

# The Community Page

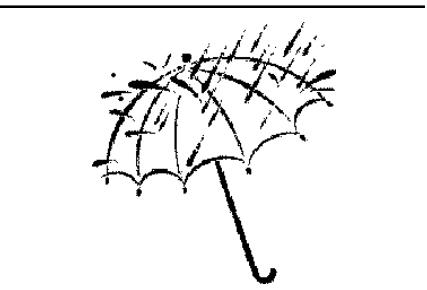


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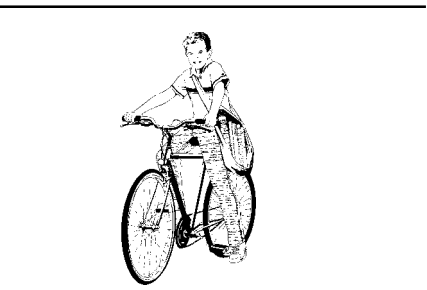
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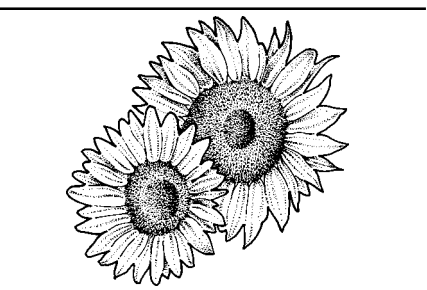
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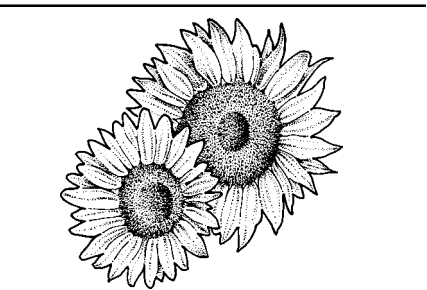
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## WATCH OUT FOR YOUNGSTERS ON HALLOWEEN!

Halloween is nearly here; time for kids to go out trick-or-treating. We've gathered some safety tips so that, hopefully, a little tummy ache will be the worst that happens to anyone this year.

### Neighborhood Watch of Sherman County "Looking out for each other"

- Halloween Safety Tips**
- Trick-or-treaters:**
- Carry a flashlight.
  - Walk; don't run.
  - Stay on sidewalks.
  - Obey traffic signals.
  - Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
  - Don't cut across yards or driveways.
  - Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
  - Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
  - Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with the costume).
  - Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
  - Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
  - If there's no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
  - Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
  - Approach only houses that are lighted. Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

- Parents make sure:**
- Have your child eat dinner before setting out.
  - Children should carry quarters or a cell phone, so they can call home.
  - Young children should be accompanied by an adult.
  - If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
  - If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
  - Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
  - You should know where they're going.
  - Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before eating anything.
  - Look at the wrapping and toss out anything that looks suspect.

- Homeowners:**
- Make sure your yard is clear ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip kids.
  - Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
  - Battery powered jack o' lantern candles are preferable to a real flame.
  - If you do use candles, place the pumpkins well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
  - Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
  - Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
  - Non-food treats: plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, coins.

**Halloween safety tips**  
From the Kansas Bureau of Investigation-Anti-Crime Unit.  
Halloween, the children's night for trick-or-treats, ghosts and goblins, haunts and horrors. Unfortunately, some of the horrors

are all too real! Every year on Halloween, many children suffer from auto accidents, fire injuries, falls, cuts, bruises or poisoned treats.

Be aware and be informed, so your children can have a safe, enjoyable Halloween. Supervise your children's evening, and stay in neighborhoods that are well-lit and familiar.



