



BizHub



Jobs



Homes



Autos



SITE SEARCH

CALENDAR LISTINGS



Music



Art



Literary Events



Stage



Classes

View Complete Calendar



ENTERTAINMENT

Print Email BOOKMARK Facebook Twitter Email

A Frightfully fun time: Halloween on the Seacoast and beyond

Thursday, October 21, 2010

By Ryan Alan

Contributing Writer

It's time to get our scare on!

That won't be hard to do on the Seacoast and beyond as another Halloween season unfolds.

Now far too popular for just a single day or weekend, the celebrations often begin in September and continue through the actual Oct. 31 date itself.

The options, like a good fall harvest, are plentiful. Here's just a sampling:

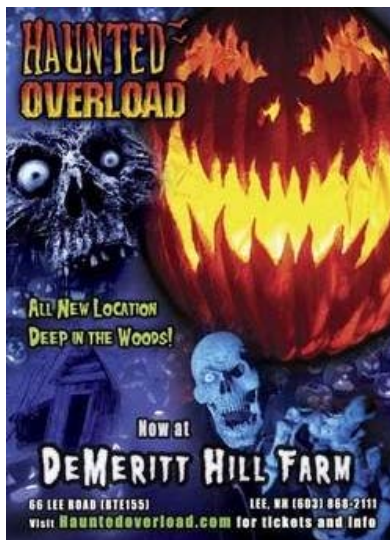
THE GOVERNOR'S INN "HAUNTED HOUSE — THE SPAULDING PSYCHIATRIC ASYLUM":

A personalized guided tour offering an "intimate experiencing of fear," is promised as the haunted house makes its debut.

It arrives with a compelling, thankfully fictional, back-story, posing the question, "Do you know the history of Rochester's own insane asylum? This Halloween you will have a one-time opportunity to learn its tortured secrets & but you may be sorry."

As the story goes, the asylum was closed over 50 years ago, "but now the doors have re-opened ... for you."

Although the building appeared to be quiet for half a century, it's said the spirits inside were not resting. "They remember, they know what was done to them, they have been waiting, waiting for you!" says this foreboding invitation. "Do you dare take the challenge to learn the secrets of these tortured halls?"



[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)

Local Business Directory Search for a Local Business Keywords Zipcode

weforia Save up to 90% on restaurants, salons and more. Get the Deal yellowbook

Today's Featured Properties \$539,900 Dover, NH Coldwell Banker - Peggy Carter Team More Details... \$289,900 Durham, NH The Gove Group Real Estate, LLC More Details

Today's Featured Autos Photo Coming Soon \$1,895 1987 Honda Accord Private Seller \$17,980 2009 Dodge Grand Caravan Tri City Dodge Subaru



You do if you want to have a memorable experience suggests Herman Ejarque who, with his brother Anthony, the show producer, are the real life innkeepers. Anthony is a veteran professional actor, director and producer. Production coordinator Dan Hornbeck brings years of experience working, managing, directing and producing haunted attractions throughout the country.

The tour, a large-scale theatrical production with many professional actors, takes visitors around the enshrouded grounds of the old estate and its assorted buildings, then through the dimly lit, historical mansion.

"People seek a contained thrill, where they can experience fear and push the edges of other emotions without being harmed," Herman Ejarque theorizes about why many seem to enjoy inviting fright. "It is a way for people to confront their everyday fears."

Those on this tour will be able to watch their friends' response to fear, and test their own response, he said.

Haunted houses are an extension of Halloween, he added, "a time when you can be anything you want to be, hidden by the anonymity of a costume."

Spooky World/Nightmare New England is "40 acres of screaming excitement" beginning with a professional quality, high impact haunted house, theatrically trained makeup and acting staff and a management team dedicated to making the park the scariest and most entertaining in New England."

[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)

(Tickets for the 40 minute experience, geared for ages 12 and over, are \$10 through Oct. 23 and \$12 Oct. 27-Oct. 31. Phone 603-332-0107; or log on to: www.governorsinn.com)

HAUNTED HOTEL, OLD SALT/LAMIES TAVERN, LAFAYETTE ROAD, HAMPTON

There's a new scare around every turn when you try to check into this establishment.

