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HCC's inaugural 'Trunk or Treat' event

HOLYOKE - They came early and they stayed late — but not too late — a few at a time at

first and then by the dozen, children wearing costumes, accompanied by their parents, happy to collect some early Halloween treats, both healthy and sweet.

ludging by the size of the crowd that showed up on campus Friday, Oct. 27, at dusk, HCC's inaugural "Trunk or Treat" event was a great success.

"By our count, we had 200 to 250 children," said Education professor Sheila Gould, adviser to the HCC Education Club, which organized the event. "We counted by how many boxes of Goldfish crackers we gave out."

themselves, HCC faculty, staff and students decorated the back ends of 18 cars and trucks for the early Halloween event. Rather than going door to door to collect candy and other treats, children were able to go "trunk to trunk" in Parking Lot R by the HCC Bartley Center, experiencing a wide variety of spooky as well as less ghoulish displays.

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HCC students, faculty and staff decorated their vehicles for the college's first-ever Trunk-or-Treat Oct. 27.

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While many faculty and staff members brought their children, most attendees seemed to be from neighborhoods around the campus. Parents said they appreciated being able to take

their children out "trick or treating" on a weekend night while it was still light

"As a parent, my children had a wonderful, safe time," said Gould. "They talked about it all weekend."

Gould said the feedback the first Trunk or Treat has been so overwhelmingly positive it is likely to become an annual HCC event. "Other people on campus have

already expressed interest in participating next year," she said. "I've had some online feedback from community friends who said they'd make this a new tradition for their families."

Prizes were awarded in a variety of categories for best trunk displays. such as Best Executed Theme: Winter Wonderland (Students on the Autism Spectrum Club), and Scariest Trunk: Zombies (HCC Psychology Club). HCC education students began

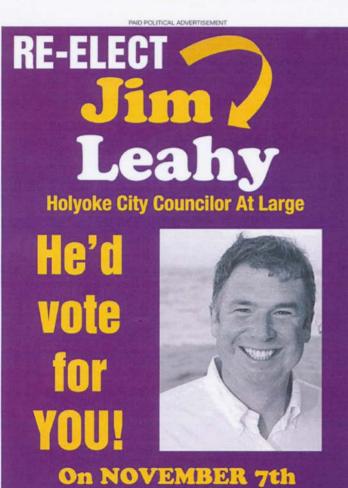
talking last fall about sponsoring some kind of Halloween-related event.

"Students were brainstorming ideas to involve the whole HCC community in a way that would benefit children and families in the area," said Gould.

Last year, the HCC Education Club became the first community college club in Massachusetts to be recognized by the Massachusetts Teachers Association as a chapter of SEAM (Student Educators Association of Massachusetts), whose members host community events and participate in statewide education conferences.







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