



Greg Champagne
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N e w s R e l e a s e

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Halloween Safety Announcement

Weather forecasters are predicting significant weather on the evening of Halloween, due to an approaching cold front anticipated to arrive around nightfall in St. Charles Parish. Responding to safety concerns, Sheriff Greg Champagne offers a recommendation to families with small children to have a discussion with their neighbors about establishing local trick-a-treating routes within their neighborhood for young children to safely participate in ...this custom on Friday evening while the weather is nice.

"This could be a great opportunity for neighbors to get together and have discussions about safety in the community. This interaction is what we encourage in our promotion of local Neighborhood Watch programs. My office does employ certain actions in anticipation of the Halloween "customs" such as deploying additional personnel on the streets. I recognize that many have plans that are not easily changed this late. For this reason, I will increase personnel for both Friday night and also on Halloween night," said Sheriff Champagne.

"I would like to clarify that Halloween is not a legal holiday nor a government sanctioned event. It is a "custom" observed by most (but not all people). There are no state laws nor local ordinances regulating Halloween customs including "trick or treating" in St. Charles Parish.

I do not feel that government has the legal authority to officially "move" what is only a customary event. At most, government officials such as myself can only "recommend" or "suggest" that the Halloween custom of kids' "trick or treating" be moved based on safety factors.

No matter what day you decide, citizens are free as always to participate or not with the Halloween traditions.