

HOLYOKE the Sun

om

thesun@turley.com

www.sun.turley.com

Trunk or Treaters follow a trail of stops

By Colleen Montague
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – With the arrival of Halloween comes the appearance of costumed characters along the streets: monsters, superheroes, princesses and others of many ages in search of Halloween sweet treats. Children and families in Holyoke had an opportunity to celebrate the spooky holiday a little early last weekend as they gathered on the grounds of Holyoke Community College to take part in HCC's second Trunk-or-Treat.

Trunk-or-treating works much like the traditional trick-or-treating, but instead of going from door to door to collect their treats children go from "trunk to trunk." The vehicles are decorated in a variety of themes, from seasonal to scary stories and characters and the owners also dress up in character. This is the second year HCC has held Trunk-or-Treating, organized by the HCC Education Department and Education Club in collaboration with many college programs, departments, community groups, area businesses and city agencies.

"The best part [about Trunk-or-Treating] is really seeing the community enjoy the HCC Campus," said education professor Sheila Gould,



Turley Publications Courtesy Photo by Chris Yurko

Homework House was one of many community groups and area businesses that sponsored vehicles this year, winning the award for best executed theme, "Charlie Brown: The Great Pumpkin."

who is also advisor to the Education Club. "The positive energy that the HCC Education Club and SEAM [(Student Education Association of Massachusetts)] students put into the event spread to all the participants. We even had HCC Education Club alumni who are at Westfield State University now come back and sponsor a trunk."

"We were thrilled to watch droves of families walk down past the Bartley Center into the lot where the trunks were set up," Gould continued. "They started arriving around 5:20 p.m. and the crowd steadily grew throughout the entire hour-long event."

The hour-long event saw almost 400 children along with their families come to the lot to

visit the 35 decorated trunks, each decorated in a different theme; Gould said that all participants signed up through Google Doc for their themes so they could make sure there were no duplicate themes. Trunk themes this year included the Wizard of Oz, Finding Nemo, Superheroes, Pirates,

See TRUNK, page 16



Above, this year's Trunk-or-Treat event at Holyoke Community College drew nearly 400 children to the campus for the second annual pre-Halloween event. Right, children had to walk the plank to get candy and a free book at HCC math professor Cathy Dillard and her family's vehicle display. They won the award for best activity.



TRUNK, from page 1

and many more. Last year the campus community sponsored 22 cars for trunk-or-treating.

At the end of the evening awards were given to decorated vehicles in five categories. The EEE (Enthusiasm, Excitement, Energy) Award went to HCC Admissions' "Jurassic Park" creation. "Charlie Brown: The Great Pumpkin" by Homework House received the award for Best Executed Theme. Best Costumes

went to the Arkham Asylum super-hero villians by the HCC Psychology Club. The award for Best Activity went to the "Pirate Ship: Walk the Plank" by Professor Cathy Dillard and family, and where each child was given a free book. The Most Original Trunk award went to the "Giant Shark/Baby Shark" by HCC Student Activities. Gould added that for next year's trunk-or-treat, they plan to make a board where children can vote on their favorites, taking the suggestion from their colleague Miriam Quinones.



Turley Publications Courtesy Photos by Chris Yurko

This shark display, created by HCC Student Activities, won the award for most original trunk.