

# 2014 National Night Out at Briarwood Elementary School



**National Night Out "Big Block" Party 2014**

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and a few of your neighbors for an evening of food, friends and fun, while making our neighborhood a better and safer place to live. For info visit us @ <http://fourcreeks.org/>

**Tuesday August 5 from 6pm-8pm**

**Briarwood Elementary Playground**

**17020 SE 134th ST Renton, WA 98059**

Sponsored by and featuring the following organizations







**Fire Trucks and Sheriffs Cruisers welcome Visitors.**



**Officer Roland getting ready to exercise his partner while Verna Riley gives him some encouragement.**



# This years Event Report:

By Pete Eberle, President of FCUAC and event organizer

The Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council has been organizing National Night Out Events since 2010. This year marks our fourth event in five years. In order to sponsor more community participation and to help build Block Watch participation, we choose to hold this years event in the Briarwood neighborhood. We partnered with the CARE group ( Citizens Alliance to Reach out and Engage ) which represents over 600 households in the area and IdaNaila Block Watch a local Blockwatch group of over 100 homes.

This year we welcomed our neighbors to come celebrate the 31st Annual National Night Out (NNO) on Aug. 5, 2014. It was held at Briarwood Elementary School, located at 17020 SE 134<sup>th</sup> St. Renton, WA 98059. As always the event was free and open to the public. Our hours were from 6 to 8 pm during which time over a hundred visitors came through. Visitors enjoyed free pizza, snacks and drinks while meeting representatives from both CARE, FCUAC, various Sheriffs Department local patrol officers, King County Sheriffs 911 dispatch center, Puget Sound Energy, King County Library to GO, Renton Fire Department / Fire District 25, and Blockwatch groups from around the area. Children were given NNO balloons, and had a bouncy house and also an inflatable obstacle course to play in.

This years event was made possible by a King County - Community Service Area grant awarded to the Four Creeks Unincorporated Area Council. FCUAC donated time and money to organize and put on the event. Also supporting the event with donations and volunteers were, Cedar Grove Composting, CARE (Community Alliance to Reach Out & Engage), the Issaquah Target Store and the IdaNaila Blockwatch. This is the second year in a row that Cedar grove has participated in our NNO events with donations, volunteers and 25 bags of free compost which was raffled off to visitors. Thanks go out to Nick Blanchette and Kevin Thompson from Cedar Grove for serving food for the second year in a row. Of course none of this would have been possible without the help of Karen Dawson who organized volunteers and made sure donations came through.

Two of the area's favorite Clowns, Scott and Elva Thompson entertained both young and old alike with tricks and fancy balloons. Neighborhood Children made up a constant stream of customers who kept them both very busy.

This year the Library to Go Van had 72 visitors come through who checked out books and other material that was available. Bringing this service to the neighborhoods is a great way to make visible the value of our Library system. Thanks to Mark and Amanda who manned the Library Van for being such great hosts.

Thanks also go out to Captain Greg Thomas who helped organize the Sheriffs office turn out. Thanks to Sergeant Stan Seo, Deputy Bryan Hill, Deputy Gervacio Roland and all the Patrol Officers who stopped by to visit with our neighbors. The Canine officers put on several great demonstrations with their partners. Many of the Residents had great conversations about their concerns with the officers who serve the unincorporated area. A special thanks to Verna Riley from the 911 call center who was very informative. She let folks know how the 911 center operates and all of the functions the operators perform. This goes a long way to helping everyone get the job done. Also a quick thank you to Guardian One for the flyover of our event.

Puget Sound Energy was represented by Anita Yurovchak and Angela Wingate to whom we give a hearty thank you for providing information and energy conservation tips. They were very popular.





**The Library to Go Van had a steady stream of visitors. Thanks to Mark and Amanda for being such great hosts.**

Thank you's also go out to Gwen High and Debi Eberle who represented CARE and handed out great information from the King County Office of Emergency Management and the MakeItThrough.org group. They bring a lot of value to our fine neighborhood. A hearty thank you to all my neighbors from Ida Naila Blockwatch who helped man information tables and hand out food, Linda & Ivan Ittner, Brian & Judy Thomas, Steve & Charlene Ferkovich and Fred & Roberta DeBerry.



**Alyssa, Jennifer and Edie had a busy time of it talking with residents and handing out information.**



Special thanks to Teri DeLile for keeping all the little kids safe in the bouncy house. Thanks also go out to FCUAC members and their friends, Alyssa Eberle, Jeff Chamberlain, Jenny Kuspert, Jackie Robinson, Jennifer Bromley and her daughter Kaitlyn, Edie Jorgensen and Pete Eberle for organizing the event.

The event was considered a great success because we were able to reach a new neighborhood and were able to empower them to organize their own blockwatch. And we were also able to build on the participation of the Ida Naila Blockwatch. Four Creeks also added 7 more people to our mail chimp list.

