Saint Charles, Missouri

Legends & Lanterns®

A "Spirited" Journey Through Halloween History



2026 Dates & Times

SATURDAY, 10/10: 11AM - 6PM
SUNDAY, 10/11: NOON - 5PM

SATURDAY, 10/17 11AM - 6PM
SUNDAY, 10/18: NOON - 5PM

FRIDAY, 10/23: 5PM - 8PM
SATURDAY, 10/24: 11AM - 8PM
SUNDAY, 10/25: NOON - 5PM

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ONCE UPON A
VALENTINE®
ST.CHARLES, MO
STORIES FOR THE LOVED & LOVELESS
FEBRUARY 13 & 14
12-3PM ALONG
HISTORIC MAIN STREET

WELCOME TO Legends & Lanterns

A "Spirited" Journey through Halloween History®

BIENVENIDOS AMIGOS

During the Mexican celebration of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), it is believed that the souls of the departed return to Earth. Well, here at the region's premier All Hallow's Eve festival, it seems a whole portal to the netherworld has been opened, allowing the most dastardly villains of all time to escape into the quaint setting of Main Street.

Now they invite you to embark on a "spirited" journey through Halloween history for the expEERIEnce of your life (or afterlife!)

From your favorite fairy-tale fiends to horrible humans of history and sinister scoundrels from storybooks, these dastardly miscreants have some wicked surprises to share with you.

But beware! A hard-boiled mob of vigilantes armed with torches and pitchforks is hot on their trail and will stop at nothing until they pack these playful poltergeists into the back of a paddy wagon.

What thrills await? Will this finally be the year our ghastly specters turn Saint Charles into a town of eternal Halloween? Or will the scheming Angry Villagers and Monster Hunters succeed in ridding the street of supernatural varmints?

You are about to find out...

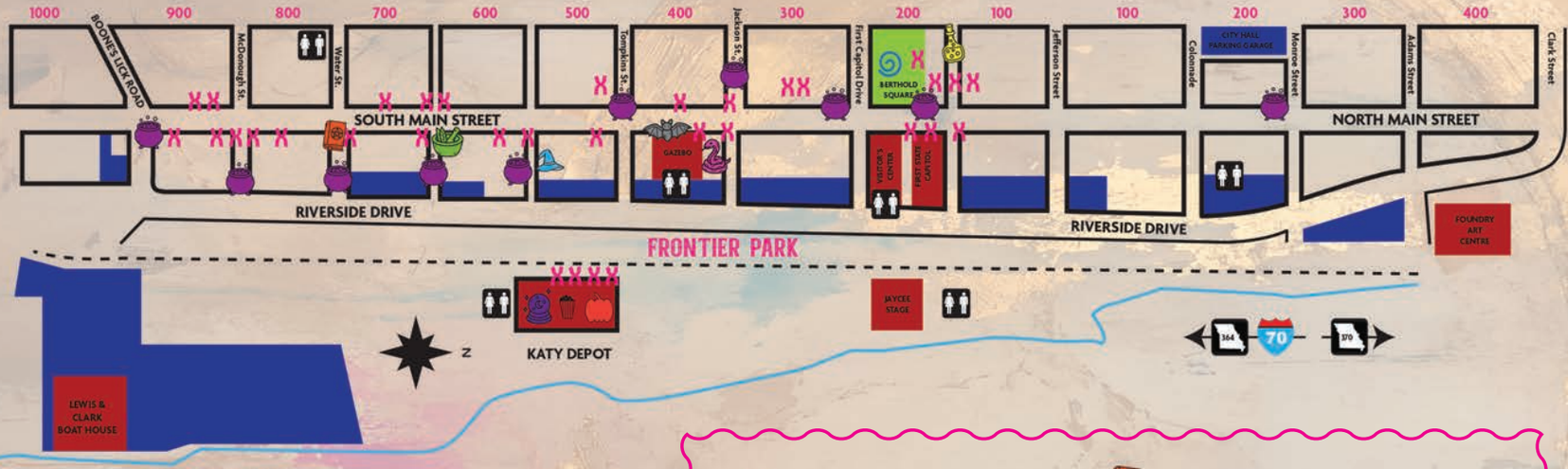
BOO CREW

Need help finding your favorite legendary character? Want to learn more about all the activities available during Legends & Lanterns®? Looking for directions to the nearest restroom? Be on the lookout for the "Boo Crew." These friendly festival ambassadors have answers to all your event questions.

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LOCATION MAP



DON'T MISS THE KATY DEPOT IN FRONTIER PARK



- HALLOWEEN LEGENDS
- SCARECROW GLEN
- BOTANICAL RASCALS
- WRITERS' BLOCK
- GARGOYLES: HISTORY'S STONE GUARDIANS
- VAN HELSING'S BOO-VENIR OUTPOST
- HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL
- PLAZA DEL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS
- PARKING
- VICTORIAN MOURNING EXHIBIT
- TINSELTOWN TERROR
- THE WARBLING GOURDS
- CRYPTOZOOLOGY CORNER

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DAILY EVENTS & Attractions

(EVENTOS Y ACTIVIDADES DIARIAS)

THE SUMMONING OF THE SPIRITS PORTAL OPENING CEREMONY

OPO Plaza • 100 Block of South Main
Saturdays at 11am
Sundays at 12pm
Friday, 10/23 at 5pm



Our celebration of All Hallow's Eve gets in touch with its ancient Celtic roots as the Legends & Lanterns'® Druid Priestess recites the enchanted incantation that opens the portals of time and space, allowing the renowned figures of Halloween history to arrive to Saint Charles from regions beyond.

As they take to the streets, the Angry Villagers give fair warning to the local townsfolk—
there are monsters on Main!



SCARECROW GLEN

Kister Park
400 Block of South Main Street

Things in Saint Charles have gone "hay"-wire! Head over to Kister Park to experience Scarecrow Glen. Get into the autumn spirit as you stroll the meandering path around the iconic Main Street Gazebo to get a view of the dozens of clever displays. Whether traditional or imaginative, whimsical or inspired by pop culture, the scarecrows you see here have all come from the creative minds of merchants, organizations, and families from throughout the Saint Charles area and beyond. Be sure to vote for your favorite in our digital "straw" poll!

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GARGOYLES:
History's Stone Guardians
500 Block of South Main

Responsible for driving away evil forces, gargoyle lore can be traced back all the way to ancient Egypt and Greece. This educational exhibit seeks to shed light on these stone monsters by answering questions (for instance, what is the difference between a "gargoyle" and a "grotesque?") while exploring international variations, depictions in popular culture, and the artistry behind these ghastly characters that have captured the imagination for centuries.

PUMPKIN GLOW
Friday, October 23rd
Saturday, October 24th
5pm-8pm

Join the merchants of Main Street for an enchanting evening of shopping by pumpkin glow. Participating shops along Main Street will decorate their sidewalks and windows with Jack-O-Lanterns of all shapes and sizes and invite you in for a Fall Open House. Get a group together and stroll the sidewalks, take photos of your favorite creations, and discover something new at participating locations. From antiques and curiosities, to dog cookies and discounts, you're sure to find just the right item. Get a jump start on your Holiday shopping during an enchanted weekend on Main Street.

WRITERS' BLOCK
Old Post Office Plaza • 100 Block of South Main

Celebrate the legacy of gothic literature and the creative authors behind history's most spine-tingling tales with a visit to Writers' Block. It is here that you will be able to brainstorm story ideas with the biggest superstars of the horror genre: Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, and the Brothers Grimm. Perhaps you will be inspired enough to try your hand at writing your own suspenseful poem or short story. You can even post your masterpiece on our "POE"tree, where you can enjoy reading the clever musings left behind. by other aspiring authors.



GHOST WRITING 101: An (Abridged) History of Horror Literature

Old Post Office Plaza
100 Block of South Main
Daily at 2pm

Take a crash course through the history of horror literature as Edgar Allan Poe, the Brothers Grimm, and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley come together to irreverently skewer the classics during a zany, fast-paced show that takes you through an abbreviated journey of your favorite frightful books and fairy tales. From *Frankenstein* to *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, no monster myth or ghost story is safe!

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GRIMM BROTHERS ODDITIES & CURIOSITIES

Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm

Old Post Office Plaza • 100 Block of South Main

With a name that is synonymous with Germanic folklore, the Brothers Grimm popularized many traditional oral stories, immortalizing them in their collection of fairy tales. Through their stories, Jacob (1785-1863) and Wilhelm (1786-1859) Grimm introduced readers to some of literature's most nefarious ne'er-do-wells including *Hansel and Gretel's* Gingerbread Witch, the Big Bad Wolf, *Cinderella's* Wicked Stepsisters, and the Evil Queen from *Snow White*.

