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Rotarians to help CPD with huge haunted house project



CPD Officer Scott Anderson talks about the current plan for a huge haunted house.

**Story and Photos
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CHIEFLAND --
Chiefland Police Chief Robert Douglas announced at the Aug. 8 City Commission meeting that the CPD is planning to open a haunted house

during the Halloween season.

CPD Officer Scott Anderson is heading the project and he found the members of the Suwannee Valley Rotary Club willing to dedicate resources to make this huge haunted house a booming success, according to what was said at the meeting on Thursday (Aug. 18).



CPD Officer Scott Anderson (right) accepts a Suwannee Valley Rotary Club after being the guest speaker.

Last year, the CPD had a one-night haunted house in part of the department's structure on East Park Avenue. Anderson said that drew hundreds of people, and a good time was had by all.

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Kathryn M. Lancaster (foreground) volunteers to play a witch at the haunted house.

Suwannee Valley President-Elect Kathryn M. Lancaster played the part of a witch at the event last year, and she jumped at the chance to be a pretend witch at the haunted house that is tentatively going to be three Friday and Saturday nights before Halloween. The huge stage for this project is the vacant former Central Florida Electric Cooperative building on the west side of U.S. Highway 19, just south of the Chiefland Farmer's Flea Market.

Tentative nights for the haunted house are Oct. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 and 29. It is not planned for Halloween itself (Oct. 31 -- a Monday).

In addition to volunteers from this outstanding Rotary Club, which is tentatively providing the insurance rider required for the event to happen, CPD Officer Anderson hopes to allow Chiefland Middle High School students participate for community service hours.

Anderson sees this haunted house to be a bit scarier than the one at CPD headquarters last year. So parents may not want to take kindergarteners and other very young children.

The price for admission is \$3 for children and \$5 for adults.

All of these proceeds, Chief Douglas and Officer Anderson said, are to be put in the fund for needy families at Christmastime.

The whole event, however, is tentative, because the insurance is not firm as of this minute. However, people in the Tri-County Area, and reaching out to Alachua, Marion, Citrus, Columbia, Suwannee, Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough and beyond, may want to pencil this in, because the vacant CFEC building is 10,000 square-feet or so, and Anderson and other volunteers are taking off the gloves to create a successful, fun (but scary) haunted house event.