



# Kentwood Police Department

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Kentwood to Celebrate National Night Out with Multiple Events**

Kentwood, Michigan – The Kentwood Police Department and City leadership will be out in full force on Tuesday, August 1, for the annual National Night Out. Block parties and other neighborhood events are planned throughout the day.

City leaders, police officers and firefighters plan to fan out to 13 community gatherings, as well as to Woodland Mall, to show their support for the annual community-building event. The National Night Out program started in the 1980s to promote safer, better neighborhoods in communities and highlight the alliance between citizens and law enforcement to achieve that goal.

Events are held nationwide, mostly on the first Tuesday in August. In Kentwood, most events will occur from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

“For the past 50 years, Kentwood has shown over and over again that we’re really about helping each other through community involvement,” Mayor Stephen Kepley said. “City leadership is looking forward to continuing our community relationship with Kentwood residents through block parties, cookouts and other events on August 1st.”

“Fostering a better community starts with open communication. We’re excited that National Night Out provides that open communication we find so essential.”

The Kentwood Police Department is partnering with Woodland Mall and Celebration! Cinema for a daytime event from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the outdoor courtyard between Celebration! Cinema and Barnes & Noble and also inside the mall near the North Face store. Residents can come to meet with Kentwood police and firefighters and their vehicles, enjoy prizes, games, and free popcorn. Even McGruff the Crime Dog will be making an appearance.

Other community events will include parties with appearances from McGruff and Kentwood leadership. Christ Community Church at 2400 Forest Hill Ave SE holds their party from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and will include games and a slip ‘n’ slide. South United Methodist Church will be hosting a party in the church parking lot at 4500 Division Ave SW near Ridgewood Street SE from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

In addition, Consumers Energy is hosting a gathering attended by community leaders and law enforcement across the area from 5:30 AM to 9:00 AM at its service center, 4000 Clay Ave. SW.

“Our officers really look forward to National Night Out,” said Police Chief Thomas Hillen. “It really energizes our officers and residents because of the open communication. We enjoy listening to citizens and issues important to them. The day allows us to get to the root of the community to build those open lines of communication that are vital to keeping our City safe.”

For more information about National Night Out events in Kentwood, contact Sergeant James Connell, Supervisor of the Kentwood Police Department’s Community Services Bureau, at (616) 656-6561.

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