- Risky roadways:**
- Children become careless from excitement and may run into the road.
  - Dusk is the time of poorest visibility for drivers. Try to trick-or-treat while it is still daylight.
  - Choose a costume that is easy to walk in, easy to see out of and that can be seen by drivers.
  - If the trick-or-treating lasts into the night, wear a light-colored costume.
  - Use reflective tape on the costume for additional visibility.
- Dangerous dress:**
- Loose costumes, oversized bags or unsafe shoes can cause falls or accidents.
  - Masks reduce vision.
  - Sharp or pointed toy weapons are unsafe.
  - If wearing a mask, choose one that is cool, comfortable and easy to see out of. Take off the mask before crossing the street. Better yet, wear make-up instead of a mask.
- Frightful flames:**
- Billowing costumes are dangerous around an open flame.
  - Flowing, false-hair wigs are unsafe around candles.
  - Wigs and costumes should be of non-flammable materials.
  - Use a flashlight. It makes children more visible and lights their way.

- Treacherous treats:**
- It's sad, but true, that some people would try to hurt children. Treats must be checked for potential poisoning or unsafe objects.
  - All fruit should be washed and cut into small pieces to make sure nothing has been placed inside.
  - Unpackaged items such as popcorn or small candies should be discarded.
  - Candy with loose or torn wrappings should

also be discarded.

- If you should discover anything wrong with the treats brought home, report it to law enforcement so that other parents may be warned and the people responsible caught.

### Halloween Safety Tips From Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics:

- Avoid dark colors. Children in light and bright costumes are easier for drivers to see.
  - Hats should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes or flying off and sending children chasing after them.
  - Dress up the flashlight. If you somehow incorporate the flashlight into the costume, your child will be more likely to use it. Be creative!
  - Have your child try on his costume and check it for fit and mobility. A snip of the scissors here and there can greatly improve movement.
  - Before leaving home, feed the children a favorite meal. They'll be less tempted to eat the treats they collect.
  - Give each child a small sack of candy to eat while they're out.
  - Children should eat no treats until after they get home.
  - Inspect all treats. Throw out anything with torn wrappers, home-made items (unless you know the source), anything not in its original wrapper and anything that might have been tampered with.
  - Give each child a whistle in case they get separated from the group.
  - Adults should accompany pre-school and early elementary-aged trick-or-treaters at all times, but not in a car. Get out and walk. Parents who watch their children from a moving car do not always pay attention to the road.
  - Older children who go without adult supervision should stay in a group.
  - Remind children what to do if approached by a stranger, scream to draw attention and then get an adult to help them.
  - Remind children of basic street safety: look both ways before crossing; don't dart out from between parked cars; cross only at designated crosswalks, etc.
- HAVE A SAFE HALLOWEEN!**





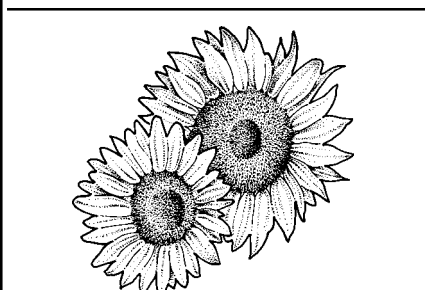
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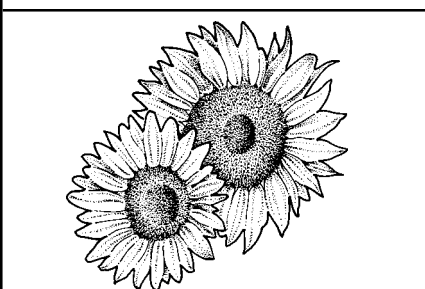
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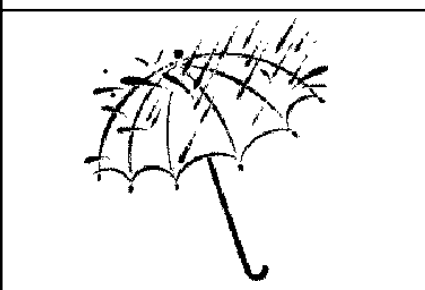
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