



**July 20, 2010**

**Media contacts:** Susan M. Walsh, 941-861-5504; cell 941-650-4791;  
[swalsh@scgov.net](mailto:swalsh@scgov.net)

Jan Thornburg, 941-954-2613; 941-650-9693 (cell);  
[jan\\_thornburg@sarasotagov.com](mailto:jan_thornburg@sarasotagov.com)

**Project contacts:** Teresa Mast, 941-861-5415; [tmast@scgov.net](mailto:tmast@scgov.net)  
Ronda Hayes, 941-954-2601; [Ronda.Hayes@sarasotagov.com](mailto:Ronda.Hayes@sarasotagov.com)

## **Fight crime at National Night Out 2010 event on Aug. 3**

Neighborhoods throughout Sarasota County will join thousands of communities nationwide for National Night Out 2010, the 27th annual crime and drug prevention event. The local celebration hosted by Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota will be held from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 3, in Payne Park, 2110 Adams Lane, Sarasota.

The family event, including games and activities for children, is free and open to the public. Last year's event drew more than 2,000 participants.

The event will feature free live music, food, bicycle helmets and raffle drawings. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the first two floors of the new Sarasota Police Department headquarters, located adjacent to Payne Park.

Representatives of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office will be on hand with a helicopter and explain how it is used in law enforcement. Horses from the mounted patrol will be there, as well as dogs from the K-9 unit.

Sheriff's Office representatives will accept unwanted pharmaceuticals as part of its program, Operation Medicine Cabinet.

The bloodmobile will be on-site, and the Sarasota County Humane Society will be accepting donations of pet food and supplies.

Free parking is available at the county parking garage on Ringling Boulevard, with entry from School Avenue.

Sarasota has received national recognition the past two years for outstanding participation at National Night Out, which is co-sponsored by Sarasota County, the City of Sarasota, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and the City of Sarasota Police Department.

The national event organizer is the nonprofit National Association of Town Watch (NATW), with events in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S.

territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. More than 36 million people participated in National Night Out 2009.

The event is designed to:

- heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts;
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention and neighborhood camaraderie,” said NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. “While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year.”

For more information, contact:

- Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000
- Sarasota County website at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)
- National Night Out website at [www.nationalnightout.org/nno](http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno).

-end-