

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 24, 2020

Release Number: 9-24-20-001

City of Hopewell Cancels Halloween Events

HOPEWELL, VA – This Halloween which is celebrated on Saturday, October 31, 2020, fewer families will be going door to door as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its predicted second wave. Seventy-three percent of people do not anticipate taking their children trick-or-treating at all, according to a Harris Poll survey. City of Hopewell officials have made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Hopewell Haunts for 2020 in light of COVID-19. City officials hope to reinstate Hopewell Haunts for the 2021 season.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends avoiding traditional trick or treating activities this year. The City of Hopewell will not cancel Halloween trick or treating, since it is not a city event, but city officials encourage the following for those who chose to trick or treat:

- Wear facemasks (for appropriate aged children) and maintain social distancing.
- Wipe off and/or sanitize all treats received before giving to children.
- Only trick or treat at houses of family, friends or neighbors so that guardians can judge the COVID-19 risk level.
- Be creative and provide alternatives to traditional trick or treating activities, such as:
 - A Halloween candy scavenger hunt for immediate family members;
 - A virtual Halloween party with family and friends; and
 - A virtual pumpkin carving contest with family and friends.

The City discourages and does not sanction trunk-or-treat type of events, because of the difficulties of controlling social distancing and other safety measures with a crowd of excited children. The City will not participate in such events, but public safety officials will be watching events for safety concerns.

City officials encourage families to utilize other activities to experience Halloween in order to eliminate the risks of potential exposure to the virus. The CDC website and www.halloween2020.org are two websites with many alternative suggestions for COVID-19 safe Halloween activities.

City officials would like to remind the public to practice good hand sanitizing, social distancing, follow CDC guidance, and to be safe during Halloween.

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