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Media Release

Colonial Heights Celebrate Safe Communities Night

The Colonial Heights Police Department is introducing Celebrate Safe Communities Night in 2009 at the request of the community. Colonial Heights historically celebrated National Night Out. In fact, Colonial Heights received the national award for localities our size from the National Association of Town Watch, sponsor of National Night Out. An early August outdoor event has been difficult for our large senior population and the department was asked to consider changing the event to a cooler time of the year. Because National Night Out is only sanctioned for August, the department created Celebrate Safe Communities Night.

Celebrate Safe Communities Night, just like National Night Out, is an opportunity for residents to meet and greet their neighbors while taking a stand against crime in their neighborhoods. During the evening, police officers and administrators, government leaders, and elected officials visit events to discuss neighborhood concerns and meet residents. The choice to hold the citywide event in October was an easy one for the department. The cooler temperatures, combined with October's designation as Crime Prevention Month, were a natural fit for Celebrate Safe Communities Night. Even in its first year, the community has embraced the change and event numbers are as strong as ever.

This year, more than 40 events are being held throughout Colonial Heights. Events range from simple block events serving lemonade and cookies to BBQ events with entertainment and games. Each year, some events include clowns and face painting, live music, disc jockeys, antique fire truck rides, children's games, snow cones and ice cream. One subdivision event averages 200 participants annually.

Celebrate Safe Communities Night will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM. Event hosts are notifying their neighbors by delivering flyers. The media is welcomed to participate in the event by visiting events or by riding along with a police officer or administrator on October 6th.