

# Take a Night Out against crime

## KM Police to host National Night Out Tuesday at Patriots Park

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Take a night out against crime on Tuesday, August 7, from 6-10 p.m. at Patriots Park for the annual National Night Out in Kings Mountain.

The Kings Mountain Police will be at the park serving up free hot dogs, straight off the grill, and free drinks. Capt. Jerry Tessneer, Administrative Assistant Marty Blanton and City of KM Special Events Dir. Ellis Noell will be manning the grill. "We always have a good time up there," Tessneer said. He added that his favorite thing about National Night Out is seeing "the kids having fun."

The Kings Mountain Fire Department will be giving rides on one of their fire trucks. Several law enforcement and emergency agencies will also be at the park, with displays, including: NC State Highway Patrol, D.A.R.E., C.O.P.S., Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, KM Police Explorers, Cleveland County EMS, KM Rescue Squad, and Gaston County Rural Police.

Tessneer said that the whole community is invited to Patriots Park, but is reminded to keep their porch lights on while they're out. Keeping your house and property illuminated provides less opportu-



Scoot Pittman will perform at Kings Mountain's National Night Out Tuesday at Patriots Park.

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nities for a burglar to break into your home. "National Night Out gives us a chance to show the community that we're there with you and we're going to be there helping you, but we need your help too," he said.

This year's event will feature a guest performance by Kings Mountain's own beloved singer/songwriter/musician

Scoot Pittman. According to scootmusic.com, he grew up at the foot of Kings Mountain. "I've been truly inspired by a place that has given me years of memories...joy and sadness," he said. From those memories, he draws inspiration and transforms them into lyrics and rhythms that tell stories from his soul.

Some of the stories that

stirred from Kings Mountain can be found on his latest CD, "Lake Montonia Road," released in 2006. Pittman said that he has sold over 5,000 copies of his previous four CDs and usually performs over 300 shows a year. But perhaps the concert at National Night Out will be even more special as Kings Mountain's son returns home to sing.

According to national-nightout.org, "National Night Out is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back."

National Night Out can be celebrated in your own neighborhood. Since NNO started in 1984, citizens have flipped their lights on and held "front porch vigils" in support of the crime prevention cause. Neighbors have banded together for rallies, meetings or to walk the streets in their communities, illustrating the fact that they stand united against crime.

The Bethlehem community plans to turn on their porch lights to represent National Night Out this year. But next year, they hope to have a block party or cook-out. The newly formed Bethlehem Community Watch Program is a registered member of the National Association of Town Watch.

NNO gives the community a chance to bond with their protectors. It also gives law enforcement a chance to thank the community that supports them - all in the name of crime prevention.

## Grover to hold Night Out

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Tuesday, August 7, will be a historic day for the town of Grover, as citizens celebrate the first annual National Night Out. The event will be held at Grover Park off of Maple Avenue from 6-9 pm.

Police Chief Tommy Carroll said that they will be asking local churches to come out and sing throughout the night. Members of the Grover Rural Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad will also be in attendance. The Grover Area Women's Club will be providing the food. National Night Out may also

feature games for the children. The event is free and open to the public.

Thousands of communities across the nation celebrate National Night Out each year, banded together against crime. Members of the community are encouraged to leave their porch lights on while attending NNO. Exterior lighting and lack of shadowy hiding places can be a deterrent to most burglars.

National Night Out provides an opportunity for the community to establish relationships with their protectors and law enforcers - in an effort to ban together in the fight against

crime. It also provides an opportunity for law enforcement to thank the community for their support.

According to national-nightout.org, this annual night is held to "heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back."

For more information, call the Grover Police Department at 704-937-9901.

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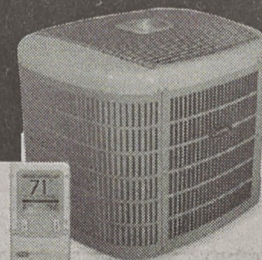
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