

# The Strasburg Signal



[www.strasburgva.com](http://www.strasburgva.com)

Official Newsletter of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia

October 2020

The Strasburg Signal is published monthly by Town staff to inform citizens about town programs, services, and events. Your feedback is welcome. For suggestions, please contact the Town Office at 174 East King Street, PO Box 351, Strasburg, VA 22657, call (540) 465-9197, or email [info@strasburgva.com](mailto:info@strasburgva.com)

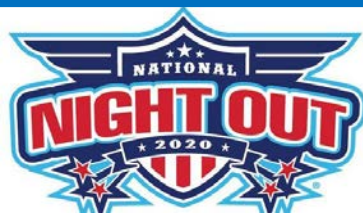
## HALLOWEEN UPDATE

Halloween is not a Town Sponsored Event, so it is up to parents and guardians to decide if they want to take children Trick-or-Treating, and it is the choice of citizens to hand out treats. We have included an additional page to this newsletter giving ideas on how to celebrate Halloween safely as provided by the Virginia Department of Health. Please read this and decide on the safest way for your child(ren) to enjoy Halloween.



## DID YOU KNOW TAX TIDBIT

Past-due tax bills have been mailed. To avoid a DMV Stop being placed on your account, please pay the balance by October 9, 2020. Accounts with a prior year balance may already have DMV Stops placed on them. If you have any questions concerning your outstanding balance, please contact the Town Office, 540-465-9197.



**OCTOBER 6  
STARTING AT 6 P.M.**

The Strasburg Police Department will be going to different locations throughout Town to meet with children and pass out goodies.

Locations and times will be announced at a later date on the Strasburg Police Facebook page.

This year's event is different due to COVID-19 and social distancing mandates will be followed.

**Looking forward to seeing you!**

## Strasburg Ghost Walking Tour



Strasburg Heritage Association will be offering Ghost Tours during the month of October. The



Tour this year is available on-demand using a **FREE app**.

**Hear about tales of objects being moved without explanation, sightings of apparitions, and learn about the history and beautiful architecture of our haunted homes! Enjoy walking through Strasburg's Historic District. The only thing you have to be afraid of is the fun you will be missing if you do not take this tour!**

**For Additional Information and instructions on how to access the Tour, visit [www.strasburgvaheritage.org](http://www.strasburgvaheritage.org)**

## STRASBURG MUSEUM COMMEMORATIVE INKWELL



During the Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup Festival (November 7), the Strasburg Museum will be selling inkwells at Strasburg Square, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., \$30 each. Proceeds will benefit the Strasburg Museum. **First come – First serve --- NO pre-orders.** One inkwell per person on day of the event, but

if it is not a sell-out, you may re-enter the line to buy another.

*Inkwells made by Shenandoah Potters Guild.  
Other pottery creations will also be on sale.*

**DID YOU KNOW.....**

The Town of Strasburg will once again be offering Spring and Fall Clean-up Weeks. The first Fall Clean-up Week will be October 12 – 16, 2020. There have been some changes from how the Town handled this in the past. **The MOST important change is that citizens will need to call or email to schedule a pick-up.** Please, see additional information below:

**FALL  
TOWN  
CLEANUP**

**SCHEDULE\*  
YOUR PICKUP  
NOW!**

**\*Items placed curbside without scheduling will NOT be collected!**

**Call**

**540-465-3025**  
M - F 9 a. m. to 5 p.m.

**Email**

**info@strasburgva.com**

**Request must be placed by October 9.**

-  brush, wood products, lumber or yard waste (leaf pickup in Nov.)
-  vehicle and other rechargeable batteries
-  larger aluminum products + scrap metal of all kinds
-  appliances including refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, dryers, etc.
-  electronics including TV's and computers
-  furniture



**Tires, flammable and/or hazardous materials, including oils, antifreeze and paints will NOT be collected at any time.**

**FALL CLEANUP WILL BE OCT. 12-16**

**CONTACT  
US NOW**  
540-465-3025  
OR  
info@strasburgva.com




**JOIN US IN THE STRASBURG SQUARE  
PAWS IN THE PARK  
SUN, OCT. 18TH 11-3PM**

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF SHENANDOAH COUNTY!**

**PUPPY COSTUME PARADE: 1PM  
PUPPY KISSING BOOTH!  
PUMPKIN PAINTING  
LIVE MUSIC & RAFFLES  
FOOD FOR PURCHASE  
PET-FRIENDLY VENDORS**

**FREE ADMISSION + DOGS WELCOME + COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**



**Strasburg GRILLED CHEESE  
+ TOMATO SOUP FESTIVAL**

**10+ unique  
GC & TS tastes**  
\$15 entry fee · 10 & under FREE!

**Nov 7  
11AM - 4PM**

**PURCHASE  
TICKETS  
ONLINE  
AT EVENTBRITE.COM**  
OR Strasburg's Visitor Center!

For more information call **540.465.5884**

**OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

5 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	20 – Infrastructure Comm., 7 p.m.
13 – Town Council, 7 p.m.	22 – ARB, 7 p.m. (tentative)
19 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	27 – Planning Comm., 7 p.m. (tentative)

