



# Newport News Sheriff's Office

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **August 21, 2007**

### PLAY BALL!

#### City of Newport News Unites for Field of Friends Days

One hot evening in July a group of children were playing around, on top of and inside of a dumpster at 16<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson. What Officer Mark Wagner with the Newport News Police Department saw broke his heart. "They weren't but 6 or 9 years old, and a garbage dump was their playground equipment" he said sadly. "It's not really about not having an area to play. Some kids just haven't been exposed to certain activities and don't know how to play," Wagner continued.

Officer Wagner began to orchestrate a fun mini-festival geared for youth living in southeast Newport News. More than a dozen city agencies and civic organizations are collaborating on **FIELD OF FRIENDS DAYS**.

**FIELD OF FRIENDS DAYS** will be held Friday and Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The event is geared toward children ages 5 through 15. There will be T-Ball and softball, basketball free-throw and other games. All equipment will be provided. All skill levels are encouraged to attend, including children who have never played. In addition, FREE food and beverages will be served.

**WHO:** Collaboration between city agencies and civic organizations (\* complete list below)

**WHAT:** **FIELD OF FRIENDS DAYS**  
T-Ball, Softball, Basketball Free-Throw, & other fun activities  
Children ages 5-15

**WHEN:** Friday, August 24 from Noon-6:00 P.M.  
Saturday, August 25 from 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

**WHERE:** 14<sup>th</sup> Street at Terminal Avenue (Housing Authority Playing Field); Newport News

\* NN Police Department; NN Parks, Recreation & Tourism; NN Sheriff's Office; NN Fire Department; Boys & Girls Club-Greater Hampton Roads Unit, NN Housing & Redevelopment Authority (NNRHA); Weed and Seed Committee; Doris Miller Community Center; NN Department of Adult Corrections (a.k.a. City Farm); NN Office of Children, Youth & Families; 7-Eleven (2610 Jefferson Ave.); Kiwanis-Monitor & Newport News Chapter; U.S. Marine Corp Reserves