



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox, Promotions Director
promotions@acgilbert.org | 503-371-3631

Harvest Festival Expands to Two-Day Event

September 4, 2009, Salem, OR – A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village celebrates the harvest season with the 11th Annual Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment, its signature fall event, October 17 and 18.

With over 1,000 attendees last year, organizers decided to expand the community celebration to a two-day event, with even more family-friendly activities, crafts and entertainment hosted at the children's museum. Events will take place on Saturday, October 17 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., culminating in a grand lighting of hundreds of carved pumpkins beneath the Marion Street Bridge. The merriment will continue with a second day of harvest fun from noon to 5 p.m.

Music will fill the air both days, courtesy of LuAnn Ritts. On Saturday, she will be joined by her band Cash and Company before the grand lighting of pumpkins. On Sunday, LuAnn will perform solo. Families are invited to dance a jig to the fiddling of Truman Price, or leave it to the professionals, the Molly Malone Irish Dancers, who will perform Saturday.

Admission to the event includes full access to the museum and the Outdoor Discovery Center. Every spare inch of the museum will be filled with hands-on crafts and activities, including face painting, a 4-H farm animal petting zoo and a fresh apple cider press. Kids will be able to make a popcorn scarecrow hand, pumpkin pie in a bag, a harvest necklace and much more. Pizza will be available for purchase from Kiwanis.

A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

P: 503-371-3631 F: 503-316-3485 E: info@acgilbert.org W: www.acgilbert.org



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Stephanie Lenox, Promotions Director
promotions@acgilbert.org | 503-371-3631

Executive Director Pamela Vorachek, who can be found each year at the festival masquerading as the Great Pumpkin, is eager to see the museum beat its goal of 500 carved pumpkins for the lit display.

“It’s so much fun to see all those pumpkins lit up,” Vorachek said. “One of my favorite things is that I get to dance with the kids out in the parking lot. I get to dress up (as the Great Pumpkin) and be silly. I don’t often get, or take, the opportunity to be silly.”

Admission ranges from \$2 for members and public assistance to \$7.75 for nonmembers, with a \$2 discount for anyone who brings a carved pumpkin to add to the display. Event admission is available for purchase at the gate for that day only. The event is sponsored by Foresters and made possible in part by the City of Salem’s Transient Occupancy Tax Funds.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

11th Annual Harvest Festival & Pumpkin Merriment

Saturday, October 17, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 18, noon – 5 p.m.

Enjoy two full days of fall festivities at the children’s museum with harvest craft and games, fresh pressed cider, live music and entertainment, a 4-H farm animal petting zoo and much more! The grand lighting of hundreds of carved pumpkins takes place Saturday night at dusk. Bring a carved pumpkin for \$2 off the price of admission. \$2 member / \$7.75 nonmember / \$2 public assistance. A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village, 116 Marion St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. Call: 503-371-3631.

###

A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

P: 503-371-3631 F: 503-316-3485 E: info@acgilbert.org W: www.acgilbert.org