

Carbondale Halloween is back! On October 26th and 27th, the Carbondale Halloween Committee will welcome visitors from across the region for a weekend of food, fun and entertainment.

The community will host bonfires, Disney movies, free music, hay rides, bouncy houses, bison burgers, pumpkin races and more, all with a focus on family-friendly events. And with some amazing free music acts on Saturday night, along with special programming at the Varsity, there will be plenty for adults to do too.

The entertainment will be city-wide. Murdale Safe Halloween will be back for its 21st year, and the Green Earth Pumpkin Glow on North Oakland is coming back for its 2nd year. On the SIU Campus there will be a Monster Dash 5K Race and a showing of Disney's "Halloweentown". The downtown area will play host to the 5th annual Great Carbondale Pumpkin Race, some great programming at the Varsity, a candy walk, and some amazing free music. Visit CarbondaleHalloween.com for more information.

The idea to resurrect Carbondale Halloween arose during last year's Eclipse experience. The weekend of the eclipse was such a positive event for so many, there was a sense it was time to create another signature event in Carbondale. After discussions with local business owners, fall seemed to be a perfect time for a new annual event, and with Carbondale being almost synonymous with Halloween, the timing seemed perfect to reintroduce the celebration back to the region.

But it takes a community to recreate a festival.

A multitude of sponsors, community organizations and individuals within the Carbondale community have come together to bring back Carbondale Halloween. The Carbondale Halloween Committee consists of 22 members representing 11 community organizations, the City of Carbondale, SIU, business owners and private citizens.

The Committee has been meeting bi-weekly since its first meeting in mid-February, and the participating organizations have joined forces to bring together existing events like Murdale Safe Halloween and the Great Carbondale Pumpkin Race, while adding many new events to the schedule.

The event is sponsored mostly by private donations. The Carbondale Business Development Corporation, a private non-profit, has donated the majority of funds to ensure that the inaugural event is a success, with the City of Carbondale, Murdale Ace Hardware, Arthur Agency, Venegoni Distributing, local media and other private donors making up the remainder of the cash and in-kind donations.

The economic benefit from the events will go back to the community. Civic and community organizations like The Boys & Girls Club of Carbondale, Carbondale Crimestoppers, I Can Read Program, Green Earth and the Carbondale Young Professionals, among others, will receive portions of the proceeds.

The strong sense of pride that is shown by this cooperation certainly helps to foster a sense of community and improve collaboration between the City and University. It also helps to create more fun things for our region's residents and SIU students to do, while bringing the fun back to Carbondale.

The City of Carbondale is known throughout the region as a town whose residents have a strong sense of volunteerism and support. That spirit of collaboration could not be on better display in this moment, as citizens and organizations pull together to make the City a better, stronger and more welcoming place.

If you're interested in learning more about doing business in Carbondale, feel free to contact Steven Mitchell at (618) 457-3286 or steven.mitchell@explorecarbondale.com.