Recently, the Brothers Grimm have taken their storytelling talents on the road. As travelling bards, they have barnstormed across villages and towns around the world with their makeshift museum in tow...showcasing some of the unique artifacts they have collected from their various journeys into the fantasy realms of your favorite stories (including a section of Oz's Yellow Brick Road and Aladdin's magic lamp!)



The Brothers Grimm

Saint Charles, Missouri

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PLAZA DEL DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

La Catrina

Berthold Square
200 Block of South Main



Let the skeletal grand dame La Catrina be your guide as you explore the heritage and vibrant customs of the Mexican Day of the Dead. Far from being a somber occasion, the joyous annual commemoration of *Dia de los Muertos* (which has origins going back over 2,500 years) honors the souls of departed loved ones through music, stories, food (such as the baking of *pan de muerto*, a bone-shaped sweet roll), and the decorating of gravesites and memorial altars (known as *ofrenda*) with colorful *cempazuchitl* (marigolds—orange like the sun, representing hope and life).

Get involved in the celebration while visiting La Plaza del Dia de los Muertos, where you can remember a departed loved one by contributing a memorial marigold to the *ofrenda*, or get a festive *calavera* (sugar skull) make-over from one of our professional face painters.

La Catrina

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TINSELTOWN TERROR:
A Salute to the Golden Age of Monster Movies
Historic KATY Depot in Frontier Park
KATY Depot is open until 1/2 hour before festival end time

It's thrilling! It's shocking! And it's coming to a screen near you! Transport yourself back to the by-gone era of drive-in theatres as the historic KATY Train Depot in Frontier Park is transformed into an old-fashioned movie house. Relive the nostalgia with clips from your favorite monster classics and Sci-Fi B-movies of the 1930s-1950s. Enjoy some complimentary popcorn (while supplies last) as these vintage monsters, mutants, and maniacs make their return to the big screen.



BOTANICAL RASCALS:
A Study of Poisonous & Carnivorous Plants
600 block near Bike Stop Café

Calling all green thumbs! Enter into the wicked world of gardening with this study of poisonous & carnivorous plants. Gaze upon an eclectic collection of bell jars and terrariums, each containing an assortment of sinister specimens (including Venus Fly Traps, Poison Hemlock, a Mandrake, and a bizarre man-eating plant from outer space named "Audrey II"). Learn the fascinating history and stories behind Mother Nature's deadliest flora.



CRYPTOZOOLOGY CORNER
Kister Park
400 Block of South Main Street

Bigfoot, the Jersey Devil, and the Loch Ness Monster (oh my!). Enter the mysterious world of Cryptozoology (the study of animals whose existence is unproven by science) as you examine case files and artifacts related to the world's most elusive creatures. From Mexico's fearsome Chupacabra to the legendary "Abominable Snowman" of the Himalayas, gather the evidence and join the hunt for these hide-and-seek champions...you never know, you may just come face-to-face with one of these extraordinary beasts (be sure to have your camera ready!)

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New for 2026!

THE FOX SISTERS' SEANCE PARLOR

Historic KATY Depot in Frontier Park

KATY Depot is open until 1/2 hour before festival end time

The enormous loss of life during the Civil War led to a rise in the popularity of spiritualism, as distraught individuals turned to mediums and séances to help them connect with their departed loved ones in the great beyond. While playing a prank, sisters Margaretta (1833-1893) and Catherine (1837-1892) Fox convinced their mother and a neighbor that they could communicate with the ghost of an alleged peddler who had been murdered at their farmhouse in Hydesville, New York. Their sister Leah (1813-1890) saw an opportunity to monetize their "powers," and soon the trio toured the country, hosting sessions for those seeking to connect with the dead. But it was all a ruse! The Fox Sisters used all forms of trickery to bamboozle innocent people out of their money (such as cracking their toe joints to replicate the sound of spirits' "rapping"). Iconic illusionist Harry Houdini famously crusaded against fake mediums and spiritualism, aiming to expose and ruin fraudsters inspired by the Fox Sisters. Ironically, another scandal-ridden medium, Mina Crandon, predicted during an August 1924 séance: "Houdini will be gone by Halloween." Harry Houdini died October 31, 1926, of a ruptured appendix.

Now the Fox Sisters are back at it again! They invite you to explore their brand-new séance parlor at the Victorian Gothic KATY Depot, where they seek to showcase their powers of prophecy, prestidigitation, and poltergeist promulgation. Do you dare witness these three charlatans as they slip into the boundless realm beyond? You never know what ghostly surprises await!



