

# Lanterns Light the Halloween Trail at Civic Center Park



There were unexpected encounters "of a spooky kind" along the trail.



"Lion Tamer" Marie Pozan, left, and "Witch" Jackie Birch, right, hand out treats at the end of the trail.

## The Talking Pumpkin



"Cat Woman" McKenna Moore, and the "Talking Pumpkin," right.

The Auburn Hills Parks & Recreation Department held its 21st annual Halloween Trail and Costume contest at the city's municipal campus. Parks director Brian Marzolf said the event is popular with parents with small children.

The kids get to take a walk on a not-too-scary nature trail that has trick-or-treat candy stops. Once they complete the walk, the kids get to go to the rec building where they can see magicians perform and hear scary stories. About 1,200 attended the event.

Marzolf said city employees Mikey Gorak, Greg Landry and John Mattiello have worked hard over the years to make the event become such a success.

"It's great," Marzolf said. "We've seen kids attend the event, grow up and come back to work with us on the Halloween Trail when they're older."



Double take: more faces than people.



Magician Eugene Clark put on a show inside the recreation center. Photographs by Bill Springer. The end.

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## Winners from the Trail, and the Sponsors

Parents of small children had the chance to celebrate Halloween at the Auburn Hills city campus on the evening of Oct. 25.

City parks and recreation director Brian Marzolf said the Halloween Trail & Costume Contest is a city tradition.

"We've been doing this for years," Marzolf said. "This is the 21st annual event. It's really designed for parents with small children. Sometimes Halloween can be kind of scary for small children, all the strangers in strange costumes. Parents also don't have traffic worries."

Marzolf said the event features a not-too-scary walk along a specially decorated trail in Civic Center Park. As kids walk the trail, they can stop and get candy at the designated stops manned by volunteers in fun costumes.

"The volunteers really do a great job," Marzolf said. "They really put a lot of effort in what they do and the kids really have a great time."

Once the kids walked the trail, they had the chance to visit the rec building. This year magician Eugene Clark put on a show. There were also storytellers telling Halloween tales for the children, Marzolf said.

"This event isn't done by one person," Marzolf said. "Our recreation coordinator Mikey Gorak works hard. She's great, and she gets a lot of help from Greg Landry and John Mattiello, both of the Department of Public Works. They've been helping put this together for years, and their efforts have resulted in a first-rate event that brings people back year after year."

Marzolf said this year's event

was held a week before Halloween so as to not conflict with other Halloween events that take place in the city. He noted that Boys and Girls Club hold their own event. Gift certificates were given out by the Grim Reaper, but no official records were kept.

"Our sponsors really deserve a shout-out too," Marzolf said. "I want to thank American Legion Hall Post #143, bd's Mongolian Grill, Cornerstone Community Financial, Data Reproductions Corp., General Towing, Gordie's Services, the Graham Elementary P.T.O., HIROTEC America, Inc., Hill Gazette American Legion Post #143, Hollywood Supermarket, Morrell Inc., Noon Optimist Club, Oakland Metal Sales, Rainforest Cafe, Raymond James & Associates, Reefer Peterbuilt, Buffalo Wild Wings and Affiliated Investments. They were great."