

# suburban SCARES

FALL FESTIVALS AND SPOOKY  
SOIREEs ON TAP THIS WEEKEND



By Rick Kambic

Staff Reporter

Thrill seekers from all over the northwest suburbs will be traveling to Morton Grove to experience Fear City, the largest haunted house to be built in recent years.

Fear City, 8240 N. Austin Ave., Morton Grove, has 40 actors and more than 40,000 square feet of thrills. Visitors will begin with a tour of an undesirable neighborhood in Chicago, then slowly move through a meat packing factory and finally pass through a giant head and into a vast unknown.

General admission is \$25 and a VIP pass is \$35.

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For those looking to keep low-key, local park districts and village programs offer child-friendly events for the Halloween weekend.

Morton Grove residents with young children can attend the Halloween Family Fun Fest on Oct. 29 at the Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster Street. Two time slots are available for kids two to ten years old.

Party times are 4 to 5:30 p.m. or 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. and include hay hunts, carnival games and refreshments.

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The Niles Park District held its annual Monster Ball on Oct. 21 and its Halloween Parade and Party on Oct. 22, but a SpooktoberFest runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 30 at Pioneer Park.

Attendees can participate in a parade and costume contest at 1 p.m., or take a free hayride, roam the penny carnival or complete Halloween crafts.

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Deciding to cancel its annual haunted house at Tam Golf Course, the Niles Teen Center will instead have a Halloween Party from 10 p.m. to midnight on Oct. 29 in the Golf Mill Shopping Center.

The party is for kids in sixth through tenth grade at a cost of \$5 per person, with refreshments on sale separately.

Mark Williams, the director of the Teen Center, said maintaining the haunted house consumed too much staff time for the little traffic it received. He said the Teen Center members were learning much about responsibility from hosting the event, but costs overran revenue.

Williams said the haunted house could return next year if enough residents call asking for it.

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In Park Ridge, residents can take their kids to the Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave, between 6:30 and 8 p.m. Oct. 28 and learn how some animals use costumes and disguises on a daily basis.

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A Kooky Spooky Skate will be held at Oakton Ice Arena, 2800 Oakton Street, from 1 to 2 p.m. on Oct. 29 for residents of all ages, at a cost of \$6 per person. On-ice trick-or-treating will be offered while spooky music plays over the speakers.

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Boo-tacular returns from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 30 in the Maine Park Leisure Center, 2701 W. Sibley Street. For \$9, children two to twelve years old can roam the building trick-or-treating, have their fortune told or get a Halloween balloon.