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More than half a dozen apartment communities, an equal number of neighborhoods, and Target are on board to host parties for National Night Out 2013 on Tuesday, Oct. 1. New community partner 7-11 and H-E-B are also signed on to come together, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., to raise awareness about organizing and fighting back against crime.

Apartment communities that have committed to fighting back include Brentwood Apartments, Encore, Dolce Living, Crestmoor Park South, The Fountains, Shenandoah Townhomes, and Alsbury Villas. Neighborhoods include Castle Hills, Wakefield, Lorna Street, Meadow Crest Park, Geddes Court, and Smith Street.

“The police department has a very good relationship with the staffs at the apartment communities,” Community Resource Officer Jack Goleman said. “Apartments are close knit communities, and this kind of event benefits both the staff and the residents.”

Goleman and Community Resource Officer David Wardlaw as well as the police department’s command staff, bicycle officers, fire department, fire marshal’s office, neighborhood services and City leaders are slated to visit as many National Night Out get-togethers as possible in three hours. The deadline to sign up to request a visit from the City is Tuesday, Sept. 24.

Target is a national sponsor of the National Night Out 2013. The store is hosting a party in the parking lot at 200 N.W. John Jones Dr. Vendors from the surrounding businesses in the South Towne Crossing retail center will set up booths. Attendees can enjoy free hot dogs, a bounce house and games for the children. Other businesses who have signed on for the Target event include Anytime Fitness, Smoothie King, Chick-fil-A, and Johnson County Child Protective Services.

7-11, which just opened three stores (100 N Burleson Blvd., 898 NE Alsbury Blvd., and 980 N. John Jones Dr.) inside Burleson’s city limits, is a local National Night Out sponsor. The convenience store chain is donating coupons and more to the cause and will be visiting some of the neighborhoods on Oct. 1. H-E-B Buddy will also be visiting some of the National Night Out sites in Burleson.

Crime prevention starts in your own backyard so organize your neighbors for a neighborhood cookout. 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 National Association of Town Watch (NATW) in 1984. The program was the brainchild of NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin. 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 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). For more information about Target's National Night Out 2013 party, call Rob Horne at Target at 817-302-0058.