosting an event, please let us know about it by contacting your geographic district officers at <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/geographical-policing>.

HPD is committed to making National Night Out a time for our community to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity.