

**DOWNTOWN MANCHESTER SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT
983 MAIN STREET SUITE 10
MANCHESTER, CT 06040
PHONE: 860 645-2101 FAX: 860 645-5325**

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: TANA PARSELITI
OCTOBER 3, 2013 W 860 645-2101 CELL 860 913-0523**

**6TH Annual Downtown Manchester Scarecrow Festival
October 1 thru October 25, 2013**

Manchester, CT Downtown Manchester will once again be populated by "straw citizens". Over 30 scarecrows are on display along a one-mile stretch of Main Street from Hartford Road to Center Street. Scarecrows will be displayed from Oct. 1 through Oct. 25.

In its 6th year, the Annual Downtown Manchester Scarecrow Festival continues to grow, attracting an increasing number of scarecrow artists and creative interpretations of the classic scarecrow character. A few examples of what scarecrow fans can expect to see include: a "Bachelorette Witch" scarecrow, a "Batman" scarecrow and an ensemble of nursery rhyme scarecrows created by students of Bennet Academy.

Scarecrow artists are all ages and include individuals, businesses, schools, scout troops, students and civic groups.

Scarecrow "strollers" are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture their favorite scarecrows. A plump "Picture Pumpkin", located next the Mary Cheney Library, is perfect for photo ops with family and friends.

Scarecrow Festival Program Flyers, which include a map and list of scarecrow locations and artists, as well as other activities taking place Downtown during the month of October, are available at selected Downtown businesses beginning Oct. 7. The flyer will also be available at www.downtownmanchester.org

Scarecrow fans may vote for their favorite scarecrow through Oct. 23 at one of eight locations along Main Street displaying a "People's Choice Scarecrow Voting Location" sign. Locations include:

- ◆ Anne Miller Real Estate, 975 Main St.
- ◆ The Bread Box Bakery and Pastry Shop, 856 Main St.
- ◆ Manchester Antiques Mall, 811 Main St.
- ◆ Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St.
- ◆ MCC on Main, 903 Main St.
- ◆ Salon Petit, 968 Main St.
- ◆ Silk City Antiques & Décor, 845 Main St.
- ◆ Pinewood Furniture, 1115 Main St.

Fans may also view and vote for their "Facebook Favorite Scarecrow" by going to www.facebook.com/DowntownManchesterScarecrowFestival

The winners of the "People's Choice" and " Facebook Favorite Scarecrow" Contests will be announced at an awards ceremony on Sat. Oct. 25 at 10am by the Dancing Bears fountain next to the Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St.

The Scarecrow Festival will culminate with the annual Halloween Happenings – A Safe Downtown Manchester Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, Oct. 25. Activities taking place on October 25 include:

- **Chalk the Walk at Center Park** from 10:00am to 11:30am at Center Park. All ages create chalk drawings on the Center Park sidewalks. Just for fun! Chalk provided. Sponsored by the Manchester Arts Commission and S&S Worldwide.
- **Meet Llama, Llama!** from 10:30am to 11:30am at the Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St. Manchester. Children listen to a story, make a craft and meet the costume character, Llama, Llama - 860-645-0577.
- **Children's Pumpkin Decorating** from 11:30am to 1pm – at the Manchester Antique Mall, 811 Main St. Children will be able to decorate small pumpkins. Sponsored by the Manchester Antiques Mall.
- **A Safe Children's Downtown Trick-or-Treat** from 11:30am to 1pm throughout the Downtown. Children may visit Downtown businesses displaying a "Welcome Trick-or-Treaters" sign and receive assorted treats.
- **The spirit of the Downtown Trick-or-Treat will be captured with a large group photo** of trick-or-treaters to be taken in Center Memorial Park by John Garaventa of Garaventa Photography. The photo will be taken at 1pm, at the conclusion of the Trick-or-Treat.

All activities are rain or shine except chalk drawing and photo.

The Downtown Manchester Scarecrow Festival and Halloween Happenings – A Safe Downtown Manchester Trick-or-Treat are both sponsored by the Downtown Manchester Special Services District. Special thanks to Crimson Art Box for photography and digital support of the Scarecrow Contest.

For more information about the Downtown Manchester Scarecrow Festival or Halloween Happenings – A Safe Downtown Manchester Trick-or-Treat, visit www.downtownmanchester.org, call the Downtown District office at 860 645-2101. Find us on Facebook

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Photos of three 2014 Scarecrows

Photo: “The Smashing Pumpkin” by Beller’s Music

Photo: ” The Doctor” by Nate & Maureen O’Connell

Photo: “Putting it All Together at Salon Petite” by Lee Ann Manning for Salon Petite