Local ghouls will be out Saturday

Halloween will officially be celebrated on Oct. 30

BY T. KEVIN WALKER AND PAUL COLLINS THE CHRONICLE

The celebration of the last Halloween of the century will not take place on the last day of this month - at least not in this

Winston-Salem has joined an ever growing bandwagon of cities and towns that have chosen to change Halloween from Oct. 31, the traditional day the holiday is celebrated, to Oct. 30.

A proclamation by Mayor Jack Cavanagh that was issued at the Board of Aldermen meeting last week proclaims Oct. 30 as the day of the "official cele-bration of Halloween" here in the city. Similar proclamations have been issued in Thomasville, Kernersville, Lexington and Burlington.

While residents in other cities have taken issue with the fact that this Halloween '99 falls on the Sabbath, it was not one of the reasons cited by Cavanagh for changing the day of the holiday.

Saturday is a much friendlier day for trick-or-treaters than Sunday, according to the proclamation, because youngsters will not have to worry about school. the next day. Oct. 31 is also the first day we return to Eastern Standard Time from daylightsaving time. Clocks will be pushed back one hour in the wee hours of Sunday morning, essentially robbing youngsters of valuable candy collecting time. But having the holiday Saturday fixes that problem too.

The city has been trying to get the word out to parents about the change. The city's marketing and communications department has sent out news

releases about the change to more than 20 media outlets here, and TV-13, the city's cable television channel, has been running a bulletin about the matter for more than week now.

Besides the logistics, Halloween '99 is shaping up to be like any other. Shop owners say costumes for both children and adults are selling briskly. Several makeshift stores selling only Halloween paraphernalia have popped up around the city, including one in Hanes Mall. According to published reports, Star Wars and wrestling costumes will be all the rage this

Several local businesses and organizations have taken the city's lead and planned Halloween events on days leading up to the event. Local highlights

· A Halloween costume contest in the Center Court at Hanes Mall today from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The contest is for children 10 and under, and prizes will be handed out for the best costumes. The event will also feature games and arts and

· A fall festival at the Winston Lake YMCA on Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The event will feature games for children from 3 to 13, as well as a snack and vending area.

A masquerade and wine tasting will be held at SECCA on Saturday. The event is geared toward the adult crowd. The wine tasting will start at 6 p.m.; the masquerade will begin at 8 p.m. and last until midnight. Seating for the wine tasting event is limited. For reservations and more information on the event, call 725-1904.

Downtown Kernersville



Rakis Wilds-Bailey, left, and Arthur Neely Jr. play with Halloween props at Party City, while Arthur's little sister, Arkita, looks on.

will host a Trick-or-Treat Open House Saturday, Oct. 30.

· High Point Parks and Recreation Department will host: a Fall Festival for children ages 4-12 on Oct. 28 from 7-9 p.m. at Allen Jay Recreation Center, 1201 East Fairfield Road (fee: 50 cents - \$1 per ticket per game); a Halloween Carnival on Oct. 28 from 6:30-9 p.m. at Oakwood Recreation Center, 503 James Road (\$2 entry plus 25 cents per ticket per game); a Halloween Youth Fall Festival for ages. 5-12 on Oct. 28 from 6-8 p.m. at Southside Recreation Center, 401 Taylor Avenue.

Several area churches and community centers will also hold special Halloween events in the next few days. For example, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Sunday School will sponsor Halloween Fellowship 1999 on Saturday, Oct. 30, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the parking lot adjacent to the church. Games

See Halloween on A9



Rakis and Arthur take a closer look at Halloween goodies.

