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Press Release

National Night Out events planned for next week in Ark City

Kickoff party starts at 5 p.m. Monday in Wilson Park; block parties Tuesday

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (September 30, 2016) — The Arkansas City Police Department will be host to its annual National Night Out (NNO) celebration next week, starting with a kickoff party on Monday night.

The party will be from 5 to 8:30 p.m. in its new location at Wilson Park, 701 N. Summit St.

In conjunction with the kickoff party, a summer blockbuster, *"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows,"* will be shown from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday under the Wilson Park rotunda.

The Optimists of Arkansas City are teaming with Creekstone Farms Premium Beef to provide free hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as sponsoring the outdoor movie.

Then, from 6 p.m. to nightfall Tuesday, a total of 22 block parties will be held throughout various Arkansas City neighborhoods. All of these events are open to the public.

National Night Out is an event celebrated in communities throughout the United States and on military bases all across the world. It is an event for neighbors to show their support for each other and take a symbolic stand against crime in their area. This will be the 33rd annual National Night Out.

The kickoff party will be a carnival-like atmosphere with an inflatable playground. There will be an Ident-a-Kid booth, face painting and many vendors. A disc jockey will provide musical entertainment.

There also will be a snow cone machine and popcorn machines. The Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department will have an ambulance and its aerial platform on site, as well as a safety trailer, Sparky the firefighting Dalmatian and Freddy the robot fire truck.

"Clear your calendar, come out and join the community in fighting against crime and drugs, and enjoy the festivities," said ACPD Officer Chase Hobart, NNO coordinator and school resource officer.

For immediate release

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The block parties provide a chance for neighbors to connect with each other. Many have games for children and prize giveaways. For a list of parties or to become an event sponsor, call (620) 441-6601. In recognition of their donations, local businesses will be acknowledged in the Cowley CourierTraveler.

About National Association of Town Watch

Once upon a time, we kept our porch lights on. We opened the door even if we didn't know who rang the bell. And we always could leave the back door unlocked during the day.

National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is the nation's premier nonprofit crime prevention organization dedicated to the development and promotion of crime prevention in communities in the U.S.

NATW is a network of law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups, civic groups, state and regional crime prevention associations, and concerned citizens.

Through that network, NATW was able to launch the annual National Night Out campaign.

About National Night Out

National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored by the Arkansas City Police Department, will involve more than 16,540 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, more than 38.1 million people are expected to participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime."

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships;
- Send a message to criminals, letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

While National Night Out normally is held in early August, an alternate date in October is provided for communities that wish to have their events in cooler weather. Arkansas City has observed its National Night Out in October since 2011.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

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National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, while bringing back a true sense of community. It provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Each year in August or October, neighborhoods across the nation host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel and exhibits.