

## NEWS RELEASE

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## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT COMMUNITY AWARDS

SUFFOLK, Virginia (August 31, 2010) An awards and appreciation ceremony was held last night in Suffolk City Council Chambers for communities, churches and civic leagues who participated in this year's National Night Out festivities. Held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, National Night Out 2010 will go down in the record books in Suffolk as being the largest, most attended "going away party for crime" in our city's history. Thousands of people gathered at block parties, cookouts, ice cream socials and neighborhood parades across Suffolk's 430 square miles that evening in a show of solidarity with public safety officials.

Awards were presented by Police Chief Thomas Bennett and City Manager Selena Cuffee-Glenn to the following communities/groups in the categories as listed:

### **Honorable Mention – Downtown Business Association/Fairgrounds**

**Promotion Committee:** First year participating in National Night Out. Several downtown businesses worked together to host a cookout and community event attended by over 250 guests.

### **First Place Business - Suffolk News-Herald:**

This local newspaper has been an invaluable partner in getting the message about National Night Out to the citizens of Suffolk, and have provided prizes of free annual subscriptions at several National Night Out community events, in addition to sponsoring a safety-themed coloring contest for Suffolk's youth, where they awarded a savings bond. Our hometown paper is truly that – a paper which takes to heart the importance of providing their readers with up-to-date information impacting them and their community.

**Rookie of the Year - The Greater Oakland/Chuckatuck Civic League:** This group put on an amazing first-time effort. In fact, their civic league has only been active for 2 years. A personal favorite of the judges, the food was fantastic, and several hundred guests attended the 4 hour event at the Chuckatuck Volunteer Fire Station. They're already making plans for next year!

### **Best Community**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Burbage Grant Neighborhood Watch:** In just their second year participating in National Night Out, they've proven that they really know how to party in northern Suffolk! They got the word out to their neighbors via e-mail, flyers and newsletters to 1400 homes, and judges rated their event as "excellent" in attendance by young and old alike. This party grows every year!

### **Best Community**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Applewood Farms Homeowner's Association:** A hands down favorite of the judges, who raved about the anti-crime art contest the association had for the youth in their community. They said the live band "rocked", and that attendance was excellent. The association even has a Facebook account, and used this form of social media, in addition to flyers delivered to all residents, to get the word out about their National Night Out party.

### **Best Combined Community**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Suffolk Redevelopment & Housing Authority:** This event brought together literally hundreds of residents from the Hoffler, Cypress Manor, Parker Riddick, Colander Bishop Meadows and Chorey Park communities at one centralized location to give crime a going away party! They had lots of great food and entertainment, including a special singing performance by Miss Virginia, a petting zoo, band, dancers, and a number of activities for children.

## **Best Combined Community**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Bethlehem Ruritan Club/Bethlehem Community:** Combining over 15 neighborhoods, this was the hottest party in town! Organizers worked for a year putting the event together, and boy, did it show! With a guest count totaling approximately 1,000 over the course of the event, attendees were treated to lots of hometown entertainment from several local bands, in addition to the crowd favorite “Peanut City Cloggers”. With a large number of sponsors, displays and booths from local businesses, and helpful safety and crime prevention materials, it’s evident that once again, Bethlehem threw out all the stops and provided an event worthy of a 1<sup>st</sup> place award!

The city’s National Night Out 2010 Committee is in the process of preparing a submission video and scrapbook highlighting citywide events over the past year for submission to the National Association of Town Watch for award consideration in our population category, *and hope to bring back a first in the Nation trophy for Suffolk for the third straight year.*

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