

Pumpkins in the Park

Here we are, the first of October. October is one of my favorite months. I always think the color orange suits October. October is all about pumpkins and, of course, Halloween. I picture Linus and Sally, sitting inside the new roundabout, which has suddenly become the pumpkin patch where Linus awaits the arrival of the Great Pumpkin. I think of the band Smashing Pumpkins and Oingo Boingo's song "Dead Man's Party," Donovan's "Season of the Witch," and, of course, that infamous tune, "Monster Mash."

I think about pumpkins on the table, with the great cornucopia of fall, the coolness of the air after a long, hot summer, and the vibrant color of orange. The cool air of October reminds me of when I was back in school and every classroom was decorated with a Halloween or fall theme. I love visiting different offices or retail stores and viewing all the colors of fall decorations and often times even a pumpkin. I think about all the fun it is to carve pumpkins when you're a kid, or even a parent or grandparent helping a child carve his or her first pumpkin. I think about pumpkin pies and how good they are to eat. I think of the earth and all of the bounty that comes from it.

In addition to pumpkins, October also makes me think of all the leaves that are piling up in the parks. We love to rake them up and then jump in the piles. Then we put them in bigger piles in a different location to compost and decompose to refresh and enrich the soil and to help erase our carbon footprint. Composting is the ultimate recycling. The month of October ends in such a great way. Halloween offers us the opportunity to be somebody different, to dress up in a costume, to become something or someone else for a night. It's neat to go into different stores and places to see the costumes that people wear. Our office staff has yet to pick out a costume theme (although I know Deanna has some ideas brewing). It's great to see the kids dress up as their favorite characters for school and for trick-or-treating. Each Halloween I wonder what costumes are going to be the most popular. As Garfield the cartoon cat reminds us, there's always the "Candy, candy, candy!"

October is about feeling warm in a colder time of year. It's about putting your jacket on, or your coat, or your sweater, and your cap and playing in the leaves. It's about jumping into a freshly raked pile of leaves, and feeling the natural world and the unnatural world. It's about finding your own personal pumpkin, one that you picked to take home, whether it be for a pie or for a jack-o'-lantern. It's about watching the sun come up and go down with the orange glow of a pumpkin, like it's been colored with a big fat orange Crayon. And it's about howling at the full moon so white and bright as it

floats in the dark sky on a scary night. October 31st is when all the ghosts and goblins come out to play. October is a great month – have fun!

Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park

Local resident, longtime dog trainer and lifetime animal lover Pat Alley passed away recently on September 7. In honor of the 16 years Pat invested in the Oroville community, the Feather River Recreation and Park District is proud to dedicate the future dog park at Riverbend as the Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park.

A memorial fund has been set up through FRRPD. All donations will go toward the Pat Alley Memorial Dog Park. For more information, call the District office at 533-2011.

Quote

“On Halloween night, the Great Pumpkin rises from his pumpkin patch and flies through the air to deliver toys to all the children.” ~ Linus (from *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*)

“I would rather sit on a pumpkin and have it all to myself than be crowded on a velvet cushion.” ~ Henry David Thoreau

“There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October.” ~ Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter.” ~ Carol Bishop Hipps

Fun Facts

Pumpkins are actually a fruit and their flowers are edible.

Pumpkins generally range in size from less than a pound to more than 1,000 pounds. The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds (a little over half a ton).

Upcoming Events

Many people aren't aware that the Book Family Farm won't be holding their Harvest Festival or pumpkin patch this year. But never fear! More than 15,000 pounds of pumpkin will be arriving at Riverbend Park soon.

The 3rd annual **Pumpkins in the Park** will be held October 18-30 at Riverbend Park. Come pick out your pumpkin, enjoy a hay ride, go through the hay maze, jump in the

bounce house, and play in the park! Open to the public Mon.-Fri., 3-5 p.m. and Sat.-Sun., 12-4 p.m.

School teachers interested in reserving a day and time for their class should contact Amanda at the FRRPD District office at 533-2011.

See you in the parks!