BLOOMINGDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FRANK A. GIAMMARESE
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 23, 2011

Dear Children and Parents,

RE: Halloween - Trick - or - Treating

During this year's Halloween, the Village is recommending that "Trick-or-Treating" be allowed in Bloomingdale on **Monday, October 31st, 2011, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.** The following suggestions from the Bloomingdale Police Department and the National Child Safety Council might also ensure that this is a fun and safe day for our children:

1. **Trick-or-Treating**
   - A responsible adult or teen should accompany each group.
   - Try to limit the group size to four or five children.
   - Walk! Do not run while going trick-or-treating.
   - Stay in your own neighborhood and only go to houses which have porch lights turned on.
   - Parents should know exactly what route their children are taking.
   - Never enter a stranger's house - even if invited.
   - Carry "trick-or-treating" bags that have handles, to keep your arms free.

2. **Costumes**
   - Keep costumes simple. Long and fancy costumes could cause children to trip. Costumes should also be fireproof.
   - Costumes should be made of white or light-colored material to be easily seen at night.
   - Regular street shoes should be worn, as opposed to fancy "clown" shoes, etc.
   - Props, such as guns or swords, should be made of styrofoam or cardboard.
   - At least one person in each group should carry a flashlight.
   - Instead of wearing masks, paint faces with make-up.

3. **Treats**
   - Never eat anything until after you are home and the treats have been examined by your parents.
   - Cut and wash fruit before eating.
   - Throw away anything unwrapped.
   - Check the wrapper of commercial treats for signs of tampering.
   - Notify the police if harmful items are found.

4. **Parties / Activities**

- Younger children may enjoy attending a party organized by concerned parents in the area, instead of going trick-or-treating.
- In this regard, the **Bloomingdale Park District is having their "Halloween Happening"** for children (pre-school thru 6th grade) consisting of games, prizes, and treats, on **Friday, October 28th, 2011, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the Johnston Recreation Center, 172 S. Circle. Residents may purchase admission wristbands for a cost of $5.00 each from October 3rd through October 27th, or for $7.00 each on October 28th. There is no charge for parents to attend this event along with their children. Parents may prefer this as a safer way for their children to enjoy Halloween.
- The **Bloomingdale Public Library is hosting an outdoor family Halloween Party.** Activities this year will include free face-painting, a "hay maze", games, prizes, and candy under a big top **(rain or shine)** located in front of the Library, 101 Fairfield Way, on **Saturday, October 29th, 2011, from approximately 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**; however, tickets will only be available until 2:30 p.m., so plan to arrive in plenty of time to receive the free game tickets. Refreshments will be provided. Children of all ages are welcome and need not be in costume to attend.
- Both the **Bloomingdale Police Dept.** and the **Bloomingdale Fire Dept.** will have an "**Open House**" with a Halloween theme on **Saturday, October 29th, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Both departments will conduct tours of their facilities and refreshments will be served. Activities and games will be provided by our Police, Fire and Park District personnel. Children are encouraged to wear their costumes for Trick-or-Treating (children less than 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult).

5. **Parents**

- Know which friends your children will be with.
- Do not leave your home unattended on Halloween night.
- Leave your porch or driveway light on, so children will know it's okay to visit your home.
- Keep your pets inside your house on Halloween night.
- Remove all items, such as lawn furniture, garden accessories, etc., from your yard before vandals do, or before youngsters trip over them.

Finally, the Bloomingdale Police Department will have extra police officers in both marked and unmarked cars patrolling the Village to ensure that your children are safe and vandalism is minimized. Please report any suspicious persons or acts of vandalism to the Bloomingdale Police Department immediately.

Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Frank A. Giammarese
Chief of Police

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