

MEDIA RELEASE

The 6th Annual Kate Andrus Pumpkin Prowl

The idea for **Pumpkin Prowl** was originally inspired by separated families and the difficulty of not getting to enjoy special occasions like Halloween with your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews because of parenting schedules. From there, the event also proved to be beneficial for families experiencing conflict or whose work schedules interfere with spending Halloween with the children in their lives.

Pumpkin Prowl is held prior to Halloween on a weekend evening, where we meet at the local park for games, crafts, bouncy castles, and other fun activities. After a couple of hours, we then parade through the neighborhood and knock on the doors of participating homes and trick or treat like it's the big day itself, causing cars to pull over to ask 'What is happening here?'

This event is enjoyed by all youth of any age – even if they simply enjoy Halloween that much they want to hit the streets twice, and it continues to be a valuable asset to the families who it originally sought to help and so many more.

This year, rain, shine or snow, we expect close to 300 kids will bundle into our neighborhood and fill it with so much laughter and joy.

We have been lucky to receive so much support from the community since we began this venture, from the involvement of our neighbors and broader community members, the vendors who provide free games, crafts, or drinks for the kids, those who have donated candy, toys, offered their services and talents to our cause, or provided monetary support to help us keep this growing event free for our community.

Our vendor list so far includes Beautiful Alleys, Pride Hamilton, Sherman Boys and Girls Club, Messy Play Studio, My Free Hamilton, Erich's Cupboard, Determination Martial Arts, Hammer City Roller Derby, WrapAround Hamilton, Shalem Mental Health Network, Holiday Wish Hamilton, and Mountain Kidz Klub. Hot drinks will be provided by Gage Park Diner and expect a special secret guest from Penny Pincher Costumes Inc. You can also drop off candy donations to Vagabond Saints and Stone and Shadow.

Get your costumes ready for this year's prowl on Friday October 18, 2019, 4:30 pm (trick-or-treating starts at 6:30pm) at Belview Park, 181 Belmont Avenue. Everyone is welcome! Contact Larry and Tara Pattison at 289.689.2870 / 905.730.6013 or email us at pumpkinprowl@gmail.com

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Thank you to our 2019 Fiscal Sponsor, the **Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton.**

