



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Learn Strategies for Teen Safety at National Night Out

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, July 30, 2009 – Island residents will have the chance to dunk a police officer, learn personal safety strategies for teens, and meet local Police, Fire, K9, Bomb Squad and Marine Safety officers at Bainbridge Island’s first annual National Night Out for Safety next Tuesday.

“National Night Out is designed to involve local citizens in their community’s safety,” said Lt. Denise Giuntoli. “It gives residents a chance to get to know their public safety officers, learn how to prevent crime and drug use, strengthen their neighborhood safety nets, and send a message that the community is unified to fight crime.”

The event, which will take place at Town Square behind City Hall from 6 – 9 pm on Tuesday, August 4, will feature free hot dogs and Mora Ice Cream, live music, informational booths and family activities.

“This will be a lot of fun, but the event will also have a serious side,” Lt. Giuntoli said. Presenters include Larry Kaminer, a regionally recognized expert on personal safety and crime avoidance. “We know teen safety is a topic of concern for island parents, so we were especially pleased when Larry agreed to present,” Lt. Giuntoli said. Kaminer’s company, Personal Safety Group, conducts crime avoidance trainings for schools, government agencies and corporations including Overlake Hospital and Microsoft. His presentations emphasize situational awareness, an approach that he describes as “being aware of your surroundings and knowing who or what could be of help if something were to happen.”

An additional presentation by West Sound Wildlife Shelter staff will address “Coexisting Safely with Wildlife.” Audience members will have the opportunity to meet the shelter’s docent owl, Orien.

Booths will feature crime prevention tips for businesses provided by Sears and Associates and the Chamber of Commerce; emergency preparedness information from the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management; family safety strategies from the Kitsap County Health District and American Red Cross, and water safety information from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Activities will include a “Softball Speed Pitch,” with police officers using speed guns to detect the speed of a softball throw; the opportunity to dunk Municipal Court Judge Kate Carruthers and Bainbridge Island Police Lt. Chris Jensen, sidewalk chalk art with Oil and Water, and a bubble fest hosted by the Bainbridge Island Boy’s and Girl’s Club and Bainbridge Island Child Centers.

Music will be provided by Biggy Shorty and the Hometown Band. Residents who sign up for the island's emergency preparedness network will be entered in drawings for gift certificates to Bainbridge Cinemas, Town & Country and Ace Hardware.

Sponsors are Ace Hardware, Bainbridge Cinemas, Blackbird Bakery, Costco, McDonald's, Mora Ice Cream, My Kid's Cookies, Oil & Water, Paper Products, Pepsi, Pro-Build, Rite Aid, Safeway, Sears & Associates, Soiree Catering, Town & Country and Target.

For more information about the event, contact Cathie Currie, Communications Coordinator, City of Bainbridge Island, (206)780-8632 or ccurrie@ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us. For more information about the Personal Safety Group and their programs, visit www.personalsafetygroup.com.

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