

Halloween

Holiday safety for kids is stressed

In late October, ghosts and goblins go on the prowl and a biting winter wind lurks around the corner.

It's Halloween — an exciting time for kids to dress in costume and trick or treat. Its traditions go back many years.

Halloween can be traced to the year 200 B.C. and to the Druids residing in Ireland and Scotland. They had festivals for two major gods — a sun god and a god of the dead, whose festival was Nov. 1, the beginning of the Celtic year.

By the ninth century A.D., the Christian church changed the pagan day of the dead into the day of saints, now known as All Saints Day. The night before became All-Hallows Eve, or Halloween.

COMMUNITY GROUPS and businesses, law enforcement personnel and area hospitals stress safety with fun during this Halloween season.

The traditional children's holiday is marked with haunted houses and parties sponsored by various groups.

Several community events were held during the past weekend, although some continue this week.

Ghosts, ghouls and goblins will command center stage at the Farmington Area Jaycees Haunted House, which began Oct. 18 and will run through Nov. 1 in the parking lot at Tally Hall, 14 Mile and Orchard Lake roads, Farmington Hills. Hours are 7-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 7-11 p.m. Friday. Admission is \$2 per person.

The Jaycees are also co-sponsoring a Meet 'N'Treat night at the Hunters Square/Tally Hall Shopping



Center 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Their co-sponsor is the Hunters Square/Tally Hall Merchants group. The group is urging the community to get better acquainted and welcome newcomers to the area. Activities include trick or treating 6-8 p.m. and a costume contest, which will be judged at 8 p.m. Registration for the contest is at 5 p.m.

A fortune teller will also be on the premises 6-8 p.m.

WHEN TRICK or treating traditionally, experts suggest parents supervise children who are trick or treating, that children dress in bright colors with face makeup instead of masks, that costumes are short enough to prevent falls, that children carry flashlights, that they remember to observe traffic rules, and that children stay within the local neighborhood and visit only people they know.

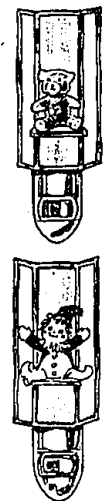
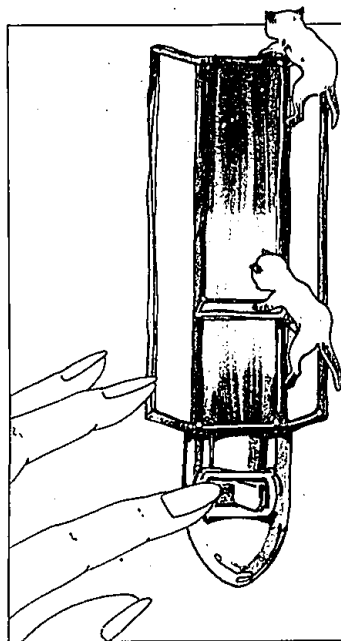
As a safety precaution on candy, only give or accept wrapped or packaged products and have an adult check treats before children eat them.

Precautions are being taken by the city of Farmington, which is closing city parks from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. from Oct. 29 through Nov. 1. Raphael Street will also be closed during those times, according to council action.

PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL Nov. Center, 10 Mile and Haggerty, is again offering candy screening 7-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Providence Hospital Southfield, 16001 Nine Mile, will also screen candy 6-10 p.m. in the radiology department in the DePaul Center.

Henry Ford Hospital and medical centers are distributing free Halloween bags. Locally, the bags may be picked up at the Henry Ford Medical Center and Maplegrove facility, both at 6777 W. Maple, West Bloomfield Township.

To remind parents of safety tips, Count Scary has a recorded message on the Henry Ford Hospital 24-hour Halloween Hotline, 876-7100.



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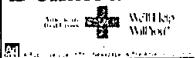
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