

OLDE CITY PARK

National Night Out draws crowds

SUBMITTED STORY

Hundreds of Wylie community members gathered in Olde City Park Oct. 6 to celebrate National Night Out.

Members of the community were invited to historic downtown Wylie for a celebratory evening of public safety displays and activities, free hot dogs and drinks, bounce houses, pony rides, face painting, a petting zoo, cookie decorating and an opportunity to get up close and personal with a PHI Air Medical helicopter and the Wylie Police Department's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

"Our goal is to bring the community together and raise awareness of crime prevention in our city," crime prevention officer Angie McIntosh said. "We continue to promote a strong community network of active, involved citizens, working hand in hand with the police to keep Wylie's crime rate dropping lower and lower."

The evening ended with a fireworks display. Citizens then were urged to return home, turn on their porch lights and meet their neighbors, part of the traditional National Night Out show of unity against criminal activity.

National Night Out is a program developed by The National Association of Town Watch, a nonprofit crime prevention organization that works in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Since 1981, NATW has been dedicated to the development, growth and maintenance of organized crime and drug prevention programs nationwide. NATW's network has grown to include over 6,000 crime, drug and violence prevention organizations.

Information provided by Judy Truesdell on behalf of the city of Wylie.



Photos submitted by CRAIG KELLY

Medic Kristi Davis-Yarbrough helps 4-year-olds Samantha Gaither and Vincent Torres out of the helicopter. PHI Air Medical landed a helicopter on Ballard Avenue as part of Wylie's National Night Out celebration.



Katie Apkarian snaps a shot of her daughter Hailey, 3, at the wheel of a Wylie fire truck.



Above: Dominick Meaders, 1, looks on as Amy Moss introduces her son Hudson, also 1, to Finch, a rescue dog with Lone Star Search and Rescue at Wylie's National Night Out.



Right: Officer Shea Pickrell helps Angelina Richardson, 7, out of the Wylie Police Department's Mine Resistant Ambush Protected military vehicle, which was open for tours during Wylie's National Night Out.