Four Creeks members spent 71 volunteer hours planning and procuring food, drinks etc for the event and clean up after the event. Four Creeks, CARE, and Ida Naila volunteers gave another 66 hours of time putting on the event. Let us not forget that our friends from King County, Renton Fire Department, Cedar Grove and Puget Sound Energy put in over 40 hours of volunteer time to make this event happen. And we need to thank the folks at Briarwood Elementary and Issaquah School District for letting us use their fine new facility. We would also like to thank Alan Painter and Marissa Alegria at King County's Community Service Area Department, whose Grant program helps make this and other community events happen. For more information on the Grant program see <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/community-service-areas.aspx>



**A couple of visitors checking out the Obstacle Course and having fun at it. I know a couple of little boys who were very tired at the end of the evening.**





**Officer Roland and his partner  
showing off their stuff.**

National Night Out is founded and supported by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a Non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of various crime prevention programs including neighborhood watch groups, law enforcement agencies, state and regional crime prevention associations, businesses, civic groups, and individuals devoted to building safer communities. The nation's premiere crime prevention network works with law enforcement officials and civilian leaders to keep crime watch volunteers informed, interested, involved and motivated. Since 1981, NATW continues to serve thousands of members across the nation.



**Looks like a steady stream of boys using  
the obstacle course**



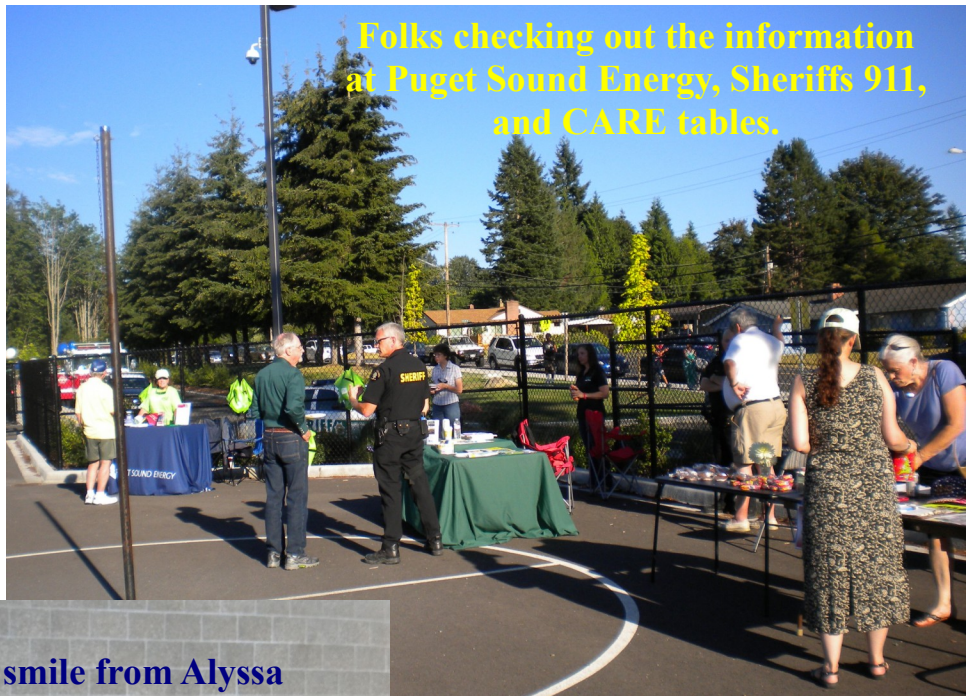


**Elva and Scott, the greatest act around Briarwood.**



**Aida helping a neighbor at the CARE table.**





Folks checking out the information at Puget Sound Energy, Sheriff's 911, and CARE tables.



All the kids get a smile from Alyssa



What better to draw people in than Balloons, pizza, chips and pop?



Finally here are some lessons learned from this years event. Number one is to have multiple event layout plans in the event of rain or really hot conditions. We planned our layout for normal weather with a contingency for rain, but not for hot weather. During the event several of our groups had to move to cooler shadier locations to escape the heat. Also it was agreed that we had ourselves to spread out on the location. This at times made it difficult to watch kids and talk at different information tables. Unfortunately we also did not have a good enough communication with the School district on our needs which resulted in us not having access to the school rest rooms, which we ask and paid for. As it turned out, that didn't become a problem. One other note to pass on for NNO events is this. Resources are at a premium among all of the organizations holding events on this date, which makes it harder for small organizations like ours to draw resources to our events. Organizers should take a hard look at the merits of having community safety / resource events on another day in order to have greater opportunities available. That is not to say that we didn't appreciate all the folks and organizations that participated at this event. We truly enjoyed having everyone there and hope that we can make these type of events happen again in the future.



**Lots of folks at the information tables having a good time visiting.**



**Guardian One Flyover**



**One of our finest Firemen tending a scrapped toe**





**Puget Sound Energy was a hit all evening which kept Angela and Anita busy.**



**Ida Naila Blockwatch volunteers chat with one of the Sheriff's Deputies while the balloon team keeps up with demand and Pete makes sure all is well.**