Village of Prairie Grove Newsletter- Fall/Winter 2021



A message from our President-

What a summer this has been! Prairie Grove experienced two very destructive weather events within the span of a week that resulted in flooding and hundreds of downed trees and branches that led to significant damage to many homes in our neighborhood. Our Village staff, and particularly Public Works Superintendent Josh Singer and his staff did an amazing job clearing trees from the road and removing hazards, all while two of our three full-time employees were out due to illness. Thankfully, no injuries were reported as a result of these storms.

On a more positive note, I am very excited to announce the opening of our new walking trail on the Village Hall grounds! The trail is just under one-half mile long and is intended to provide a safe and beautiful environment for walkers, joggers and anyone looking to get out for some fresh air. The Village recently won a \$10,000 grant from ComEd to beautify our neighborhood with carbon-reducing plants, including trees, forbs and shrubs, which will accent the trail and provide habitat for wildlife in our area. We welcome you to stop by and witness the transformation of what was once an unused pasture to a community gathering place where you can exercise or just find some peace and quiet.

As we turn into autumn, I, along with the Village Board and staff, wish you all continued health and safety. We hope to see you at the upcoming Trunk or Treat!

David F. Underwood, Ph.D., Village President



Saturday, October 30th 3:00-4:30pm 3125 Barreville Road, in the park, Trunk or Treat promptly at 4:00



Bring your children in costume and candy to share from the trunk of your car

Mr. Killian Balloon Artist. Prizes for best costume and best decorated car. Games and other fall fun. Kindly respond to lbehm@prairiegrove.org with the number of children attending so we can have enough for all!

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Page 2 of 7

Halloween Safety Tips

Ghosts, goblins, fairy princesses: imaginations run wild as kids play on Halloween night. It's an evening for fun, but it can also be an evening of risk if families don't plan carefully to stay safe.

Prairie Grove Police tips for a safe Halloween adventure:

- Have a responsible adult accompany young children.
- Use flashlights to help Trick-or-Treaters see.
- Wear bright and reflective costumes that fit well and are short enough to prevent tripping.
- Feed Trick-or-Treaters before they go out to prevent eating candy.
- Look over the candy and discard anything that looks suspicious.

Trick-or-Treating without an Adult

As children get older, they often want to go trick-or treating without an adult. Review the rules:

- Go trick-or-treating with a buddy never alone.
- Plan a route and let a responsible adult know where you are going. Only visit homes that have an outside light on.
- Identify a safe place, such as a trusted neighbor's home or open business, to go to in case of an emergency.
- Carry a cell phone and a flashlight and whistle.
- Watch for vehicles backing out of driveways and look both ways before crossing the street.
- Do not walk across yards. Be on the lookout for shrubs, rocks, or decorations that could trip you.
- Accept treats at the door; never go into a home, garage, or yard.

Home Safety

- Keep pathways clear of decorations or landscaping that could cause someone to trip.
- Do not leave lit candles (even in a jack-o-lantern) unattended.
- Keep your pets safe. If they are frightened by ringing doorbells or strangers coming to the door, keep them behind closed doors during the trick-or-treating.
- Do not let your pets eat any candy. Chocolate can be deadly for pets, and they can choke on wrappers.
- If driving, use extreme caution throughout the night. Slow down and help keep children safe.
- Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and could become frightened.



Village of Prairie Grove (815) 455-1411www.prairiegrove.orgPage 3 of 7



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 15, 2021

NEWS

CONTACT: Melaney.arnold@illinois.gov

Illinois Department of Public Health Issues Updated COVID-19 Halloween and Fall Festivities Guidance

RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD – As we continue through Fall and head into the holiday season, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is issuing updated guidance to help people celebrate more safely as we continue to battle COVID-19.

"Although we're still in the pandemic, this Halloween and Fall festivities season will look a little different than last year thanks to the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines that are readily available," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "However, we must still take precautions as not everyone is vaccinated and a vaccine for children younger than 12 year is not yet available. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself, your friends and family, and your community, but it's also important to use a layered approach by wearing a mask indoors and limiting/avoiding settings where physical distancing is not possible to help stop the spread of the virus."

