

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: July 20, 2005

Michigan City Neighborhoods Against Crime *A celebration of anti-crime partnerships in our community*

Michigan City, IN (July 20, 2005) – Michigan City will participate in National Night Out, a nation-wide program which brings neighborhood awareness to crime and drug prevention efforts, with a kickoff event (Michigan City Neighborhoods Against Crime) at 7 p.m., Monday, August 1, 2005, at Meer Gym, Elston Junior High School.

Mayor Chuck Oberlie said, “Our community has seen annual reductions in the level of crime for several consecutive years. We cannot rest on our laurels, though, and must remain focused on crime prevention. Strengthening our neighborhood spirits and bolstering the partnership between police officers and community members go a long way toward preventing and reducing crime. Michigan City Neighborhoods Against Crime sends a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.”

Neighborhood groups and families are invited to this first annual event where they will receive DNA kits for their children from the Michigan City Police Department and information on family preparedness for all types of emergencies from the Michigan City Emergency Management Agency. The Michigan City Senior Center will provide information on how senior citizens can remain safe, and the Michigan City Fire Department will provide information on fire safety as well as an opportunity to experience the EDITH House. NIPSCO, a sponsor of Michigan City Neighborhoods Against Crime, will be on hand with information on how outside lighting deters crime. A drawing will be held for a \$50 American Express Card donated by JK Enterprises.

Children, adults and seniors are invited to compete in an essay contest for a unique prize: lunch at City Hall with Mayor Chuck Oberlie and Michigan City Police Chief Ben Neitzel. There will be three essay writers chosen at random from all entries: one winner age 5-15, one winner age 16-64, and one winner age 65 and over. The essay topic is: What makes your neighborhood, home.

school or city safe? Entries must be 500 words or less. All essays must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2005. Essays may be mailed to Janet Kostielney, Mayor's Office, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360 or emailed to jkostielney@emichigancity.com. Winners will be announced at the Labor Dayz Festival and will be notified by phone or email. Selected essays may be posted on the city website, www.emichigancity.com.

Neighborhoods are encouraged to plan flashlight walks through their neighborhoods on Tuesday night, August 2, 2005 – National Night Out. Other ideas for neighborhood celebrations of crime prevention include cookouts or picnics in the neighborhood, keeping all the outdoor lights on in the neighborhood the evening of August 2nd, neighborhood parades (including lighted evening parades), and youth programs.

For more information on Michigan City Neighborhoods Against Crime or the essay contest, contact Jan Kostielney at 219/229-4309 or via email at jkostielney@emichigancity.com.

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