

## Activities mark National Night Out

**By Chris Sykes Staff Writer, Orange Transcript**

Once again, the city of Orange has scheduled a full calendar of events in support of the annual National Night Out observance.

On Monday, Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr. announced the city will host a series of events which focuses on the 26th annual national program.

While many municipalities will conduct events only on Tuesday, Orange extends its initiative to a multitude of activities including a caravan, three soft ball games and a family fun day. These activities are done in conjunction with city departments and crime watch groups.

Because Hawkins is a part-time mayor, he has to maintain a 'day job.' He is a member of the West Orange Police Department which, he said, gives him more than a passing knowledge of crime-fighting.

Hawkins said he has taken this intimate knowledge of maintaining law and order and, by working with Police Director John Rappaport and the rest of the Orange Police Department, they have crafted Orange's National Night Out observance.

"We've made progress against crime because the Orange Police Department, 365 days a year, works with community groups and individuals to identify criminals and crime hot spots and to bring criminals to justice," said Hawkins.

Rappaport said he agrees with the mayor. He said the city's NNO program has become progressively larger with passing each year, and he expects this year's event to be one of the best yet.

"We are anticipating that this year, our annual Night Out will exceed our last endeavor," said Rappaport. "We have received so many requests for participation that we expect this to be a great success."