

notes

G.A.I.N. highlights crime-fighting efforts

Successful community efforts to prevent crime will be in the spotlight next month as Phoenix neighborhoods join others from across the state in hosting G.A.I.N. block parties and other activities.

Block Watch organizations, apartment and condominium complexes, neighborhood



Popular police mascot McGruff draws a crowd at a neighborhood G.A.I.N. activity.

groups, businesses and many others are expected to take part in the statewide event Saturday, Oct. 18.

G.A.I.N. – Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods – is the state’s celebration of National Night Out, which is held throughout the country every August. Because of the summer heat, the state opted out of the event and, instead, developed G.A.I.N. and hosts it during a cooler time of the year.

The day is set aside to celebrate the successes of crime prevention through community involvement. Police use the event to show appreciation for those in the



Members of the Police Department’s mounted-horse unit join in a G.A.I.N. event.

community who support their efforts in the daily fight against crime.

If you haven’t planned your neighborhood events yet, there’s still time.

To learn more about G.A.I.N. and how you or your organization can participate, call 602-495-0597, send e-mail to Police Officer Deb Iodice at deborah.iodice@phoenix.gov or visit cityofphoenix.org/police/gain1.html

Crime down sharply

Violent and property crimes in Phoenix saw their largest decline in more than 10 years during the first half of 2008.

Police say that reports of violent crimes in the city were down 6.4 percent from the January to June period in 2007, while reports of property crime fell by 8.4 percent during the same six-month period.

They were the largest decreases recorded during a six-month reporting period in the past decade.

When the city’s population is taken into account, the numbers represent a decline of 8.5 percent in violent crimes and 10.4 percent in property crimes per 100,000 residents.

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- Foreclosure help on Web

“It’s great to hear the numbers that this crime went down or that crime went down, but what it really means to the community is that there are fewer victims out there on the streets,” noted Public Safety Manager Jack F. Harris.

(continued on inside flap)