

# Safe Halloween fun planned for all on Friday

**H**ello neighbor. Here we are, just three days to Halloween — you know, when all those little ghosts, goblins and superheroes roam our streets with their parents in search of treats.

A few of our towns will have their usual rag shag parades again this year.

Greenfield will begin its festivities at 4 p.m. on Friday and they will continue until after 7.

You'll start out by picking up a free trick-or-treat reflective bag filled with dental products and goodies, all donated by local dentists, on the Town Common.

While you're there, check out Andrew Easton's pumpkin-carving display.

From 4 to 5:30 businesses will hand out treats and everyone will have a chance to walk up and down Main Street and show off their costumes. My favorite!

The Rag Shag Parade will begin lining up in the



Recorder file/Paul Franz

**Participants in a previous year's Rag Shag Parade in downtown Greenfield.**

Mohawk Mall parking lot on the west end of Main Street at 5:30 p.m. Led by the Greenfield High School Marching Band and Greenfield police and firefighters, the little trick-or-treaters will make their way to the Energy Park on Miles Street where all of their costumes will be judged and prizes will be given in sever-

al categories.

The event, which is sponsored by Greenfield Recreation, the Greenfield Business Association, Greenfield Garden Cinemas, GCTV, Franklin County Rotary Club, local dentists and the local radio stations (WHA1 and BEAR Country), will conclude with a free showing of my favorite, "It's

The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown," at Greenfield Garden Cinemas at 7 p.m.

In Turners Falls, the parade will line up Friday at 5:15 p.m. in the Food City parking lot and participants — children in sixth grade and younger — will march down Avenue A beginning at 5:30.

But before that, children can show off their costumes and trick-or-treat along Avenue A from 3 to 5 p.m. Just look for a bright orange pumpkin in participating storefront windows and doors as the "welcome."

The local VFW is sponsoring the event and there will be prizes for various categories of costumes. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters.

In Shelburne Falls, parade participants will line up Friday at 6 p.m. in front of McCusker's Market and children of all ages will march across the Iron Bridge to the VFW on Water Street where they each doughnut holes, drink cider

and receive a treat or two. There will be three prizes given for three different category winners. The event is sponsored by the Shelburne Falls Ladies Auxiliary 8503 of Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Also, the Shelburne Grange will hold its annual Halloween party on Friday at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, 17 Little Mohawk Road in Shelburne Center. This year's theme is "Back In Time." You can enjoy games, refreshments and a costume contest. It's a family event.

These are all long-standing traditions in these towns. They're such a great time for the children. I grew up in Turners Falls and remember fondly the times I marched in the Rag Shag Parade — that's how far back that one goes.

Remember, a few of the tips you might want to follow while trick-or-treating with

your younger children are to follow well-lit routes, carry a flashlight or glow stick, stay on sidewalks and have children wait until you get home to eat any candy.

For older children, have a talk with them and share those same tips and give them a cell phone so you can stay in contact with them throughout the evening. Also, tell them to accept candy at the door — never enter a home they don't know.

Let's all make sure we watch out for our young neighbors and help keep them safe.