

[City column – October 2016]

By Mayor Bill Droste

[As submitted for publication in the October 27, 2016 issue of the Independent-Town Pages.]

Even with this year's extended warm weather, our temperatures are sure to fall to the point that it takes a little bit of motivation to go outside. But it keeps the community strong to have events that bring our residents together and that invite visitors at any time of year. Our Leprechaun Days celebration accomplishes that in the summer. And we have more events coming up in the next few weeks.

Rivaling Leprechaun Days as a crowd-pleaser is the Haunted Woods Trail, set for this Saturday [October 29] in Central Park. Running from 6 to 8 p.m., it's free and it's likely to draw a few thousand pre-schoolers through middle-school students. They'll get a safe scare and lots of treats. It starts in the parking lot across South Robert from the Steeple Center.

The Haunted Woods Trail is in its fifth decade, and like Leprechaun Days it depends on an active and creative volunteer committee, with a helping hand from our Parks & Rec department. Much of the funding is provided through the generosity of our local businesses.

Some of those businesses have scheduled an easy way to get a start on holiday shopping close to home. They are sponsoring a trolley to carry folks through Downtown Rosemount on the evening of Thursday, November 10, from 5 to 9 p.m. The "Rosemount Night Out on the Town" will showcase participating businesses. They'll offer appetizers and beverages, and there will be plenty of discounts and gifts for shoppers.

In the past this has been a "ladies' night" event, but now it's open to all (although kids on the trolley must be accompanied by an adult). Our businesses support so many of the things that maintain the quality of life in Rosemount. I hope all of us will support those businesses by shopping locally.

There's another event that brings the community together and that gives Rosemount's young people a hand in creating and maintaining our traditions. The Rosemount Youth Commission will be working again with the Rosemount Area Arts Council to stage the 6th Annual Tree Lighting and Concert. Our commissioners are helping plan and coordinate this event, to be held on Saturday, November 19, at 6 p.m. in front of the Steeple Center, next door to the public library.

The Youth Commissioners have arranged for their fellow students in the jazz combo to perform. After a visit by Santa, the RHS Chamber Choir and the Community Band will share music of thanksgiving. That will be a little foretaste of the entertainment the Arts Council will provide at its biggest event of the year, "Christmas at the Steeple Center," on Saturday, December 3. Tickets can be purchased on the Arts Council website, www.rosemountaac.org.

All of these events promise to put our community in the holiday spirit. And part of that spirit is generosity. The Haunted Woods Trail, the Tree Lighting ceremony, and the Steeple Center event invite the public to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the food shelf.

The need for assistance always rises around the holidays. You can contribute to the spirit of the season – and to the spirit of our community – by attending these activities, and sharing what you can.

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