

GREENFIELD

Drive-thru Halloween event planned

Pandemic concerns lead
to no-contact experience

By **ANITA FRITZ**
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — Like everything else during this pandemic, Greenfield's Halloween celebration will look a little different this year, but the city's recreation director says that's not going to stop the fun.

The Recreation Department, in partnership with businesses and agencies throughout the city, is planning a contact-less drive-thru Halloween experience at Highland Park. "Halloween at Highland" will be held Friday, Oct. 30, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Recreation Director Christy Moore, who has planned numerous Halloween rag shag parades, costume contests and downtown events in the past, said this is how it has to be this year to keep everyone safe.

"We started brainstorming about a month ago," Moore said. "We decided this is the safest way to still allow everyone to participate in Halloween. The mayor is not canceling Halloween, so kids will still be able to go out trick-or-treating on Oct. 31."

Moore said the Recreation Department got input from the Greenfield Police and Fire departments, the Board of License Commissioners

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and Mayor Roxann Wedegartner.

“It has been well-received on social media,” she said of “Halloween at Highland.” “We’ll be throwing a happy, COVID-approved event with as little exposure as possible.”

Vehicles will line up to the entrance of Highland Park on Highland Avenue, and everyone will stay in their vehicles as they travel through the park at 5 mph or less. She said children — and adults, if they so choose — will dress in costumes, though there will not be a contest this year.

“We’ll have plenty of goodies for them,” she said. “Everyone will receive a bag as they enter. The bag will have the usual donations from local dentists, businesses, organizations and individuals, though we’re asking that it all be store-bought, nothing homemade. And, we won’t be handing out candy throughout the park, just at the entrance.”

Moore said decorated stations that will include ghosts, goblins, spiders, zombies, pumpkins and graveyards will be on display for everyone to enjoy during their ¾-mile drive through the park.

“This is not going to be a



STAFF FILE PHOTO/DAN LITTLE

Though Greenfield won't hold its annual downtown Halloween celebrations, such as the rag shag parade (pictured), because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Recreation Department has a special drive-thru event planned at Highland Park.

scary, haunted thing,” she clarified. “It’s family-friendly for even the youngest of children.”

Highland Avenue residents have also decided to join in the fun by coordinating their personal decorating so that as vehicles line up and wait their turn to enter the park, drivers and passengers have something enjoyable to look at.

“Everyone is loving getting in on this,” she said.

Moore said everyone participating this year should drive cautiously, be patient, be

courteous and most importantly, enjoy.

Those who would like to make a donation of treats or decorations should call the Recreation Department at 413-772-1553. The building is still closed to the public, so department staff will meet people at the door.

For more information and updates, visit bit.ly/35LT8Qf or the Greenfield Recreation Department’s Facebook page.

Reach Anita Fritz at 413-772-9591 or afritz@recorder.com.