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Have you signed up for the Oct. 1 National Night Out? Neighborhood parties are 6 p.m.-9 p.m. citywide. This year is the 30th anniversary for National Night Out.

Crime prevention starts in your own backyard so organize your neighbors for a neighborhood cookout. Community Resource Officers Jack Goleman and David Wardlaw, the police command staff, fire department and fire marshal's office, Target, and City representatives will visit as many neighborhoods as they can.

"This is a great time for neighbors to get to know each other better, talk about issues they may be having in the neighborhood, and to make a plan on how they can make a difference not only in their neighborhood but in their community," Goleman said. "The key to success is to get involved and become educated about what role you play in making a safe neighborhood and community."

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support and participation in anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and to let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced by the association in 1984. The program was the brainchild of NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a non-profit, crime prevention organization which works in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Since 1981, NATW has been dedicated to the development, growth and maintenance of organized crime and drug prevention programs nationwide, including more than 6,500 crime, drug and violence prevention organizations.

The Burleson Police Department has been involved with National Night Out for many years. In 2009, Burleson was one of nine cities in the population category of 15,000-49,999 in Texas to win for its outstanding participation in the national event. Approximately 2,000 residents in Burleson participated in 2010 and again in 2011 and 2012.

To get involved, email Officers Jack Goleman (jgoleman@burlesontx.com) or call 817-426-9895) or David Wardlaw (dwardlaw@burlesontx.com) or call 817-426-9958). If you want your neighborhood on the list for a possible Oct. 1 visit from officers, contact them no later than Sept. 24.