

October 23, 2008

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The streets of Old Town will not only be teeming with children for the first Burleson Old Town Boo Bash, but the streets will also be protected by the Burleson Police Department's expanded bicycle patrol.

Officer Tim Engel said the unit, which includes five officers, will be on bicycles between Johnson Avenue and Main Street during the three-hour event. The sworn officers will be joined by Citizens On Patrol bicycle patrol volunteers.

The DARE officers from the Burleson Police Department and firefighters from the Burleson Fire Department will be handing out free candy from the DARE vehicle and fire engine.

Organizers are expecting between 500 and 3,000 children at the free festival on Ellison Street. The fun is slated for 6 p.m.-9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31. The festival is geared toward children from birth to 12 years old. Boo Bash will include a costume parade, free pumpkins for decorating, four blocks of free trick-or-treat candy, bounce houses, carnival games, dance troupes, face painting, a ghost walk, and storytellers.



The Burleson Public Library has secured the storytelling expertise of Jiaan Powers, who will tell ghost stories geared toward families. Mayor Ken Shetter is also slated to tell a family-oriented Halloween story.

Thanks to a generous donation, there will be a giant pumpkin patch in the lawn outside the Heritage Museum and Visitors Center at the corner of Wilson and Ellison streets. Children can pick out a pumpkin, decorate it, then take it home.

The Boo Maze, which is being coordinated by the Burleson Arts Council, just keeps growing. Owners of the Old Town Smokehouse donated their party room, the O.T. Corral, for the not-so-scary adventure. Originally, arts council members were transforming the OT Corral into scenes from four musicals. Now, that's expanded to six, including "Phantom of the Opera," "Wizard of Oz," "Alice in Wonderland," "Into The Woods," "Hairspray," and "King Tut/Dracula." Alley characters will guide adventurers into the OT Corral. The set-up even includes a scary living room for picture taking.

Almost two dozen businesses have already signed up for booths that will line both sides of the street for four blocks. Target is one of the major sponsors of Boo Bash.

More than half a dozen churches as well as the Mayor's Youth Council, Burleson Heritage Foundation, Burleson Police Department, Citizens on Patrol, Burleson Fire Department, Burleson Fire Marshal's office, Burleson High School criminal justice class and Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce are partnering with the City of Burleson's parks and recreation department and public library for the community's first Boo Bash in Old Town Burleson.

Businesses and community groups may sign up for free booths by calling Neal Jones at 817-447-3522 or 817-343-2589. For more information about the Burleson Old Town Boo Bash, call the public information office at 817-447-5400, ext. 286.