

Town treated to peaceful eve Students feel safer with early action

Non-Franklin Halloween touted

BY ANTONIO VELARDE
STAFF WRITER

In this neighborhood, you don't keep up with the Jones' with new cars or washing machines.

You do it with jack-o-lanterns, spider webs and ghostly mist.

So says Carrboro resident Nancy Golson, who spent Halloween on Monday night taking her grandchildren and other relatives for a trick-or-treating stroll through the streets of Southern Village.

In lieu of the drunken antics that played out on Franklin Street that evening, Golson and other families opted for a different kind of celebration — one suited for the younger crowd.

"It gets crazy, it gets really crazy," Golson said, walking with grandchildren Isaiah, 1, and Kiara, 2, and others down a darkened residential street.

The area was lighted with glowing jack-o-lanterns and Christmas lights.

As evening fell on the tree-lined townhouses and homes of the village, fairies and devils flocked down the roads.

They were joined with princesses and pirates, among other masked fantastical creatures to take to the streets.

A pink mist spewed from the stoop of one house, while jack-o-lanterns grinned from another porch.

In search of a way to satisfy his sweet tooth, Jennifer Cuellar's 5-year-old son Charles bounced from house to house with spritely grace.

Though he was beginning to tire, he finally tasted victory after stepping from the stoop of a lighted house.

"Now I have more energies!" he said excitedly.

Cuellar, who lives near the village, said her son is not old enough for the downtown festivities so she opts to take him trick-or-treating for now.

"I think this is for the kids, and Franklin Street is for the college students," Cuellar said. "That's the way I look at it."

Christine Davies accompanied her grandchildren Thomas, 7, and Rhiannon, 5, with a group of families.

Davis noted that Halloween festivities just were beginning to catch on in her native England.

The village's own version of Halloween, she said, is perfect for



Kiara Yeager, 2, dressed as a duck for Halloween. Accompanied by her mother, Kiara went trick-or-treating at Southern Village Monday evening.

children.

"I think this is lovely for the children," said Davies, who was wearing a witch's hat. "They get so excited."

But with a crowd on Franklin Street expected to swell to more than 70,000 people, and a Halloween celebration growing ever popular among the area's younger residents, are traditional Chapel Hill trick-or-treat excursions like the village's in danger?

Not according to Golson.

"I think it depends on where you go," Golson said.

"In this area, it's pretty darn popular."

Motioning down a darkened street lit with ghoulish trimmings, Golson pointed to down the road where the neighborhood action got better.

"When you get further down, it gets nuttier," Golson said. "It's really great."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

BY KERRY CANNITY
STAFF WRITER

A racing heart. Sweaty palms. Broken speech. Constant anxiety.

High school seniors across the country are experiencing these frightening symptoms, which means only one thing: college applications.

Students who turn in applications to UNC before the end of the day today will be a part of the early notification process and will hear of their admission status by mid-to-late-January, according to a recently instated University policy.

Although the process has been around for three years, about half of all applicants take advantage of it.

"I'm a planner," said Liz Dunbar, a junior at Apex High School in Cary who said she will apply early next year. "I like to know exactly what I'm going to do."

Until three years ago, UNC had a binding early notification system. Students who turned in applications in October would hear back before Christmas, but if accepted, they would be obligated to attend UNC.

The University switched to a nonbinding early admission process in 2002, so applicants feel less pressured about the process, said Kendra Lawrence, assistant director of admissions.

"Sometimes when students apply, they haven't even toured the schools yet," she said. "We wanted to give them all the time possible to make an informed decision."

Breanne Williams, a Pasquotank High School senior from Elizabeth City, will turn in her application before Tuesday's early admission deadline.

She said that she is applying to numerous schools and that she wants to have the most time possible to make her choice.

Last year, 48 percent of the 18,706 prospective students who applied took advantage of early action, said Stephen Farmer, director of undergraduate admissions.

But there's no quota for students who apply early, Lawrence said.

Of the 6,740 who were admitted

to UNC last year, about half applied through the early decision process.

Jess Webb, a freshman journalism and mass communication major, applied last year through the early decision process.

"I applied early decision here and at (N.C. State University) — my top schools," she said. "That way I knew if I didn't get into either of them, I still had time to look at other schools. You know for sure, earlier, while other people have to wait three months."

The traditional application process requires students to turn in their applications by Jan. 17.

Students applying through regular admission can expect to hear back by the end of March.

Cortney Donnalley, a junior French and international studies double major, applied through the regular admissions process.

"I would encourage people to apply early if they know where they want to go, but I wasn't ready to choose when the early admission deadline came around," she said.

All students who are not accepted via early notification are deferred to regular notification. Their applications are re-examined, and they hear the final decision with the rest of that group.

According to the University's undergraduate admissions Web site, 56 percent of the 6,740 students who were accepted to UNC last year enrolled.

All students accepted into the University, in either application process, must turn in a deposit by May 1 to ensure them a place for the fall.

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Courtney Leigh Miller
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DEVELOPMENT

FROM PAGE 1

residents downtown 24 hours a day. "I want to see a positive move toward a renaissance downtown," she said. "I like the fact that more people will live downtown. It's like we're creating a neighborhood."

Josh Gurlitz, a partner of local development firm GGA Architects, said the town's strategies for bringing in business and handling development are working thus far.

"The town has a very healthy vision," he said. "I think the idea of encouraging residential growth downtown is a good one."

Eastham and other candidates also have indicated that they would like to recruit more local businesses to set up shop downtown.

"We need to define what we want," she said. "Do we want a (U.S.) 15-501 strip mall in Chapel Hill? We don't want all that crap."

As strange as the idea of a Franklin Street subdivision seems, several projects on the table could bring the concept to fruition.

The town has scheduled an eight-story mixed-use complex at parking lot 5 at the corner of Franklin and Church streets and a redevelopment of the Wallace Deck on Rosemary Street.

Rosemary Village, under construction, eventually could be joined on West Rosemary Street by Shortbread Lofts, an apartment complex that GGA and developer Larry Short have pitched to the town.

"A big thing behind the parking lot project is having residents downtown," incumbent candidate Ed Harrison said. "It sets up a 12-month economy."

But candidate Robin Cutson worries that the town is favoring residential growth over commercial additions. "If you have limited space like we do downtown, you would want to create as much commercial space as possible," she said.

"I like the face that it would be a community, but with these mixed-use buildings, let's have a little diversity. We don't want a bedroom community."

Gurlitz counters that the inclusion of residential space downtown likely won't hinder commercial growth.

Cutson said she wants to address business turnover downtown before creating more buildings.

"Since we have empty storefronts, the first priority should be filling those," she said. "That's basically why I decided to run — we don't seem to be doing things in a logical progression. It's almost like a deliberate effort to fail."

Harrison said the vacancies along Chapel Hill's main drag should be of prime concern to the community. "There's some limits to the town role ... but any empty storefront downtown bothers me."

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