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Fright Night is a Halloween Event Just for Kids

Fright Night in 3-D, a Halloween event just for kids, will be held Thursday, October 29, 2009 from 5 to 8 p.m. in The District, downtown Rock Island. Rock Island Public Library, Rock Island Parks and Recreation, Rock Island County Area Project, and The District are proud to present a Halloween themed evening of family-friendly festivities for children with a free treat bag for the first 1,000 kids. Fright Night will have a costume contest, 3-D mystery hunt, and scary stories. District businesses will have trick-or-treating and activities just for kids. Various community agencies will be on hand with crafts, activities, novelties, treats, and information. The event is free to the public.

A costume contest will be held for children up to 14 years. Registration for the costume contest is from 5 to 6:30 p.m., judging will take place starting at 6:30 p.m., and awards will be announced at 7:45 p.m. on the Great River Plaza. Categories for prizes include: scariest, most creative, most unique, funniest, most adorable, most glamorous, best pair or group, and best superhero or cartoon character. Prizes will be awarded in six places per category and winners will receive a gift bag filled with prizes. In addition, an overall grand prize winner will be awarded.

Jeff James from Star 93.5 will emcee the event from 6 to 8 p.m. In addition, a DJ will play kid's Halloween favorites and kids can dance.

Kids can get free 3-D glasses and the 3-D mystery map to downtown businesses at registration. Wear the 3-D glasses to see pictures and find the letter in the storefronts on the map. Put the letters together to spell a special Halloween-themed item. Turn in the completed map at registration, and a special prize winner will be drawn from all the completed games. The 3-D glasses can also be used to see the special chalk art on the sidewalks.

Arts Alley will be turned into Cartoon Alley with giant inflatables including a haunted house, "Scooby Doo," "Spongebob Squarepants," "Casper the Friendly Ghost," and a witch.

Storytellers from the Rock Island Library will tell scary tales from 5 until 7:15 p.m. Balloon Man will create balloon creatures for children.

Community agencies will line the Great River Plaza with the following activities:

- American Red Cross – information, hand washing, and stranger danger.
- CBS4 – weather trivia with meteorologist Andy McCray (outside the station)
- Child Abuse Council – bookmarks, stickers, and information
- Community Caring Conference – information, word search, and color pages.
- Family to Family/Lutheran Social Services – information, coloring sheet, and pumpkin craft.
- Keep Rock Island Beautiful – information and word search.
- IL/IA Center for Independent Living – information, crafts and giveaways.
- Quad City Botanical Center – information, leaf rubbings, and pumpkin masks.
- Rock Island County Area Project – prize game and guess-the-candy corn.
- Rock Island County Health Department – information, coloring books, and giveaways.
- Rock Island Fire Department – fire engine.
- Rock Island Library Teen Board – face painting.
- Rock Island Police Department – emergency response vehicle, equipment, and bike patrol.
- University of Illinois Extension Office – make-and-take lollipop ghosts and information.

Children are encouraged to bring their carved pumpkins from home to enter a contest. All pumpkins can be taken home after judging.

Several businesses are offering fast, kid-friendly food specials during the event.

- Mama Compton's will have ice cream cones on special for \$1.
- The Original Huckleberry's Great Pizza & Calzones will offer pizza by the slice.
- Theo's Java Club has peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and hot cocoa.
- All downtown restaurants will offer full menu items as well.

Fright Night is sponsored in part by the Illinois Arts Council – a state agency, B100, 97X, Star 93.5, Rock 104.9, CBS4, and Dispatch / Argus.

For more information, please call The District at 309.788.6311 or visit www.ridistrict.com.