MASKS

Masks are currently required, per Executive Order, in all indoor public locations in Illinois. A costume mask is *NOT* a substitute for a well-fitting mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Wearing a costume mask over a face covering to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is not recommended because it could make breathing more difficult. Safer options include choosing a costume that does not come with a costume mask, or find a costume that incorporates a face covering.

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-treating outdoors in small groups is best, but if outdoors is not an option, there are steps people can take to make indoor trick-or-treating safer. Those handing out tricks or treats indoors should open doors and windows as much as possible to promote increased ventilation and wear a mask. It is also important for everyone handing out or receiving treats to wash their hands.

Alternatives to door-to-door trick-or-treating can include setting up tables in a parking lot or other safe outdoor area where individually wrapped treats can be set out or holding an outdoor costume parade for kids along with a parent/guardian.

-more-

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Page 4 of 7

HAUNTED HOUSES, WOODS, WALKS

Open-air haunted houses are safer than an enclosed haunted house. Masks are required to be worn in indoor haunted houses and the number of people should be limited to reduce crowding. Other options include visiting outdoor haunted woods or going on a haunted walk.

PUMPKIN PATCHES, ORCHARD VISITS, FALL FESTIVALS

Try to visit pumpkin patches, orchards, and festivals at times that aren't as busy. You can also limit your exposure by moving away from crowded areas and wearing a mask.

HALLOWEEN PARTIES AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Large gatherings with more people increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission compared to small gatherings, and outdoor parties are safer than indoor parties. If indoors, mask must be worn in public places, but can also be worn in private settings where physical distancing is difficult. For indoor gatherings, try to increase air flow by opening doors and windows.

DÍA LOS MUERTOS

Holding events and activities outdoors to honor deceased loved ones for Día de los Muertos is safer than indoors. If gathering indoor, increase air flow by opening windows and try to physically distance as much as possible. Another option to celebrate and remember deceased loved ones is to exchange traditional family recipes with family or neighbors that they can make at home.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, do not participate in any Halloween or Fall events.

More information on Halloween and Fall Guidance is on the IDPH website at <u>https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/Halloween</u>.







E-WASTE RECYCLING

The Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act prohibits any person from allowing or to cause mixing of any items listed with municipal waste that is intended for disposal at the landfill. Residents also may drop off electronics for free to the container behind the Prairie Grove Village Hall office (no televisions).



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Page 6 of 7

Important Dates to Remember:

Saturday, October 30, 2021 - Trunk or Treat 3:00pm-4:30pm

Sunday, October 31, 2021 - Trick-or-Treat 4:00pm-7:00pm

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 - Village Board Meeting

Thursday & Friday, November 25- 26, 2021 - Village Hall Closed

Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - Village Board Meeting

Friday, December 24, 2021 - Village Hall Closed

Friday, December 31, 2021 - Village Hall Closed

Prairie Grove Resident Emergency and Non-Emergency Situations

For any EMERGENCY that requires assistance from the Police Department-CALL 911

For any NON-EMERGENCY where you require assistance from the Police Department, please call the McHenry County Non-Emergency Number at 815-338-2144

Do NOT call the Prairie Grove Police Department directly. The Police Department and the Village Hall cannot send an officer to your location. McHenry County Sheriff's Office is our dispatch center. They will contact the officer and dispatch them to your location. This protocol is for our Officer's and your safety. Village President David Underwood, Ph.D.

Village Board of Trustees Lisa Behm Phil Baggio Ronee Haisler Charlotte Kremer Kevin Werner, Ph.D. Vacancy

Village Administrator & Treasurer Michael Freese

Village Clerk Monte Johnson

Public Works Superintendent Josh Singer

Police Records Clerk & Building Laura Jonasen Sheryll Kominoski

Village Attorney David McArdle

Chief of Police Lawrence Canada

Policy Emergency Number 911 Police Non- Emergency (815) 338-2144

Village of Prairie Grove 3125 Barreville Road Prairie Grove, IL 60012 (815) 455-1411 (815) 455-0783 Fax M-F 8:30am-4:30pm

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Page 7 of 7