

Jackson Township Hosts Mayor's Safe Trick-or-Treat



BY CASEY WOLFE

Under the direction of the recently appointed Mayor Jennifer Kuhn, Jackson Township hosted a safe trick-or-treat event for children to celebrate Halloween in a safe and fun-filled environment.

The event took place in town hall and had activities for kids including trick-or-treating and visits with township departments, Jackson police, fire and emergency services, as well as games, crafts, a DJ and a bubble witch performance.

Department of Public works employee and Clean Communities Coordinator, Pauline Dressler, said seeing the kids enjoy Halloween is the most fulfilling part of the event. "The kids are so adorable with their costumes, and the look in their eyes when they get the little treats, I just love it."



Fire Chief Stan O'Brien from station 54 attended with treats and information about Jackson Township's fire department. He believes the township event provides a place for kids to celebrate while ensuring safety. "[Kids] don't have to go door to door, they aren't running in the street." This was the fire department's sixth trick-or-treat, or trunk-or-treat event. "If they see us out there, maybe they'll want to be a fireman," said O'Brien.



Safety is a major focus of Mayor Kuhn's in her immediate plan for the township. "We have the extra money that we found from going through the audit that I've talked about when I was Council President...we got an estimate to get key fobs on the exterior. We have to be open to the public, but we have a grand, beautiful front entrance. Now we're going to have the key fobs put on the back for the security of all the people within administration to only be able to access [other doors] through key fobs."

There will also be a class 2 officer stationed in the front of town hall to check any visitors in. The building has been open and accessible to residents during operating hours without security until now. Another new safety measure that Mayor Kuhn has instated are panic buttons for township departments that will alert the police department of emergencies if pressed by a staff member. Some departments have had office doorbells installed as well. These security measures were accomplished in a matter of three hours.

Overall, the township demonstrated the positive effects of coming together as a community with this year's trick-or-treat event and intends to continue events in a safe and fun environment. "The way they did it this year is really cool," said Dressler. "They have the hallways all decorated nice. Recreation and DPW did a really good job with that. They had so many activities going on with the bubble witch, the costume contest and the pumpkins and the candy, you couldn't ask for anything more."