



Lewiston is known as a premier summer destination thanks to its popular festivals, seasonal sweet treats and annual concert series. The village aims to extend that magic a little further this fall, by combining Halloween, harvest and family programming under one ominous umbrella.

The October-long **“Haunted Lewiston”** includes a **“Kids Halloween Costume Dance Party”** (Oct. 9); the **“World’s Largest (Small Pumpkin) Chucking Contest”** (Oct. 17); the local business group’s **“Trick-or-Treat on Center Street”** (Oct. 25); the **“Haunted” Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market** (Oct. 30); the **Lewiston Council on the Arts’ “Marble Orchard Ghost Walk”** (ongoing); films at the **Lewiston Public Library** (ongoing); a **“Wicked and Warm”** “comfort food festival” where participating restaurants will compete for patron votes on their favorite fare (ongoing); the return of the **“Golden Scarecrow”** competition, with dozens of made-up mannequins strewn across the streets (ongoing); and, at the **Castellani**

Art Museum, “Art That Is Eerie,” a self-guided experience included with regular admission.

Newly elected Village of Lewiston Mayor Dan Cota came up with the idea to comingle the community chillers.

“Lewiston has a history of doing these types of events,” he said. “We were looking to extend it as part of a broader, tourism-type initiative within the village” to stretch the shoulder season.

Cota said, “We have a lot of the businesses so excited about bringing back the ‘Golden Scarecrow’ competition. ... We’ll have Center Street completely decked out with scarecrows the entire length of it.”

Personally, he’s excited for “Wicked and Warm,” a monthlong “comfort food festival” “where participating restaurants will be doing stick-to-your-ribs, comfort-type food that just makes you happy on a cool, fall day.” Patrons will vote for their favorite fare, with the winner receiving special recognition.

He said the nighttime “Haunted” farmers market is poised to be-

come the second-largest event at Academy Park – only trailing the Niagara County Peach Festival.

Market proprietor Rachel Jolbert expects to have more than 80 vendors spread across the field.

She said, “We want it to just be a family-friendly event, but kind of more on the side of the mystic, haunted kind of vibe.”

Jolbert plans to have special activities for kids; vendors decked out in Halloween garb; and maybe even a doggy costume contest.

The annual “Trick-or-Treat on Center Street” will give children a chance to collect candy from local merchants.

Event organizer and Inspirations on Canvas owner/artist Kathy Pignatora said, “Bring your ghosts and goblins to Center Street.” The roadway will be closed from Fourth to Seventh “to make sure all the ‘little monsters’ are safe for trick-or-treating!”

Lewiston Council on the Arts will again bring its “Marble Orchard” tour to town.

Executive Director Maria Fortuna Dean said, “Our talented cast

of actors and musicians will guide walkers through Lewiston’s streets, with stops along the way to experience mysterious tales of murder, lost love, and family feuds – all brought to life through theatrical vignettes and live music.

“This year, the path leads to historic Barton Hill, where walkers can gather around the outdoor fire, enjoy hot cider, and mingle with our friendly ghosts.”

Cota explained “Haunted Lewiston” is “more of a Halloween-town type of vibe” and less “A Nightmare on Elm Street.” It’s “a family-friendly event that brings in a lot of the history of Lewiston,” while also emphasizing time-honored spooky stories.

See the schedule of events, times and locations on Page 2.

Niagara Frontier Publications created this special **“Haunted Lewiston Sentinel”** to serve as the official companion guide for “Haunted Lewiston.” It will be distributed all month at events – and is available free online at www.wnypapers.com.

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