

From the Mayor's Desk...October 31, 2011

Happy Halloween!

What a weekend. I would like to thank the Department of Public Works, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the Volunteer Ambulance Corps for their tireless efforts to keep us all safe during the storm. We are still dealing with a lot of downed trees and power outages. If you see wires down or trees hanging over wires, please call Con Edison at 1-800 75CONED. The Village is working with Con Edison to help them restore power as soon as possible to all residents. However, due to the widespread and severe damage from the storm it is impossible to receive reliable estimates to when everyone will be back on. Con Edison has prioritized restoring power to the Dows Lane School and they already have the high school back up.

Senior Center Open for all Residents

Since we do have many residents still without power, we are opening up the Senior Center to everyone until at least 6pm tonight. So come down, warm up, charge your cell phone get a cup of coffee and visit with some neighbors at our beautiful facility in Scenic Hudson Park.

Halloween Parade Cancellation

We were all disappointed that we could not hold the annual Halloween parade yesterday. After assessing the situation with Police Chief Cerone, we thought the safety risks simply were not worth it. All is not lost however! The Irvington Fire Company will be distributing candy and hot chocolate at the Fire Department at 90 Main Street today from 4-6pm. So, kick off your trick or treating with a bag of candy and listen to some great music with Parker Reilly and his band.

Communication

I apologize that we were unable to send e-mail blasts yesterday. Due to power outages and not being able to contact certain key personnel, we could not send Village e-mails nor update the Village website. We will revise our procedures to provide wider access to these critical communication tools so cancellations and important updates will not be interrupted in the future. I understand that the Village is best served by keeping our residents fully updated and well informed.

Halloween Safety

My original e-mail planned for today was going to be about having a safe Halloween. Below are the American Red Cross's "Lucky 13 Halloween Safety Tips" I think they cover it pretty well (and I love bad rhymes):

1. Map out the route that you plan to roam, so adults are assured you will find your way home!
2. From the bravest of superheroes to the noblest of knights, everyone should remember to bring their flashlights!
3. If you visit a house where a stranger resides, accept treats at the door and, please, don't go inside.
4. When you get ready to put on your disguise, use face paint instead of masks, which will cover your eyes.
5. Always remember, before you embark, to wear light-colored clothing to be seen in the dark! (And remember to use reflective tape, even on bikes, and brooms and the edges of your cape!)

6. Whether you walk, slither or sneak, do it on the sidewalks and not in the street.
7. As you roam through the neighborhood collecting your treats, please look both ways before crossing the street! (And speaking of streets, the corners are the place for trick or treaters to cross no matter their pace.)
8. Wigs, capes and costumes are flammable attire, so avoid open flames to prevent a fire!
9. Use a glow stick instead of a candle so your jack-o-lantern isn't a safety gamble!
10. You may fly on a broom or a space ship from Mars, but please be on the lookout for drivers in cars! (Between parked cars is no place to hide, be sure that you're seen whether you're a clown or a bride.)
11. Monsters and zombies should stay off the lawn, and only visit homes with their porch lights turned on!
12. You may be dressed as a werewolf, a cat or a frog, but be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.
13. Have a grown-up inspect your candy when you're done trick-or-treating to remove open packages and choking hazards before eating.

The special items for this year (sorry I am not going to rhyme them):

1. Some pedestrian walkways may be partially snow covered. So, please use extra caution when walking in the Village.
2. Due to the continuing power outages, there may be some areas without street lighting. It is best for trick or treaters to avoid areas without power altogether.
3. Trick or treaters (and especially parents) should be on alert for downed wires or tree limbs hanging on wires. Areas where wires or tree limbs with wires should be avoided all together.
4. Lastly, please be careful walking in areas with tree branches on the ground. We do not want anyone falling and spilling their candy.

Thank you for your patience during this unprecedented weather event. Unfortunately "unprecedented" weather events seem to be happening with more and more regularity. As a Village we continue to learn from these events in order to keep you safe as well as try to limit interruptions from your regular daily routines. As always, we welcome your thoughts on how we can improve.

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