



City Of Burnsville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MINNESOTA NIGHT TO UNITE BRINGS NEIGHBORS TOGETHER

Night to Unite is Tuesday, Aug. 2

When Burnsville resident Melissa Schaffer first moved into her home in 2012, she was excited to get an invite to a *Night to Unite* party soon after.

“It was a perfect opportunity to meet our new neighbors,” said Schaffer.

However, a year later – the original party organizer had moved away, and no invite came. After one partyless year, Schaffer decided to take organization of her neighborhood’s *Night to Unite* get-together into her own hands.

“It’s important to connect with your neighbors,” said Schaffer. “It seems that unless you have a dog or a child, you don’t have a good opportunity to meet your neighbors. You only see some of them going in and out of their garage.”

For the past several years, Schaffer – along with numerous other Burnsville residents – have been locking their doors, turning on their exterior lights and spending the evening outside with neighbors during Minnesota *Night to Unite*.

Night to Unite gives neighbors the opportunity to get together; get to know one another; heighten awareness of crime, drug and violence prevention; and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships. It can also result in a number of positive community impacts.

“We do small group dinners with some of the neighbors now,” said Schaffer – who says she has a much stronger bond with those in her neighborhood. “We watch each other’s houses when one is away. Knowing your neighbors really helps prevent crime.”

Parties that register with the City will receive handouts and information to give to participants. They may also request a visit from a Burnsville Police, Fire, City staff member or elected official.

(more)

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While many *Night to Unite* parties provide refreshments, a potluck or games/activities – neighborhoods are encouraged to plan an event that will be most fun and effective for them.

“We usually have a few Dollar Store items for the kids, bubbles, freeze pops, balls, etc.,” said Schaffer. “Just make a flyer, distribute it to your neighbors, and ask everyone to bring a chair and a dish to share!”

What: Minnesota Night to Unite
Who: All Burnsville Neighborhoods
When: Tuesday, Aug. 2 | 5:30-9 p.m.
Cost: Registering a party is FREE

Registration deadline for parties is Monday, July 25 and can be done online at www.burnsville.org/NTU or by calling 952-895-4575.

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