

GREENFIELD

# Residents have a skele-ton of fun during 'Halloween at Highland'



STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

**Ghouls and goblins lined the dirt road during the "Halloween at Highland" spooky drive-thru experience on Friday.**



STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

**A creepy critter at the spooky drive-thru experience at Highland Park in Greenfield on Friday.**



STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

**Pumpkin Patch greeters wave to residents.**

**By ZACK DeLUCA**  
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — It seemed as though Highland Park was truly haunted on Friday as residents in their vehicles crept through and around graveyards, ghosts, goblins, ghouls and more for the "Halloween at Highland" drive-thru experience.

The Greenfield Recreation Department, in partnership with local businesses and agencies, organized Hal-

loween at Highland as a contact-less drive-thru celebration in place of the usual Rag Shag Parade and costume contest. Hundreds of vehicles lined up along Highland Avenue and High Street all the way to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

Assistant Recreation Director Kelly Jenkins said she thought the turnout proved the event was a successful alternative to the normal parade and costume contest as they

SEE HALLOWEEN A4



STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

**A skeleton walks a pair of spiders at the "Halloween at Highland" spooky drive-thru experience.**



STAFF PHOTO/PAUL FRANZ

**Children dressed up in this Imperial Light Cruiser to attend the spooky drive-thru experience in Highland Park.**

# Halloween

FROM A3

looked to follow health safety guidelines amid the lasting COVID-19 pandemic. Jenkins and Recreation Director Christy Moore were dressed in matching safari guide costumes Friday evening as they ushered in 570 vehicles and handed out goodie bags.

“We felt the drive-thru experience was like a safari,” Jenkins explained. “We’re introducing them to the safari, so we dressed as their guides for the night.”

Jenkins said she, Moore and others had been at Highland Park getting the drive-

thru ready since 7 a.m., despite Friday morning’s snow. Once they entered the park, residents drove slowly along the ¾-mile route to avoid bumping into the creatures that go bump in the night. Children, dressed in costume, peeked excitedly through car windows as they approached.

Jason Glasson, 5, was dressed as Iron Man as he and his sister, Adelyn, 7, patiently waited in their car before entering. When asked, they excitedly said they hoped to see ghosts, bats and vampires.

As vehicles moved through the various stations, they were greeted by a witch casting a “protective charm” on them. They passed a pumpkin patch, a zombie graveyard, vampires,

ghosts and the Grim Reaper. Once they emerged from the haunted trail safely, exiting vehicles passed a sign wishing them all a “fang-tastic night.”

Before entering the drive-thru, visitors could enjoy the decorations that Highland Avenue residents put up on their own properties to add to the holiday fun. Residents passed the “Sanderson Sisters’ Bed & Breakfast,” where a sign ominously advertised that “kids stay free.” Waving to passersby, Allie and Ashley Brandenburg and Lauren Dehoyos stood in costume, and character, as sister witches Mary, Sarah and Winifred “Winnie” Sanderson from the 1993 film “Hocus Pocus.”

“Every Halloween we al-

ways go really hard,” Allie Brandenburg said of their decorating. “This year, with everything going, we were super excited to get involved.”

Across the street, “The Great Pumpkin” from the 1966 animated television special “It’s the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown” stood high atop a stack of hay bales. Next door was turned into a graveyard, with tombstones for the late Ben Better and Al Beback.