

# National Night Out Against Crime

**By Sabina Mollot**

Even temperatures that soared to three digit numbers and a humidity level that made the Big Apple feel more like a big sauna weren't enough to keep community residents away from the 23rd annual National Night Out Against Crime on Tuesday evening.

National Night Out, an event held in every city in the United States and Canada each year in August is geared towards promoting crime prevention and relations between communities and their representing precincts. It's also about having fun and enjoying the amenities that one's neighborhood has to offer.

At NNA celebrations throughout the city, the NYPD's Crime Prevention Unit taught New Yorkers how to protect their homes, businesses and even their own identities against theft. There were also demonstrations by some of NYPD's elite units, including NYPD's Bomb Squad, Mounted Unit, K-9 Unit, Recruitment, and Emergency Services Unit.

On Second Avenue, the Friends of the 13th Precinct organized its own National Night Out at the playground for M.S. 104, a fair that featured not only local police officers and other emergency personnel but also various civic groups and community-minded businesses.

Some of the exhibitors at this year's NNO included Emergency Service Squad 1, The Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club, the Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association, the security team at Baruch College, the Karpas Health Information Center, North Folk Bank, Doral Bank, M&T Bank, 7-Eleven and the Stuyvesant Cove Park Association, among

others.

Guests at the event were treated to complimentary steak, chicken and pasta dinners, provided by Outback Steakhouse and Olive Garden restaurants. Both eateries also provided much needed drinks.

For the many children in attendance, entertainment was provided by a balloon artist, a caricaturist, a face painter, a clown and an inflatable castle.

Elected officials who made an appearance included Borough President Scott Stringer, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Assemblywoman Sylvia Friedman and Council Member Dan Garodnick. Assembly candidate Frank Scala, also the president of the 13th Precinct Community Council, attended as well and presented a proclamation from Mayor Bloomberg to FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta, who read it aloud to guests.

"I think it's splendid that you all came out despite the heat," said Scopetta, as he first addressed the crowd.

In the proclamation, Hizonner called NNA events "a celebration of a crucial collaboration between police and individuals who take it upon themselves to promote crime prevention and community awareness."

Event organizers included the 13th Precinct's Police Officers Mike Hnatko, Ray Dorian, John Brown and Maureen McTigue and Inspector Michael McEnroy and community leaders Arlene Harrison, Frank Scala and the 13th Precinct Community Council and Jo-Ann Polise.

*Photos by Sabina Mollot*



Binxxs the clown makes balloon animals for guests, courtesy of Doral Bank.



Loonie Toonie mid-magic performance



Police Officer Mike Hnatko, Jo-Ann Polise, Emmanuel Hnatko, Congress Member Carolyn Maloney and Pat Sallin



Detectives Greg Welsh and John Kenn of Emergency Service Squad 1 with Gramercy Park Block Association President Arlene Harrison



Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association President Al Doyle and Waterside Tenants Association President Melvin Dennis



The Scupp family: Isabella, 3, Jacob, 7, and Emma, 6, partake in the festivities.



Chris Eldridge, manager at Outback Steakhouse and Chris Dolan, manager at the Olive Garden



Baruch College's director of security, John Siotkas, Sergeant Roseanne Pilgrim and Corporal Mario Diaz



Laurie the artist draws a caricature before performing a drawing performance for kids.



Peter Cooper resident Truly Johnson sports a new pair of wings.



Kids play on one of the inflatable rides.



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta reads a proclamation from Mayor Bloomberg held by Frank Scala, president of the 13th Precinct Community Council.



Face painter Gina O'Hara gives Peter Stuyvesant Little Leaguer Richard Banach, 8, a baseball "tattoo."



Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer