

For Immediate Release

Monday, October 29, 2018

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Machesney Park/Winnebago County Sheriff's Police Urge Residents to Enjoy Halloween Safely

MACHESNEY PARK, IL - This year, Halloween will occur on Wednesday, October 31, 2018, which means it's time for residents to prepare for little goblins Machesney Park designating official Trick-or-Treating hours for children, but the Village/Winnebago County Sheriff's Police would like to offer these Halloween safety tips to ensure that Halloween is a fun and festive time for all.

Residents

- Welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and other exterior lights on.
- Do not give homemade or unwrapped treats to children.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the Machesney Park Police immediately by dialing 911.

Motorists

- Exercise extreme caution when driving a vehicle, especially during the Village Trick-or-Treating hours of 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Be on the alert for excited youngsters, whose vision may be obscured by masks, darting out into traffic.
- Enter and exit driveways with caution.
- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over!
- Avoid distractions.

Dressing up safely

- Make sure costumes are flame retardant.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls and contact with flames.
- Encourage make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable, and they can obstruct a child's vision, which is especially dangerous when crossing streets and going up and down steps.
- Avoid costumes that are overly scary or that require "weapons" of any kind.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes. Glow sticks and flashlights are also fun ways to light the way.

Safety First

- It is recommended that young children end trick-or-treating when it begins to get dark. Older children should be in by 7:30 p.m.
- There is safety in numbers. A responsible adult should always accompany young children and make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends.
- If older children are going Trick-or-Treating without you, create a map of a safe trick-or-treating route in familiar areas. It is always best to keep the activity to your own neighborhood. Agree on a specific time they should be home as well as pre-set check in times.
- Do not eat any treats until they have been inspected.
- Do not go inside anyone's home. Remain on the porch at all times.
- Do not accept rides from anyone, including people you know, without checking first with a trusted adult.
- Children should remember to look both ways before crossing the street and to cross at corners only. Use sidewalks, not the street, for walking. Be sure to "Stop, Look and Listen." Never run between parked vehicles.
- Do not take shortcuts through back yards, alleys or parks.
- Carry a cell phone for quick communication and review how to call 911.

Treats

An adult should inspect all candy in a well-lit place and discard any homemade or unwrapped treats. Eat only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers.

Sex

Parents should know where registered sex offenders live to avoid placing children in a risky situation. Visit the Winnebago County Sheriff website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/> to access a link to registered sex offenders, searchable by location.

Offenders

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve our community with exceptional public safety services that are second to none.

VALUES

Willing

Caring

Service-

Oriented

VISION STATEMENT

We will be effective in our efforts of protecting lives, property and ensuring peace with integrity and professionalism. With our highly qualified and well trained staff, we will apprehend criminals and maintain a safe and secure correctional facility. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to public safety and it's accountability in times of disaster to the citizens we serve.

