

# National Night Out

## City of Hughson



### **Hughson Support for National Night Out Impressive and Growing**

By Raul L. Mendez, Hughson City Manager

The introduction of National Night Out (NNO), "America's Night Out Against Crime," in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. National Night Out culminates annually, on the first Tuesday of August ([www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org)).

In the City of Hughson, August 6, 2013 saw a remarkable increase in participation by residents with twice as many registered events from the prior year. The Hughson Family Resource Center (Community Capacity Building) partnered with the City of Hughson, Hughson Police Services, Hughson Fire Protection District, local neighborhood watch groups, community partners and residents to coordinate efforts and to share information about organizing these annual neighborhood celebrations. The Hughson Family Resource Center provided each registered host with the popular NNO Party Kit that included bottled water, party supplies and fun items for the kids.

Mayor Matt Beekman, Councilmember George Carr, Councilmember Harold "Bud" Hill along with City, Police, and Fire staff organized a caravan of public safety vehicles that made its way around town to visit all 10 registered events located throughout the city. Sirens and lights announced their arrival at the neighborhood parties and reminded residents of the nationwide event. Local events involved bbqs, potlucks, ice cream sundaes, root beer floats, activities for the kids, good conversation and plenty of smiles.

Hughson Police Chief Darin Gharat, who arrived later in the evening after attending similar events in the City of Waterford, stated that "National Night Out celebrations provide a wonderful opportunity for neighbors to meet their neighbors and for City officials to listen to the public safety needs of the community."

As the festivities began to wind down, there was talk of next year and expanding efforts to include more neighborhoods and even more residents. The city's small town characteristics make it very easy to arrange such events rather easily as evident by those that participated this year for the first time with huge success. Those residents that opened up their homes to host this year's events should be commended.

I invite you to visit the City website ([www.hughson.org](http://www.hughson.org)) periodically to learn more about this year's National Night Out event, current neighborhood watch areas and other events programmed in the year that support efforts to ensure that Hughson remains a safe community. If you have any ideas for improving the National Night Out event for next year, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at City Hall (883-4054) or via email ([rmendez@hughson.org](mailto:rmendez@hughson.org)).

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