



# **Tips for a Safe Beggar's Night**

## **Gahanna, Ohio**

### **Thursday, October 29, 2009**

#### **6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

#### **Before children start out, parents should...**

- Make sure children eat dinner before leaving.
- Be sure child is dressed appropriately for the outside night temperature.
- Pin a name tag inside a pocket or under costume.
- Establish a return time. Be sure someone in the group has a watch.
- Have adults supervise children; children should not supervise one another.
- Your child should stay in their neighborhood and parents should know the route they will be walking.
- Instruct child to never enter anyone's home unless accompanied by a parent.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until it has been checked out by an adult.

#### **In your neighborhood...**

- Start out early before it gets dark.
- Drive cautiously; remember to be aware of vehicle traffic at all times. Report erratic driving immediately to the Gahanna Police 614.342.4240.
- Walk on sidewalks, cross only in crosswalks and obey all traffic control devices. Watch for children walking along roadways and off the curb between parked cars. Remember, children will be wearing dark clothing and/or wearing masks which may hinder their ability to see in all directions.
- Walk from house to house on the sidewalk, not the street. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing towards the direction of traffic.
- Pay attention to your surroundings; help others keep an eye on their children.

## Costumes...

- Be sure costume fits your child and is free of loose threads or hem lines to prevent tripping.
- Costume should be free of loose ties around the neck to prevent strangulation.
- Make sure your child can see out of their mask. Make-up is a great alternative.
- When buying special Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for application.
- If masks are worn they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after dark.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.
- Make sure purchased costumes are labeled "flame resistant".
- Stay clear of candle-lit jack-o'-lanterns, especially when wearing flowing costumes.

## Treats...

- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection by an adult before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
- Report any suspected tampering of candy to the Gahanna Police Department (614-342-4240).
- Be sure treats are appropriate for your child to prevent choking hazard and/or allergic reaction.

