

It's Scarecrow Time!

Scarecrows in many forms have been around since the Egyptians. The origins of this friendly (or frightening) figure goes back as far as recorded history. Join the enthusiastic fans of scarecrows and festivals at the 15th Annual Festival of Scarecrows. Costumed scarecrows of all shapes and sizes will be popping up all over Arvada's Olde Town on Saturday, October 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This friendly festival is created for family fun and is bigger and better this year with a scarecrow contest, pumpkin patch, giant pumpkin contest, a kids' train ride, hayrides, community and food booths, a kiddie cone maze and many activities and entertainment for the whole family. The festival is produced by Arvada Festivals Commission and Historic Olde Town Arvada Association.

"Last year we had over 2,000 people come join the festivities. Lot's of people came in costume and the kids had so much fun," said Nancy Bentzen one of the event coordinators. "We always enjoy producing this festival and we can always use volunteers to help us create a great place for people to have fun."

Attendees can vote for favorite scarecrows created by Olde Town businesses, community individuals, businesses and organizations, or, for a \$20 entry fee, everyone can enter a special scarecrow. Prizes will be offered in several categories. To enter a scarecrow in the contest, call 303-420-6100.

Two blocks of W. 57th Avenue will be closed to accommodate the added children's train ride, inflatables, entertainment, and more community booths with food, activities and games. Brewster, the Giant Green Dinosaur (from Coors Credit Union), will lead excited little ghosts and goblins in the Costumed Kids' Parade around Town Square and every entrant receives a bag of goodies! The little ones can weave in and out in the Kiddies Cornstalk Maze and admission to the Maze is a donation of canned goods for the Arvada Community Food Bank. Pumpkin painting, a balloon artist, face painters and hayrides add to the fun.

Enter a pumpkin in the Giant Pumpkin Contest and see pumpkins of amazing sizes - past winners have exceeded 350 lbs! The contest is presented by the Arvada Gardeners, who will also have gourds and cornstalks on sale.

Buy your favorite pumpkins from the Pumpkin Patch in the center of the Square. Paint your purchase with your favorite spooky or jolly face. Proceeds from the pumpkin sales will be donated to the Arvada Community Food Bank. Last year over \$800 and 400 pounds of food were donated to help the Food Bank.

The children's train (for a nominal fee) will be scooting little ones along a whole block of W. 57th Avenue and the Arvada Fire Protection District will be on hand with a shiny fire truck; kids can ask real firemen about their work.

Annual sponsors for Arvada Festivals Commission and Historic Olde Town Arvada are 1st Bank, Alphagraphics, Arvada Economic Development Association, Arvada Press, Arvada Rent-Alls, Arvada Urban Renewal Authority, City of Arvada, D & K Jewelers, Goddard School, Sooper Credit Union, and Sportline Team Sports.

To enter a scarecrow in the contest or get more information, call Historic Olde Town Arvada at 303-420-6100 or go to www.arvadafestivals.com or www.oldetownarvada.org