"I think people like to be scared. They know things will jump out at them, they know they will scream, but most of all they know they will be safe," said co-producer George Hosker-Bouley. "It's fun to be petrified when you know that at the end of the experience you can return to the safety of your own home."

¿Or can you?

Those who accept the fictitious Bones Family Realty Company's offer to visit from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26-27 will find out. The theme this year is "House for Sale."

The brave take a mazelike journey through both the inner and outer bowels of the more than 200-year-old Inn. Ever corner, every stairway, every turn is said to provide a new scare.

According to this scenario, the faux realty firm is attempting to sell a house that has long been on the market. That may have something to do with the possibility that it has been haunted by its previous occupants, who have all turned into ghouls, ghosts and goblins.

This is one property that has been dying to be sold!

Winnacunnet senior Jessica Marsolais of Hampton, Bones Family Realty Company "founder," is "showing" this house as her senior seminar project. And she's producing the Halloween experience with Hosker-Bouley and Old Salt events manager Michelle O'Brien.



Children's Museum volunteer Allison Ingham passes out treats to a young visitor during an earlier Not-So-Spooky Spectacular.

[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)



\$13,980
[2007 Volkswagen Jetta](#)
Tri City Dodge Subaru



\$27,980
[2009 Dodge Ram 2500](#)
Tri City Dodge Subaru

Today's Featured Jobs

Best Read Guide

Vacation Recommendations:

Dining: Polly's Pancake Parlor

Lodging: The Oxen Yoke Inn and Motel

Attractions: Water Country

Attractions: Castle in the Clouds

Notable Passings

» more

- Tom Bosley
- Barbara Billingsley
- Simon MacCorkindale
- [View All Local Obituaries](#)

ADS BY GOOGLE

[Fright Kingdom Nashua, NH](#)

Voted BEST haunted attractions. 3 All indoors haunt for 1 price. www.frightkingdom.com

[Ghost Adventures](#)

Can you Handle the Lockdown? Fridays at 9e/p on Travel Channel TravelChannel.com

[Oriental Trading Company](#)

Create Spooky Spaces & Haunted Places w/ Low-Price Halloween Décor www.OrientalTrading.com



Ads by Google

"There is a playroom filled with toys that want to 'play' with you too, portraits that come alive and a living room where not everything is 'living,'" said Marsolais.

She has been a participant in the Haunted Hotel throughout high school. When the Winnacunnet High drama club decided not to organize it again this year, Marsolais said she was among many who were quite disappointed. "The haunted hotel has become a tradition, and the thought of not doing it my final year was disappointing," she said. When it came time to decide on senior seminar project, it was a no brainer for Marsolais.

"I didn't even consider anything else," she said. "My proposal to the school was mostly focused on the event planning and advertising aspect of the haunted hotel," she explained. "Senior seminar is an opportunity to learn about topics of interest to you, and planning, organizing, advertising, etc. are all topics that I am interested in going farther in."

After graduation she hopes to earn a college degree in communications.

For the Haunted Hotel, she creates and directs creative areas and is responsible for advertising, actor involvement and set up, among other demands.



Janna Lafrance, a senior at Winnacunnet High School, is an active member of drama club and has been helping with many aspects of the haunted hotel. She will also be leading tours on the day of haunted hotel. Her makeup was done by Trisha Mills, the "head of makeup" for haunted hotel this year

On the two days of the Haunted Hotel opening, she will be one of the five actors leading visitors on tours.

She also selected the Winnacunnet High Drama Club as charitable beneficiaries of a portion of the proceeds. "People are attracted to a haunted experience like this because it's a thrill," Marsolais said. "When you walk into a haunted house or see a scary movie, you're giving yourself a thrill. You're making your adrenaline pump and letting yourself just go all out with fear."

The difference between this "fear" and actual fear, she added, is "that at the end of it all, you know that it is not real and that you're OK."

She believes that Halloween is a fun and exciting time of year for all ages. "It is one of the few holidays that is simply just 'fun,'" she said. "The purpose of this holiday and time of the year is to dress up, eat candy, decorate your house with scary decorations and effects and just have plain old fun. It becomes normal to scare people and natural to be scared yourself. The mood around this time is simply just fun, eerie and just enjoyable to all people."

People like being able to go all out and feel like they've participated in a holiday, she adds, "and Halloween is the perfect time to do that."

