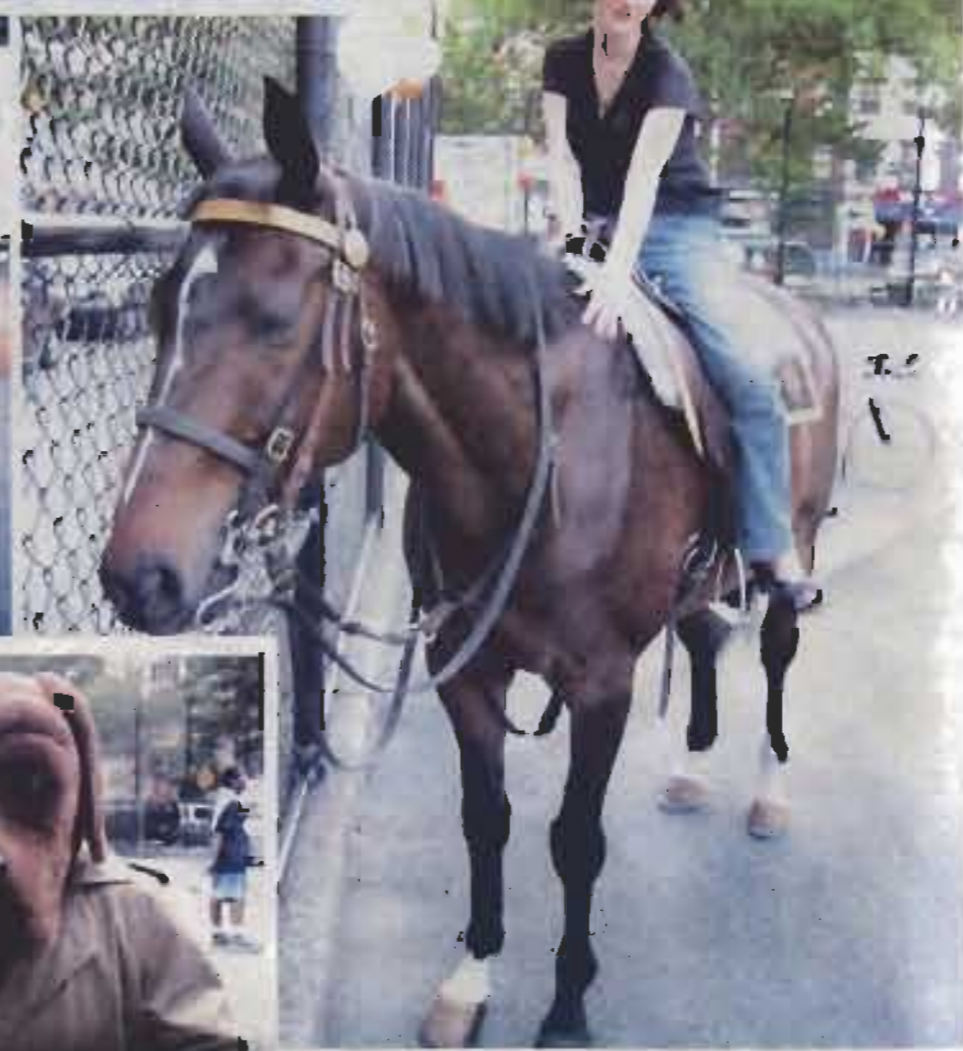


National Night Out Against Crime



BY MACIEJ WRÓBLEWSKI
 Hundreds of residents and dozens of community organizations turned out on Tuesday evening to participate in the 21st annual National Night Out Against Crime, organized by the Friends of the 13th Precinct at the Junior High School 104 playground on 2nd Avenue between 20th and 21st Streets.

Over the years, America's National Night Out, which takes place each August on the first Tuesday of the month, has been extraordinarily successful in promoting involvement in anti-crime and drug prevention activities, strengthening police-community relations, and encouraging neighborhood unity. This year was not different.

Aided by warm weather and free gifts, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. the event welcomed visitors who learned about crime prevention and fire safety from the NYPD's Community Affairs and Crime Prevention units, the always-popular Emergency Services Unit, Peter Cooper Village/Stuyvesant Town Security Dept., and the Baruch College security team. On display were everyday tools used by New York's finest to combat crime. The highlight of the evening was NYPD's mounted police unit, with the star of the show being Santaggio, a friendly, 1100-pound stallion.

The organizing committee was composed of P.O. Scott Kimmins, P.O. Maureen McTigue, P.O. Mike Hnatko and P.O. Joe Abbruzzese of the 13th Precinct Crime Prevention and Community Affairs Unit, Jo-Ann Polise, participant coordinator and treasurer, and Arlene S. Harrison, president of the Gramercy Park Block Association.

Many exhibitions, including Beth Israel Medical Center-Karpas Health Information Center, Cabrini Medical Center, Bellevue Hospital, Hospital for Joint Diseases, and the neighborhood chiropractor, Dr. Alice Behr, promoted good health through informational brochures, invitations to free screenings, and shining EMT trucks.

The importance of community involvement and neighborhood unity was advocated over the course of the evening by the 13th Precinct Community Council, the Gramercy Park Block Association, Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Gramercy Neighborhood Associates, the Tilden Democratic Club, Union Square Partnership, the Manhattan chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), RCN Telecommunications, Con Edison, M&T Bank, Metro Bank, and the Tennis Channel, and our own Town & Village Newspaper.

Contributions to the 2004 National Night Out Against Crime were made by the 23rd Street Association, Association for a Better New York, Dependable Printing, District Attorney's Office, Gramercy Park Block Association, Housing & Services/Kenmore Hall, John Bringmann, RCN Telecommunications, Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village Association, Tilden Democratic Club, Union Square Partnership, and Town & Village Newspaper.

For information about participating in next year's National Night Out Against Crime please call Jo-Ann Polise at (212) 370-5986.

