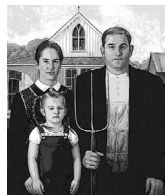


Art Adventure I Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



Halloween happenings

For all who cherish the good, old-fashioned Halloween family festivities, the nearby towns of Cedar Lake, Crown Point, Schererville, St. John, and Valparaiso have many activities on the horizon.

We thank Cedar Lake Parks and Recreations Director, Mary Joe Dickson for the following information:

Halloween Craft Class

Oct. 21, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. for ages 4 to 5; 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for ages 6 to 12. Cost: \$3. Limited to 15 kids per session. Snacks will be provided. Sponsored by the Cedar Lake Park Dept. Call 374-4444 for more information.

Halloween Party

Oct. 31, 7 p.m., Cedar Lake American Legion, Post 261, 13050 Washington, Cedar Lake.

After the Cedar Lake kids trick or treat, the Cedar Lake Lions Club and the Cedar Lake American Legion co-sponsor a party for trick-or-treaters up to 12 years old. There will be snacks, hot dogs, clowns, a costume contest, and more. Call Kenny or Debbie at 374-9815 for more information.

We thank Crown Point Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Jennie Burgess for providing the following information:

Halloween Party

Oct. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Crown Point Civic Center, 101 S. East St.

Ghosts and goblins, princesses and superheroes! Costumed kids up to age 10 are invited to a Halloween Party. Come enjoy games, prizes, and a costume contest. Tickets are \$2; call the Parks & Recreation Department at 661-2271.

Pumpkin Walk

Oct. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., downtown. City Center Merchants host the third annual Pumpkin Walk from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Children can show off their costumes as they travel from store to store. Look for the pumpkin in the window to find the participating stores.

We thank Cindy Horgash, Schererville Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the following information:

5th Annual Halloween Stories & Campfire

Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m., at Redar Park in Schererville.

Free straw bales and picnic tables are available for seating, but Cindy recommends bringing lawn chairs and blankets. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided.

Halloween Party for Individuals with Special Needs & Disabilities

(CSRI) Cooperative Special Recreational Initiative

Oct. 28, 6 to 8 p.m., Stephen Park, \$2.00 fee/per person.

Registration required at the Schererville clerk-treasurer's office. Call the Schererville Park Office at 865-5530 for information.

Wear a Halloween costume, and bring a decorated pumpkin for judging. Participants and family members will enjoy games, and Halloween Stories.

We thank Jerri Teibel, St. John Town Council vice-president for providing us with a list of the town's first Halloween Sooktacular Festival which runs from Oct. 20 through Oct. 30.

Haunted House

Admission \$8
6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 22-26, Oct. 29-30; 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. Oct. 20-21, Oct. 27-

28.; 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 31.

Scary Craft, Snacks, Hay Maze

7p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 27-28; 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 29.

Enjoy fall foods and beverages, dance along with the DJ and take a ride on the Ghostly Express!

Tween Dance

Ages 11-17, \$5 with costume and \$10 without costume. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 28.

Costume Parade and Judging

Oct. 29, beginning at 2 p.m.

Note: All Spooktacular events will take place at the Lake Hills Club House, 8640 Lake Hills Drive, St. John.

For information call 365-6236 or log onto www.stjohnin.com.

Valparaiso University Artist's Slide Lecture, Exhibit, and Reception

Oct. 31, 6:30 p.m., Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources. Free admission.

Adults who prefer a more educational experience on Halloween might like to attend an artist's reception, slide lecture, and exhibit of local Valparaiso art teacher and Valparaiso University graduate Patricia Cummings.

Her work is based on ancient cave art of southern France and Jordan. Cummings won a Teacher Creativity Grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to study some of the first known human artistic creations.

Cummings will display paintings, carvings, clay petroglyphs, and sand-casted plaster works based on her studies last summer in France and Jordan.

The exhibition opens on Halloween and runs through Nov. 3.

Christopher Center hours are 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday. Call 219-464-5114 for more information.

What are you going to be this Halloween? Email to samowner@sbcglobe.com.

Ross to be at reception

To help celebrate the "Reaching for the Stars: A Tribute to Space Pioneers" exhibit in Hammond, Purdue University Calumet and NIPSCO will host astronaut and Crown Point native Jerry Ross at a reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. tonight at the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Ross, a Purdue graduate, was the first human to be launched into space seven times. He holds the current record for most spacewalks by an American – nine – and spacewalking time – 58 hours, 18 minutes.

"Jerry Ross is an inspiration to all the citizens of Northwest Indiana," said Lisa Austgen, director of the Challenger Learning Center, which runs educational programs on space exploration. "He is a true hero to over 18,000 students that we have coming through our doors each year."

Ross will address over 100 teachers and business leaders from throughout Northwest Indiana about the contributions of the Appollo 1, Challenger, and Columbia crews. He will also discuss the future of space exploration.

"Reaching for the Stars" pays tribute to the astronauts who gave their lives in the pursuit of space exploration. The exhibit highlights many aspects of the space program, and includes a 4,000-square-foot, full-scale walk-through mock-up of the U.S. Destiny Laboratories. The laboratory teaches the science, engineering, physical and cultural challenges of conducting space research and illustrates the sophisticated hardware used in orbit.

Also on exhibit are: an Appollo space suit, moon rock replicas, informational panels and photo displays. Part of the exhibit will showcase the 22 astronauts who have graduated from Purdue University, including the two astronauts who were part of the Appollo 1 crew.

Leaf burning illegal throughout county; residents urged to mulch

BY KITTY CONLEY
kconley@post-trib.com

CROWN POINT – With the official start of the fall season it is important residents and business remember that it is a fire hazard and illegal to burn leaves.

Lowell Fire Chief Jack Eskridge said, "Open burning is not allowed in or out of cities or towns in all of Lake County."

Cedar Lake Fire Chief Todd Wilkening agrees that burning

leaves is dangerous.

Lake County law has this definition: "The burning of any materials or contaminants resulting from combustion that are emitted directly into the air, without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber."

No open burning is allowed except small camp fires in approved restricted areas or in allowed fire pits, or containers for camping and cooking.

While most communities have

to deal with urban or suburban areas the county must deal with all farm areas as well.

County penalties are: "Any person violating this ordinance shall be fined no less than \$10.00 dollars and no more than \$500.00 for each violation."

Each municipality will also have their own fining system.

Crown Point's certified arborist Sharon Black-Anderson said, "It is far better for your trees and garden to put leaves in mulch.

That is the ultimate choice and it is a very important part of the ecosystem."

She added, "When leaves fall to the ground in a forest they help add nutrients back into the soil as they decay. I use my leaves to cover up spring bulbs and plants and the whole leaves create an insulation buffer for the plants, helping them get through the winter."

Even 60 years ago, according to the Crown Point city police, the

hazardous and destructive practice of burning fallen leaves on the city streets is highly injurious to street surfaces because the heat generated in the burning of leaves breaks the sealing properties of the street surfaces and so allows water from the rain fall, melting ice or snow to penetrate with damaging results.

Each pile of leaves is a pot hole in the making.