

October 30, 2023

## Tolomato Owners' Newsletter

### *Special Halloween Edition*

*The Kids are back!! (and please see "When I was a Kid" following)*

The Tolomato neighborhood came together to organize a night of Trick or Treating for neighborhood kids and friends! Not all live here, but we were happy to have them! We had a total of 30 trick or treaters! The kids gathered at The Jarriel's residence for food and games before boarding the hayride to go trick or treating! The Jarriels wanted to thank all 20 families who participated in passing out candy! We appreciate each of you for making the night such a success! Also, a big thank you to Lu Burger, who leads the Social Committee, and Shalyn Rowe, for all your help on the event!

If you were unable to participate this year and are interested in participating next year, please let Caitlin Jarriel or Lu Burger know. They are already planning another event for next year.

Thanks again for all the support of this event!

The Jarriels



Jody Martin and Jesse Daniel, son of James Daniel Colson and Whitney Colson.





The Jarriel Family





Lu and Doug Burger decorated their golf cart for the event!





Trick or Treat group picture (missing two families)





The Colson Family





Shalyn and Danny Rowe along with kids Maddox, Lainey, and Addy (left to right) enjoying the hayride!





Johnny Rowe and sons Brady and Connor had fun!

### **Editorial Panel (EP)**

Our thanks to Caitlin, Lu, and Shalyn. It was a wonderful event, and having kids at Halloween is the real treat! Those delighted and sometimes tired little faces make us all smile. The organizers were making memories - for all of us.

We think Chris should get an honorable mention, for supplying the truck and trailer, and Ginny and Mr. Casper should get an attaboy for posting the event on the web site and adding graphics showing the number of attendees.

It is our pleasure to post events and report on them. Tolomato Island is a great place, made better by enabled volunteers and their supporters who flew the Halloween flag outside their homes.

Please, so other readers know and can plan accordingly, click the event button to say you are attending. The count was 6 when we knew there were 25 or 30 attending.

Your wolf or werewolf missing? Check with Lu and Doug!!

Watch [www.tolomatoowners.org](http://www.tolomatoowners.org) for event news.

### *When I was a Kid....*

We asked some of the folks for Halloween stories, here is what they volunteered:

George Bigham

Great event Friday Night. It reminded me of my favorite Halloween. In my twenties I decided to dress up as the Great Pumpkin. I purchased a very large pumpkin, cut a big hole in the bottom, carved out eyes and the mouth. I cut a hole in a sheet and wore an orange pair of tights. A light stick inside the Pumpkin finished it off.

I had a great time visiting neighbors, but I paid the price with a sore neck and head.



Carl Weston

When I was a kid in the 50's, they built a new GI Bill housing (see picture) development behind our house, little Cape Cod style homes, finished on the first floor, with an open "upstairs" (an attic really) the owners could finish when other kids came along. And kids came along. Now they call us "baby boomers". Those new homes were the target of our trick or treating, dozens of us.



Nobody had a lot of money in those days, but they didn't tell us, so we had a good time without it. The dry cleaners used to send home cleaning in a paper cleaner's bag. Plastic bags hadn't been invented or were certainly not in use. Before Halloween each year, our teachers would ask the dry cleaners around town for bags, and during school hours, on Halloween, we had a little party, and we all colored with crayons something on a dry cleaner's bag that would become our "costume". It was great, every kid had a custom costume, nobody went without.

Somewhere though it was written that it had to rain on Halloween, so when we hit the streets after dark, with our faces blackened or painted, our spiffy paper costumes didn't last long. No matter, everybody had the same problem. The candy, a real luxury, was great. Two couples passed out apples - not so great, and one old couple made us dance or sing before we got a treat. Everybody complied, because they gave out real candy bars, not candy corn which I still hate!!



Steve Anderson

Halloween as a kid in the 1960's and 1970's was comprised of homemade costumes made from 'furry' blankets cut up to make puppy costumes, or homemade pirate and Dracula costumes. I was the middle of four brothers each less than two years apart between us. We carved pumpkins nearly every year and often tried to make a spook house. As we got older, we mixed firecrackers and pumpkins for a real thrill. Good times!

Lynn Brenton

Growing up, our house was the house to visit at Halloween. My parents dressed up every year. I have fond memories of Wendy the Witch and her side kick, my dad dressing up as the Great Pumpkin, Natasha, and the Thing. The best year was while we were remodeling our downstairs, they created a haunted house. Halloween continues to be one of my favorite holidays as we establish and continue traditions with my family.

Phil Sikora

I have vague memories of my costumes c.'50s/60s. The thing I remember most of those early ones was that poorly attached, skinny elastic piece that either freed itself of one of the staples on your plastic mask of the hero of your choice or split early on. Should you be lucky enough to have it remain in one piece for a while, there was always the time when you were stretching it to fit over you face, and you let go a wee bit too early and it snapped you something awful under your chin. If you were a slow learner, like me, you had welts the next day in school. Child protection services was not alerted.

As a slightly older child with less time limitations, I remember trying to see who could fill up their pillowcase the most. Because all my friends were taller than me, they kept all their candy. My candy started leaving a trail home because I wound up dragging the pillowcase on the concrete sidewalks, wearing a hole in the bottom. One upside to that was that my booty became lighter, and I probably staved off a year of rotting teeth.

Fast forward to the early '70s when my friends were having a party, and The Lord of the Rings was popular. I may have been the first Gollum character. I remember going into Gimbel's department store in the Garden State Plaza in Paramus, NJ and trying to buy green leotards and a green Danskin. I found myself reasonably embarrassed having a fifty-something woman help me without my explaining that it was for a Halloween costume and not part of my normal Saturday night carousing. (I was not so in touch with my feminine side).





I did the tin man once with the requisite brownie pan under my costume on top of my chest. Also, a flasher.

There was a dry period until 2012 AN (After Nancy) when we combined our one-fry-short-of-a-happy-meal affects and went all in for the great prizes at our favorite all-inclusive in Negril, Jamaica. We were zombie pirates, a black widow spider and a fly (recreated yesterday locally), and Walking Dead personas Daryl and Michone, and Maggie and Negan (both times we did gender switching – I'm sticking to he/him), We have a bead on next year. One part will require part of an old tire...

Nancy Sikora

Like most kids, Halloween was a favorite event growing up. The preparation and excitement rivaling Christmas, as the box of former costumes worn by my older brothers years earlier was dissected for selection and adjustments a month or more before October 31st. The pumpkin carving and staging with lights on the front porch along with the assembly of "trick or treat" bags to be dispersed were all part of the ritual. I've long forgotten most Christmas morning gifts but can to this day in order recount each year's costume without hesitation. Great memories despite the ensuing cavities no doubt initiated through the early part of November each year.

### **Comments Regarding the Newsletter?**

If you have comments, you are invited to share them on [www.tolomatoowners.org](http://www.tolomatoowners.org) Registration is a requirement for posting.