



**Contact: Stephanie Lenox**  
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# **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

**Date: September 14, 2007**

## **Get Ready for Fall with Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment**

Salem, OR – Need inspiration for pumpkin carving? Then don't miss the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment at A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, where hundreds of carved pumpkins will be on display Saturday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. In addition to artist-carved pumpkins, this family-friendly event will feature kids' crafts, live music, face painting, a 4-H petting zoo and bountiful hands-on activities.

Harvest fun begins early with the Pumpkin Fun Run at 9 a.m. The starting line is under the Marion Street Bridge, and race participants can choose from one-mile children's course and 5k walk/run options. The course winds through scenic Riverfront Park and ends in front of the historic family home of A.C. Gilbert. Sponsored by DPS, Inc., the race is one of the last of the season, so break out your sneakers and get ready. Save by registering early at Gallagher Fitness Resources, [www.activesalem.com](http://www.activesalem.com), or register at the race for \$13/person or \$45/family participation. All race participants will receive free admission to the festival, which starts at 10:30 a.m.

Every person who brings a carved pumpkin and three-inch votive candle to the Harvest Festival will get in free. "We definitely want to encourage guests to bring pumpkins," says Stephanie Lenox, promotions director for A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village. "In previous years, we've had nearly 500, and we want you to help us break that record this year."

### **A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village**

116 Marion Street NE Salem, Oregon 97301-3437

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Last year, the “Wall of Pumpkins” was a 10-foot scaffold built specifically for the lighting ceremony. This year, according to Lenox, the Village will set up bleachers under the bridge to accommodate the plentiful pumpkin creations. As the sun goes down, museum staff will light the display, where visitors can be surrounded by hundreds of glowing grins.

The Harvest Festival promises to be everything your family needs to get in the mood for fall, all in one downtown location. Overflowing with activities from carving demonstrations to cornhusk doll crafts, fresh cider pressing to eating apples off strings, the festival also includes full access to the museum’s hands-on exhibits for kids.

Sponsored by Foresters with Purple Squirrel Services and Dwane Brenneman, Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment will also feature live music by LuAnn Ritts and Cash and Company, as well as provide harvest foods to sample and enjoy.

## **Harvest Festival and Pumpkin Merriment**

**What:** Annual event with crafts, activities, food, and entertainment for the whole family, sponsored by Foresters.

**When:** Saturday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** A.C. Gilbert’s Discovery Village, 116 Marion St NE

**Admission:** Ages 3-59/\$5.50; Ages 1 & 2/\$2.50; Ages 60+/\$4.00; Public Assistance/\$2.50;

Members/FREE; or bring carved pumpkin with three-inch votive candle to get one free admission to the event.

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