

Keeping Charlottesville's Halloween Fun...and Safe

Halloween in Charlottesville is the one day in every year when the regular order of things gets a thorough shaking up. For one thing, it's the single day of the year when we expect our doorbell to be ringing non-stop for hours on end. It's certainly the only time when prudence dictates that we stockpile bowls full of treats to serve as ransom payments against demands for booty from an onslaught of pint-sized masked neighbors.

For Charlottesville's small fry, if all goes well, Charlottesville's Halloween ranks right up there with birthdays in terms of fun and excitement—possibly because of the aura of good-natured bounds-testing that seems to hover over the proceedings. When else does everybody get to dress up in disguises? When else might some perfectly dignified adult don an eyepatch and start talking like a pirate? When else does practically the whole of Charlottesville agree to engage in a tradition that disrupts the normal order of things for the express purpose of just having some fun? Who thought this thing up, anyway?

For parents who may or may not find themselves costumed this Tuesday, the fun will be somewhat tempered by the grownup's job of keeping everybody safe amid the spooky mayhem. Without spoiling the fun altogether, the most-noted Halloween safety concerns for Charlottesville homeowners are:

- Keep your property's walks and stairways well-lit.
- Place pumpkins and other Halloween decorations well off to the side to prevent their becoming tripping hazards.
- Secure pets away from the mayhem. Even the best-behaved may lose their cool after hours of doorbell ringing and screaming kids.
- Avoid homemade treats and loose candy—parents can't trust them.
- Don't leave treats outdoors for the kids to take. They can be tampered with.

Health authorities aren't shy about advising parents to temper their little goblins' candy intake. One good tactic: reserve a particularly enticing new toy to trade for a good amount of the sugary swag.

Here's hoping your family has a safe and moderately sane Charlottesville Halloween. As soon as things get back to normal, I'll be here, ready to assist with your next Charlottesville real estate venture!



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SETH BATTON

REALTOR, ABR®, e-PRO®, GREEN®

Born and raised in the Shenandoah Valley of Central Virginia, I love everything outdoors. Most of my free time is spent hiking, rock climbing, playing water sports, or cooking out on the back deck with friends. As a child, my parents built me with the core values of a southern gentleman. Trust starts with honesty and honesty builds integrity. I'm a technology guru! One of my favorite hobbies is restoring old homes in depressed neighborhoods to meet the needs of our generation today. My mission is to build a career worth having, a business worth owning, and a life worth living. Being GREEN® is more than just the resource efficiency of your home. It's a lifestyle choice! Let's discuss how to minimize your carbon footprint in everyday life by simplifying your daily commute, decreasing your household energy costs, and boosting the efficiency and sustainability of your daily routine!

I'm an Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR®) with the National Association of Realtors. Which means I have extensive training to help walk you through the home buying process from start to finish. From lenders and home inspectors to mortgage agents and closing companies, together we will find the best home for your family's needs!

As an e-PRO®, I can show your home to over 500 million visitors today. And you don't even need to vacuum! Curb appeal isn't just about looking good from the street. It's about looking good from the digital highway!

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