

As I write this article, the meteorologists are telling us that there is a good chance that we will feel a cool front in Central Florida next week, which will bring high temperatures down into the 80s. While it's not much, I am hopeful that it marks the start of a fall season that allows us all to enjoy the many fun activities happening around our City.

Now through January 2nd, The Orange County Regional History Center will showcase the work of the Florida Highwaymen in a 10th anniversary exhibit entitled, "Against All Odds, The Art of the Highwaymen." For the first time, paintings from all 26 of the original Highwaymen will be showcased together in this unique exhibit. To learn more, please visit www.thehistorycenter.org.

October also brings with it many ways to enjoy the great Florida outdoors that served as the inspiration for the highwaymen landscapes. On Saturday, October 23rd from 6 – 11 p, join the members of the Downtown College Park Partnership for the annual College Park Jazz Fest taking place on Edgewater Drive between Smith and Clayton Street. For more information on this wonderful tradition, check out www.downtowncollegepark.com. Also, to get into the Halloween spirit, Leu Gardens will host an evening of ghost stories on Friday, October 15th with creaky gates opening at 6 p and scary stories beginning at 7:30 p. For more information on this and all of the events that take place at this great City amenity, check out www.leugardens.org.

And speaking of Halloween, just a friendly reminder to review with your family the list of Halloween Safety tips created by the Orlando Police Department to encourage safety on this busy night. While this holiday provides family and community camaraderie, it is also a time when we all need to be extra cautious, especially in neighborhoods like Baldwin Park and College Park that are fast-becoming some of the best trick-or-treating spots around!

- Know your children's route
- Take a flashlight
- Be sure costumes, shoes, and treat bags don't pose any risks or hazards.
- Remind kids not to enter strangers' homes or cars.
- Set rules about not eating treats until kids get home. **Be sure to inspect all treats before allowing kids to eat them.**
- Candy that has been opened should be thrown away. Do not eat any homemade treats and inspect fruit closely.
- Remember drivers have a hard time seeing people, especially at dusk.
- Never cross the street between parked cars.
- Watch open flames from jack-o-lanterns as they can catch costumes and long wigs on fire.

- Make sure that fake knives and swords are made from cardboard or other flexible materials to avoid accidental injury or worse having them mistaken for the real thing!

It is also important to ensure that your home is safe and accessible to trick-or-treaters. As adults, there are some very simple things we can do to make the evening safe for everyone.

- Turn on your porch light.
- Move lit jack-o-lanterns off the porch where kids get bunched up when trick-or-treating in groups.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.
- Drive slowly all evening as you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police (non-emergency number, 321-235-5300).
- Keep in mind the effect that all of the visitors might have on your family pets and keep them away from the front door if they seem overwhelmed.

Once again, thank you for your support and for taking the time to do your part in helping keep our community safe. Happy Halloween and Happy Fall to you and your family!