

## Community Parade Date, Theme, Set

### Milford, DE-

The Milford Community Parade is scheduled for Wednesday evening, October 17, 2018 along Walnut Street with a start time of 6:30pm. The long time tradition, since 1938, has been a Milford and surrounding communities Fall time favorite. The parade lasts approximately 2 hours on a 1.7 mile route. Along with the date, the committee is sharing this year's theme: Autumn Spooktacular. The theme is adopted to provide guidance to groups, businesses, and individuals entering the parade annually. Jim Gray, Board Chairman, says "Having a theme gets the creative juices flowing. We review themes from year's past, consider anniversaries and such before deciding on the theme. Autumn colors have always been an inspiration to decorate."

Last year's theme of To The Stars And Beyond was a widely successful theme. "This year's promises to be just as exciting!" remarks Marlee Gray, one of several lifetime committee members. Marlee has been a committee member her whole life as she is twelve years old. "I get excited about the theme every year to draw and discuss options for a float. The night-time gives a decorator/designer the chance to be creative with resources used and to make things shimmer and shine too." Entries may use lights and sound and the committee prefers entries to use re-purposed materials. "I remember one year the committee used plastic lamp shades and glow necklaces to create large flowers." "I think my most memorable float built was mother goose. We used dry cleaning bags, rolls of plastic table cover and chicken wire to make a fluffy mother goose. We covered an old pop up camper so the goose was huge," remembered Charles Gray, Parade Chairperson. "Our fingers were numb and scraped from the wire; but, to see the faces of the children along the street when this huge goose came down the street was priceless. Groups and families put their creative ideas down on paper and then build their creations at their own expense.

Charles Gray shared some ideas for this year's theme. "For Autumn Spooktacular, here are some suggestions: colorful trees walking down the street with shiny leaves, spooky things that go bump in the night, a hayride of fairytale princesses, large singing tissue flowers of fall colors depicting a garden of mums, scarecrows that dance in sync, little pumpkins with google eyes, fall inspired flowers and hay bales, little goblins that give their best boo, a barn full of animals in the windows and an owl in the loft...who?...an owl, flying crows on the end of fishing line and poles circling the scarecrow, the wizard of oz with flying monkeys (max three monkeys, lol), scouts singing around a campfire (no real fires

permitted), a stain glass church window adorned with autumn colored flowers below it (don't use glass, use plastic, tissue paper and lights), corn stalks along a float with children standing behind the stalks (children of the corn movie), barnyard fun with various animals depicted by hand made costumes, or a foggy night with zombies. These are just a few ideas to spark creativity. Our judges are given the theme to look for entries and their interpretation of the theme for awards. Bonus points are given to those using the theme.

Businesses, groups, and individuals can enter the parade free of charge thanks to partnerships and sponsors. "This year we are happy to share that our awards will be "Powered by Burris Logistics", stated Parade Chairperson, Charles Gray. "Each year, we request contributions to the parade from citizens, groups, and businesses. The current committee has been raising funds for the parade since 1984. This all volunteer committee has provided the logistical planning resources without charge as well, so the citizens of Milford can enjoy a free family-friendly evening of fun. Without our partnerships with the City Council and respective City departments, and Delmarva Broadcasting Company, we would have to charge entries or recoup costs directly from the attendee. We are so ever grateful," Mr. Gray stated. The committee has annual fundraisers throughout the year with partners like the City of Milford, Milford Moose Lodge and more. This year, the annual electric bill insert will arrive in the June Billing, and new this year is a quarter auction to be held at the Milford Moose Lodge on Friday evening, September 7, 2018. The electric billing allows city residents to provide a separate contribution to the parade committee when they return their bill payment to the city. "Quarter auctions are fun and businesses offer up great items that winners win for as little as twenty-five cents. We have great plans for the auction with some items already contributed, a concealment cabinet designed as an American Flag using premium wood grain and stain, that will be raffled off separately. It has a \$140 value. Another raffle item will be a gold colored Philadelphia Eagles Super Bowl Coin. We are accepting auction items towards our fundraising goals," stated Carmen Kemper, Committee Treasurer and auction coordinator. A paint night is also planned for October 6, 2018 at the Milford Moose. Both events at the Moose will include food and drink to be purchased provided by the Moose Lodge. To make a contribution for the quarter auction, please contact Carmen Kemper at 302-422-4187.

Entry, rules, and parade route information can be found at the committee's website at [www.milfordparade.com](http://www.milfordparade.com). An online application and a downloadable application, as well as an online contribution ticket can be found on the site. Additional information throughout the months leading up to the parade can be found on their facebook page at Milford Community Parade. Volunteers willing to

help out at fundraisers or the night of the parade can contact Charles Gray via email at [milfordparade@aol.com](mailto:milfordparade@aol.com). Contributions of any amount can also be mailed to MCP, Inc. PO Box 1153, Milford, DE 19963

End###

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