



First Annual North End Halloween Tour

Concerns for Community Health and Safety Lead to Fun New Traditions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Halloween on Harrison Boulevard in the historic North End neighborhood is one of Boise's most beloved fall traditions. A typical year sees thousands of little ghouls and goblins knocking on doors and collecting candy, as kids and families from across the Treasure Valley join in the spooky fun. Thanks to the creativity of a few North End neighbors, those who do not feel safe trick-or-treating or handing out candy in the midst of a pandemic will have a fun new event and fundraiser to look forward to October 23rd through 30th: the First Annual North End Halloween Tour!

With huge crowds anticipated for Halloween on a Saturday and ongoing concerns relating to COVID-19, it became clear to Harrison resident Will Varin that an alternative celebration was needed that would allow visitors to spread out across the neighborhood. Halloween has become one of Will's favorite annual events and one he feels is an important tradition to continue, though this year Harrison Boulevard will not be closed to vehicle traffic as it has been in the past. "We love sharing our neighborhood with the Treasure Valley on Halloween, but this year called for something different. We're excited to start a new tradition that supports a great cause and makes people smile."

The Tour will feature decorated homes and hidden scavenger hunt surprises and is a collaborative effort between North End residents and the North End Neighborhood Association (NENA). Donations will be collected, and funds raised will benefit a different child-centered charity each year. This year's beneficiary is Camp Rainbow Gold, a local charity helping Idaho children diagnosed with cancer. "Neighbors may still be handing out candy on Halloween, but we know that the Harrison experience will be different this year. So we're thrilled to announce a fun and safe alternative, and hopefully we can make a difference for a really worthy local charity," said NENA Secretary Autumn Street. "And we are so excited for all North Enders to share in the Halloween fun that is usually focused on Harrison."

North End residents can get involved by adding their homes or businesses to the tour map. The Tour is free, self-guided, and costume-friendly. Masks are required. Tour participants are encouraged to make a donation to this year's beneficiary, Camp Rainbow Gold. More information, links, and map can be found at www.northendboise.org or on the Boise North End Halloween Tour 2020 Facebook page.

For more information, contact the North End Neighborhood Association:

Mark Baltes, President
mark@northendboise.org

Autumn Street, Secretary
autumn@northendboise.org