[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)

(The Haunted Hotel is at Old Salt Restaurant/Lamies Tavern, Lafayette Road, Hampton, N.H., from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26-27. \$5, all ages general admission; appropriate for all ages. Phone 603-926-0330)



PORTSMOUTH HALLOWEEN PARADE, OCT 31

Organizers encourage handmade, homespun costumes and group collaborations in "a return to times before the plastic overtook the fantastic."

"Everyone and anyone" is invited to take part in the 16th annual parade, which starts this year at Peirce Island, winds through downtown and loops back to conclude at

Spooky World/Nightmare New England "is 40 acres of screaming excitement" beginning with a professional quality, high impact haunted house, theatrically trained makeup and acting staff and a management team dedicated to making the park the scariest and most entertaining in New England.

Prescott Park.

[Click here to view Foster's prints for sale](#)

"The big change this year is our new route, which celebrates Portsmouth's proximity to the glorious "Peske Teqwa" River, and creates potential for new collaborative possibilities with existing cultural institutions, said Trevor Bartlett, spokesperson for the parade committee. "We never know for sure what's going to happen, or who's going to turn up."

That's because there is no admission fee and no pre-registration required. "Just get on a get up and get down to downtown!" he suggests. "Everyone is invited to walk, prance, march or dance, or just to watch."

Bartlett said those taking part will experience pounding drummers, spinning belly dancers, teetering stilwalkers, mini-horses and marching bands. There also are likely to be dragons, jabberwocks and giant puppets, as well as ghosts, ghouls, goblins and the Gay Bride of Frankenstein. "Noise and cavorting and merriment in the streets" is a given!

Motorized vehicles are not permitted, keeping the focus on the people who march and the artworks they create, he said.

"It is completely grassroots, supported 100 percent by community efforts to raise funds," Bartlett said. "Being free from the touch of any corporate or political agenda, it is truly a celebration of the Seacoast area's remarkable culture of vitality, resourcefulness and creativity."

The Seacoast community generates a monthlong line up of events to raise funds to support expenses of the city permit, insurance and police details for the parade, but no money is solicited nor accepted at the parade itself, Bartlett added.

"Halloween, for many, is a time to be something one might not usually feel allowed to be, to wear a new skin, to break out of one's own personal box and experience new perspectives," he added. "And for us, to gather the village — neighbors, friends and family — to dance in the streets and howl at the moon together. What could be better?"

(Oct. 31; Gather at Peirce Island at 6 p.m.; march into downtown at 7 p.m., concluding about 8 p.m. at Prescott Park with, say organizers, "a wild rumpus of participating bands and dancing troupes." www.spookyportsmouth.com)

"SPOOKY STORIES" at UNH:

The call is out to all vampires, ghosts and witches looking for a fun way to kick off a long Halloween weekend.

ArtsREACH, a division of the UNH Department of Theatre and Dance, has a free evening of (not so) spooky stories, puppetry and Halloween treats planned for this year's Spooky Stories event from 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28.

It will be held in UNH's Hennessy Theatre, in the Paul Creative Arts Center.

ArtsREACH is an educational and performing arts organization dedicated to providing quality experiences that enrich and inspire audiences and student participants "through exceptional theater and dance programs and community outreach."

(While Spooky Stories is free to the public, space is limited and reservations must be made on the Web site at: www.unh.edu/theatre-dance. Those without reservations will be admitted on a space available basis.)

HAUNTED OVERLOAD, DeMERITT HILL FARM, LEE:

Bad apples still can yield some good times.

Last May's killer frost destroyed 90 percent of DeMeritt Hill Farm's apple crop. That forced the farm to cancel most of its popular "pick-your-own" fall season.

In its place, the farm is hosting the "Haunted Overload," running Oct. 22-31, which is being billed as "one of the best scares in New England."

It offers giant monsterlike trees, ghosts, scarecrows and goblins as tall as 34 feet, as well as several live actors "haunting" a winding path on the farm.

Exeter's Eric Lowther, a veteran producer of Halloween shows, is presenting it.

Lowther told Foster's reporter Jason Claffey: "It's like no haunted attraction around. It's extremely scary but artistic at the same time."