**All Town of Strasburg meetings are open to the public. Check the website, <https://www.strasburgva.com/meetings> for instructions on participating through ZOOM.**

## VDH Interim Guidance for Participating in Halloween Events

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September 22, 2020

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While Halloween typically represents a time of fun and excitement for children and adults alike, the current Halloween season will be different than prior years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In general, the more closely people interact with each other and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. **The best way to avoid becoming infected is to avoid being exposed to the virus altogether. This is particularly important for people at [higher risk](#) of severe illness from COVID-19.** This may mean choosing not to participate in Halloween activities during the pandemic.

**To protect against COVID-19, everyone should avoid close contact with people who do not live in their household, [wear a mask](#) (cloth face covering), and practice [social distancing](#) and frequent and proper [hand washing](#).** Some Halloween activities are higher risk than others. Read the information below to make the best decision for your family about choosing to participate this year.

See [CDC's Guidance for Holiday Celebrations](#) for more information.

### Lowest Risk:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house

### Moderate Risk:

- Participating in trick-or-treating with distancing strategies in place (e.g. treat-givers provide individually wrapped goodie bags lined up for families to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
- If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after preparing the bags.
- Stopping only at houses where individuals are wearing masks, and it is easy to maintain six feet of distance between the host and other trick-or-treaters.
- Attending a small, outside event such as trunk-or-treat, where social distancing can be maintained and everyone is wearing a mask.
- Visit pumpkin patches or orchards, where wearing masks is encouraged and enforced, and people are able to maintain at least six feet of physical distance.

### Highest Risk:

- Trick-or-treating to a large number of houses or visiting multiple neighborhoods,

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- where participants go door to door
- Trick-or-treating at houses where individuals are not wearing a mask, and where six feet of physical distance is not maintained between individuals.
  - Attending parties or events that may become crowded and social distancing is difficult to maintain.
  - Going on hayrides or tractor rides with people who are not in your household.
  - Going to indoor haunted houses where people may be crowded together and screaming.

**This Halloween season, events that involve large gatherings of individuals (e.g. large Halloween parties, haunted houses, etc) can increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and are not recommended.** These events may involve large groups of people who cannot maintain social distancing, and are often in enclosed spaces, which can increase the likelihood of COVID-19 spread. Haunted houses involve people screaming, which is known to increase the production of respiratory droplets; such activities are particularly risky for spreading COVID-19. Haunted houses that do choose to operate need to focus on how to reduce and limit contact between attendees, staff and others and must strictly follow [Phase 3 Guidelines for Entertainment and Public Amusement settings](#). Haunted houses should allow for ample space between groups touring the house to facilitate distancing, and should not decorate with materials/items that will hang in or touch patron's faces. Setups that increase ventilation and allow a patron to navigate the attraction without touching common surfaces (e.g. door knobs) further reduce risk. Haunted houses should also avoid using actors that jump out at patrons, or ensure the actor maintains 10 feet of distancing between participants. Trick-or-treating involves increased risk for transmitting COVID-19, due to the potential for close proximity to many people and the difficulty for children trick-or-treaters to follow mask use and social distancing recommendations. If you do choose to trick-or-treat, it is important to protect yourself using the following recommendations:

1. If you have [COVID-19 symptoms](#), have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past ten days, or have been in contact with someone with COVID in the past 14 days, [follow VDH guidance to stay home and away from others](#). If you are self-isolating or self-quarantining, do not participate in trick-or-treating this year, and look for other virtual options to celebrate.
2. Be sure to maintain at least six feet of distance between yourself and others who do not live in your household at all times.
3. [Wash your hands](#) before going trick-or-treating or handing out candy. Hand sanitizer should be used while trick-or-treating or handing out candy when soap and water aren't available.
4. Wear a cloth mask. Halloween masks may not fit snugly against the face and may not cover the nose and mouth. Halloween masks with gaps and holes do not protect against inhaling respiratory droplets from other people. Cloth masks should be worn under costume masks to keep a close fit over your nose and mouth. Ensure that any cloth mask worn under a costume mask does not inhibit the ability to breathe easily.
5. If you hand out candy, consider setting up an area outside, like a folding table or chairs, to set out candy. Space out the placement of treats so that multiple people do not have to reach into the same bowl or find contactless ways to deliver treats, like a candy chute that is more than six feet long. For trunk-or-treating, create distance between cars by parking in every other space.

### **More information about COVID-19**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread from person to person. Spread can occur when people are in close contact with each other (within about six feet) through respiratory droplets when a person talks, sneezes, or coughs or by direct contact with respiratory droplets through sharing eating or drinking utensils, kissing, etc. COVID-19 can be spread by people who are not experiencing symptoms.