



A GIANT WIZARD led the Spook Parade (above), which covered the length and breadth of Main Street with all sorts of ghoulish and fanciful creatures.

Spook parade a sweet success

It bopped, it growled and pranced, boogeyed and danced – by all accounts, this year’s Spook Parade through downtown Oberlin was a ghoulish hit.

Costumed kids and adults took over Main Street on Halloween afternoon to show off their costumes and get all the candy they could from the firemen, the Oberlin Business Alliance, the courthouse and the Good Samaritan Center.

Members of the alliance, which organized the parade, decided this year that they wanted the kids to be a little more organized. The idea was to make the event more like an actual parade and less like a trick-or-treat free for all. To that end, they had downtown businesses send their candy to the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office, where it was bagged to be given out at the end of the parade route instead of having the kids go door to door.

There were some dissenting opinions from those who enjoyed the door-to-door visits, but overall, those involved seemed to be pleased by the outcome.

“I thought it went fine,” said Joe Stanley of Stanley Hardware, a member of the alliance. “I would like to have seen them spread out a little more, but I thought it went well.”

“It’s quite possible we’ll do it this way from now on.”

Police Chief Troy Haas said he agreed that the event had gone well, even if some people weren’t as happy about it.

“I did see some unhappy people,” he said, “whether it was about organization or what I don’t know. People seemed to like it the way it was, though I never talked to any of the parents about it. All in all, I think it went well; there was good attendance.”

Mr. Haas also said that other than the parade, it had been an uneventful Halloween in town, and for that he was thankful. There was very little mischief, he said, and young people overall had shown responsibility and maturity that impressed him.

Lisa Paulson, activities coordinator at the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center, said that activities there this year had been far better than last year.

“Every year (the Oberlin Business Alliance) tries something different,” she said. “Last year, we had over 200 kids in and out in 15 minutes, so we were trying to slow it down so the residents could enjoy the costumes and everything. And the residents just loved it this way.”

“We had ribbons,” Mrs. Paulson said, “but it started to take too long. They couldn’t decide who was the cutest and silliest, and finally someone came back and said that it was taking too long, so we only got two rounds of giving ribbons away.”

Chamber of Commerce President David Swank said that he, too, thought the parade had gone splendidly.

“I thought (it) went very well,” he said, “and I’ve talked with a number of people who thought so too. Every child in the parade received a bag of candy, with additional candy being passed out by our firefighters, our EMTs, and the folks in the courthouse.”

“With that said, we still have some fine tuning to do for next year’s parade. We need to have the kids move more quickly through Good Sam, and the parade needs to be spread out more so everyone gets a chance to see all the great costumes. And of course, we always need more candy.”



BOYS AND GIRLS were decked out to the nines for the parade, with princesses like Kamryn Olen and Lia Jimenez (left) keeping up the glitz and glamour. Connie Grafel (left below) helped the women of Paint Oberlin Patriotic hand out bags of candy from a fire truck parked at Penn Avenue and Hall Street, the south end of the parade route.



BY FAR THE MOST technologically advanced costume, one of the best homemade robots at the parade (above) belonged to Jesse Hendrickson. At the end of the parade, fireman Larry Ayers (left) scooped candy out of a boot for the Wolf Man. And sure to not be outdone by the girls, classy gangsters like Jack Mumm and Isaiah Tucker (below) heated up the courthouse while looking for candy.

