



Holyoke will be spooky headquarters as Halloween events set for children and adults at various sites

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HOLYOKE — The Paper City looms as Halloween central with events that begin Saturday and continue on the day itself Oct. 31.

"I've always loved Halloween, so I'm glad 'Halloween' and 'Holyoke' are kind of becoming synonymous," said **Jeffrey C. Bianchine**, city creative economy coordinator.

On Saturday, in an event titled "Creepers: Ghouls & Goblins," the Parks and Recreation Department teams up with **Wistariahurst Museum** from 1 to 4 p.m. for a costume parade and contest, games, crafts, story time, goodie bags and more.

Admission to the event at Wistariahurst, 238 Cabot St., is \$2 per child or \$10 for families of five or more children. To register, call (413) 322-5620.

Later on Saturday, from 4 to 6 p.m., will be the Monster Ball at City Hall, High and Dwight streets. The **Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra** will play classic waltzes, "with interludes of the symphonic renditions of popular video games like Angry Birds, Pokemon and Final Fantasy – and will be accompanied by members of the Holyoke High School Choir," Bianchine said.

The orchestra approached the city about performing at the Monster Ball, he said. "They had done this in Amherst and found that it was a good family event," Bianchine said.

The event is free and will include free pizza, a costume contest, raffle and dancing, he said. While admission is free, donations are requested and will go toward **restoration of the 13 stained-glass windows** in the upstairs auditorium at City Hall, he said.

After the Monster Ball on Saturday, costumed participants will haunt Holyoke Heritage State Park behind City Hall for the third annual Creature Crawl from 6 to 8 p.m., Bianchine said.

A parade through the park of dressed-up revelers will include, food, games, music and rides on the Holyoke Merry Go Round, he said.

At night on Saturday, it's back to Wistariahurst for candlelight tours of the museum, which is housed in the former Skinner Mansion. Tours will be 7 to 8 p.m. and 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Registration is necessary, online at **wistariahurst.org** or by calling (413) 322-5660. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for museum members.

Also on Saturday night, the "After(life) Party" will be held for those 21 and older back at City Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight. The bash will include free pizza, a zombie disc jockey, costume contest and cash bar with Brennan's Place. Tickets are \$20, with the money going to the stained-glass window restoration, Bianchine said.

"This will be one wicked benefit event," he said.

On Sunday at 3 p.m., City Historian Penni Martorell will give a walking tour through Forestdale Cemetery, 304 Cabot St., resting place of some of Holyoke's founding families. Online **registration is required**. Admission is \$10, or \$7 for museum members. Rain date is Monday at 6 p.m., according to the city website.

On Oct. 31, Mayor Alex B. Morse and the Parks and Recreation Department will welcome trick-or-treaters to City Hall and City Hall Annex to visit offices that have signs on their doors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.