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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 23, 2008**

MEDIA CONTACT: Tana Steers at 726-3731

**~ Media Advisory ~**

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT KICKOFF PARTY**

***July 27 event is free to the public***

**What: The National Night Out Kick-off Party**

Sponsored by the Springfield Neighborhood Watch, Willamalane and the Springfield Police Dept.

**When: Sunday, July 27 from 4-7pm**

**Where: Island Park, 200 W. B St. in Springfield**

**Cost: Free**

**More Info: Tana Steers Community Service Officer, Springfield Police Department at 726-3731**

**Background:**

In 2003 Oregon had 473 reported Meth Labs. In 2007 there were a total of 18 meth labs reported in the State of Oregon – thanks to aggressive drug prevention Strategies. (stats attached) Citizens can learn how to help prevent illegal drug activity and many other crimes by getting involved in National Night Out!

National Night Out promotes police and community partnerships, crime and drug prevention awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. The kickoff is designed to encourage people to celebrate National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 5, in their own neighborhoods by organizing a neighborhood get together or by at least turning on porch lights, going outside and meeting neighbors. Police Chief Jerry Smith and McGruff the Crime dog will be available to visit neighborhoods.

The kickoff will begin with introductory remarks by Springfield Police Chief, Jerry Smith. The “Sean Wilson Good Neighbor Award” will be presented to a local citizen. Activities will include free games for children, public safety displays, police and fire vehicles, a police K-9 demonstration, and drug and crime prevention information. A silent

Auction will be held in conjunction with the event to benefit Springfield Neighborhood Watch. The funds raise will allow neighborhood Watch to operate and provide crime prevention programs and strategies. Hotdogs and sodas will be sold at a nominal cost with proceeds going to Springfield Neighborhood Watch.

Children (and families) are encouraged to visit each of the community/Info booths. After visiting all of the community/Info booths the children receive a packet which includes 10 carnival tickets, a coupon for a free hot dog meal (at the event) and a free Splash, Lively Park Swim Center Family swim pass. (first 300)

"National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in the fight for a safer nation," said Tana Steers, a Community Service Officer and one of the event's coordinators. "The benefits our community will derive from this activity will most certainly extend well beyond the kickoff and the Aug. 5 neighborhood events."

