

Halloween on Square set to be spooktacular

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MARTINSVILLE

Ghoulish glee and toilet papered trees will kick off this year's Halloween on the Square.

Rediscover Historic Martinsville will host this year's event from 4 to 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 31, on the Morgan County Courthouse square in downtown Martinsville.

"A lot of the downtown merchants have always participated in the safe trick or treating, we just added some things for the downtown," said Pam Badger, Rediscover Historic Martinsville chair for the event.

Highlights for the evening will include a pumpkin decorating and pumpkin spitting contests for all ages, a special tree decorating event for junior and senior high school students, a haunted house and a Spook Poop Scoop contest for grade school students.

The Spook Poop Scoop is an innovative twist to the traditional apple bobbing contests. Marshmallows will be tied to tree limbs and children will try to scoop the sweet confections into their mouths without using their hands.

Older teens will have the opportunity to flex their artistic skills with the tree decorating contest. Badger said there are only 19 trees available for the contest so people should register early in order to participate.

"You can toilet paper the trees or do whatever you want," Badger said. "As long as they don't use anything permanent or damaging they can do it."

There will be adult supervision for the tree decorating contest and all decorations must be removed from the trees following the evening's events, but Badger said it is a great way for the older kids to enjoy the Halloween festivities.

"I think it will show their creativity," Badger said.

Other events include a scarecrow decorating contest, costume competitions and a trunk a treat event that will allow people of all ages to park their vehicles in a designated area, decorate the inside of the vehicle's trunk and pass out candy to children trick or treating.

"I really hope people come down and take part in the Trunk A Treat," Badger said. "It's scary now for children to go different places, and this will be out in the open. We also encourage everyone to go really slow when driving downtown on Halloween because of all the children who will be out."

Prizes for the events will be provided by the Martinsville Candy Kitchen. If you have questions or would like to sign-up for an event, please contact Badger at 765-318-9621.

The following is a schedule of events for the Halloween on the Square:

4-6 p.m. - Lights on Haunted House.

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4 p.m. - Pumpkin-Carving Contest: For all ages. Have your pre-carved pumpkin at the War Memorial on the lawn of the Morgan County Courthouse.

4:15 p.m. — Junior and Senior High School Tree Decorating Contest: Sign up early at the Martinsville Candy Kitchen. Teams of no more than four, bring your own decorations. You cannot use anything permanent or damaging. Only 19 trees will be available. Must be completed by 5 p.m. and must start to take down by 9 p.m.

4:30 p.m. - Scarecrow Building Contest: For all ages and at the courthouse lawn on Main Street. Clothes and post will be available for use. Bring stuffing and anything else you might need for the competition. Decorating must be completed by 5:30 p.m. and scarecrow must be dismantled at 9 p.m.

4:45 p.m. - Pumpkin Seed Spitting Contest: Open to all ages and will take place on the sidewalk inside the courthouse square on Washington Street.

5 p.m. - Spook Poop Scoop: For grade school or younger aged children. The event will take place under the trees behind the War Memorial on the courthouse lawn. Marshmallows will be hanging from tree branches and each child will have a chance to scoop one up in their mouth without using their hands.

5:30 p.m. - Costume Contest: Open to all ages and constants will be grouped in the following categories: Pre-school and younger, grade school, junior and senior high school and adults. Contestants will be asked to line up at the gazebo on the courthouse lawn.

6 p.m. - Trunk A Treat: Everyone is welcome to participate. Don't have a lot of trick or treaters? Come down to the square and pass out candy. Vehicles will park in designated areas around the courthouse and people are encouraged to decorate their trunks and pass out candy to trick or treaters parading around the square.

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