(Tickets are \$5 to \$18.50. Details at: 603-868-2111; www.demeritthillfarm.com; or www.hauntedoverload.com)

SPOOKY WORLD/NIGHTMARE NEW ENGLAND, LITCHFIELD:

The folks behind Spooky World/Nightmare New England, three miles south of Manchester, believe they have a lot about which to boast.

This "40 acres of screaming excitement" begins with a professional quality, high impact haunted house, theatrically trained makeup and acting staff and a management team dedicated to making the park the scariest and most entertaining in New England, said director Mike Krausert.

It is under way through Oct. 31.

SpookyWorld, he adds, is one of the oldest and longest running Halloween traditions in New England and is celebrating its second year at its new location and home with Nightmare New England. "We change three or four of our attractions each year and add new twists to customer favorites. Everything has received great reviews from our customers," said Krausert.

Prepare to dig your own grave in the Catacombs and take a disturbing trip through the woods to find the inhabitants of The Colony. Just don't let them find you first, caution organizers.

Navigate your way through the House of Eternal Darkness, and don't disturb the creatures in Raven's Claw Cemetery, where corpses and zombies lurk in the fog that blankets freshly dug graves.

And that's just the start of this scary good time!

Proceeds from parking are donated to Children's Hospital in Boston, and two kid friendly shows were planned to benefit New Hampshire Lions Club.

The attraction is located at a large family entertainment center, Mel's Funway Park, which is transformed each fall for the Halloween season.

"We take you out of reality. When you are in our attractions you are in our world," said Krausert. "If you had a bad day at work, there is a good chance you will forget about it when a brain hungry zombie is chasing you down!"

(Spooky World/Nightmare New England continues today through Oct. 24; and Oct. 27-31. Ticket booth sales begin 6 p.m. on all nights of operation and close at 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. on other nights of operation. General admission is \$34.99 on Fridays and Saturdays; \$29.99 other days. VIP tickets are \$59.99 Fridays and Saturdays and \$49.99 other days. Allow a minimum of an hour and a half for a visit. Details: 603-424-7999, or www.SpookyWorld.com.)

HISTORICAL HAUNTED HALLOWEEN, WILLBROOK VILLAGE, NEWFIELD, Maine:

A pleasant fall road trip yields some historical fun at 19th Century Willowbrook Museum in Newfield, Maine, Oct. 30.

Visitors will hear tales of the village as the spirits of residents come to life during this guided walking tour.

Discover the history of Halloween, meet William Durgin and his three wives, hear about three poisonous deaths, listen to the sad story of a Civil War widow, learn about punishments unruly students suffered at the school house and more.

This is "not-too-scary" family fun, said village director Amelia Chamberlain. "This is a blend of history with spooky Halloween on the historic grounds of 18th/19th Century Newfield Village," she adds. "We have been doing Halloween related programs for four years now. Each year is slightly different."

Proceeds go to Willowbrook and 25 percent to Limerick Newfield Lions.

Halloween, she added, provides all ages "a chance to be a kid again."

(Historical Haunted Halloween is 6 to 9:30 p.m. Oct. 30; the last tour departs 9 p.m.; bring your own flashlight. Adults, \$8; under age 12, \$4 or \$3 in costume. Refreshments included. Details: 207-793-2784; www.willowbrookmuseum.org.)

NOT-SO-SPOOKY SPECTACULAR, CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DOVER:

Tour the decorated Bat Cave, go trick-or-treating and try super science experiments with the Wacky Scientist from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 30.

(The museum is at 6 Washington St., Dover. Details: 603-742-2002 or www.childrensmuseum.org)

HALLOWEEN PARTY, EPPING:

American Legion Post 51, Route 125, Epping, is hosting a Halloween Dance Oct. 23 from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Stumpy & The Goats band offers high-energy rhythm and blues, funk and rock. Prizes for the best costumes (optional).

(\$6 per person at the door. Phone 603-793-6090; or 603-944-3288. The post is located across from Telly's restaurant.)

Reader Services

[» more](#)



Advertise



**Email
Headlines**



**Buy
Photos**



**Tool
Bar**



**Home
Delivery**

[Watch Ghost Adventures](#)

Explore Some of the Scariest Places Fridays at 9e/p on Travel Channel

TravelChannel.com



Ads by Google

Copyright © 2010 Geo. J. Foster Company. Site Design: Harbour Light Strategic Marketing.
Internet Services: BayRing Communications.