The Fox Sisters

DISCLAIMER: The Fox Sisters are known for being crooks, scoundrels, rapscallions, swindlers, phonies, flim-flammers, pranksters, humbugs, knaves, impostors, cheats, mountebanks, quacks, rogues, and stinkers. Proceed with caution!

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MORBID CURIOSITY:
MOURNING TRADITIONS OF THE VICTORIAN AGE

Historic KATY Depot in Frontier Park
KATY Depot is open until 1/2 hour before festival end time



Evangeline Mortimer, Legends & Lanterns'® official nineteenth century mourner extraordinaire invites you into a world of the macabre, eerie, and bizarre. The Victorians turned grief into an art form in the 19th century through their curious (and sometimes just plain odd) funeral practices. Journey just steps off Main Street to Frontier Park as the historic KATY Train Depot comes to "life" with an informative and family-friendly exhibit that features dozens of peculiar authentic artifacts (including mourning gowns, tear vials, and memorial wreaths made of human hair) that seek to illustrate how Victorians revolutionized the bereavement process. Learn why it is customary to wear black to funerals. Discover why homes have "living" rooms. Decipher what the symbols on old tombstones represent. Explore what customs can still be recognized today and which fads have "died out."

Evangeline Mortimer

SAINT CHARLES, MISSOURI

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HAUNTED HISTORY TRAIL: DISCOVER THE MYSTERIES OF MAIN STREET'S PAST

You'll never look at Main Street the same way again after embarking on this self-guided video walking tour that unearths the true tales of infamy, villainy, and the paranormal that have shaped the legacy of the historic district. See where witches met along Main Street, learn about Edgar Allan Poe's Saint Charles connection, walk the grounds where a large cemetery once stood, hear the stories of restless spirits and real-life angry villagers that once wandered these brick streets (in addition to plenty of other secrets that you won't read about in any guidebook!)

Stop #1:	Saint Charles Witches 900 Block of South Main
Stop #2:	Edgar Allan Poe & Washington Irving's Local Connection 800 Block of South Main
Stop #3:	A Presidential Past Daniel Boone Statue 700 Block of South Main
Stop #4:	A Full House...Of Ghosts 700 South Main
Stop #5:	Saint Charles & The Aaron Burr Conspiracy 524 South Main
Stop #6:	A Mother-in-Law From Beyond the Grave 500 Block of South Main
Stop #7:	What Lies Beneath: The Graveyard Under Your Feet 400 Block of South Main
Stop #8:	Elijah Lovejoy & The Real Life Angry Villagers 301 South Main
Stop #9:	Crime & Punishment Old Post Office 119 South Main
Stop #10:	Steinbrinker Funeral Parlor & Undertaker 305 North Main

Scan the QR code to begin your digital video tour:

MONSTER BANISHING PROCESSION & JAM-BOO-REE

Starting from the 900 Block of South Main 30 minutes prior to the end of each festival day.

The end of each festival day is heralded by a roundup of your favorite ghouls and villains by the dastardly Angry Villagers. Hoisting their torches and pitchforks, this disgruntled procession starts on the 900 block of South Main where it ultimately arrives on the 400 block of South Main as the Kister Park Gazebo provides the backdrop for an epic musical finale. Will the Legends of Halloween be successful in their quest to take over Main Street? Or will the Angry Villagers get their wish and chase away our ghoulish guests?



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MUSICAL Entertainment

ESPECTÁCULOS MUSICALES

The sounds of the season come alive on Main Street during Legends & Lanterns®. From a musical mob to singing statues and a fiddle playing plague doctor, the festival has just what you need to set your toe to tapping and send a shiver down your spine!

THE ANGRY VILLAGERS (A MUSICAL MOB)



What's a good monster story without a proverbial hoard of angry villagers? This band of bumbling peasants has found their way to Saint Charles in order to vanquish any supernatural visitors. Armed with pitchforks, torches, and cloves of garlic, these villagers are not only angry but—musical! So keep an eye (and an ear) out; they may have a special seasonal tune to share with you—in between their quest to rid Main Street of ghosts, of course.

TORCH SONGS: A Disgruntled, Musical Rally

Kister Park Gazebo
400 Block of South Main
3PM Daily

It's impossible to be angry when the haunting melodies of the Halloween season are brought to life by everyone's favorite musical mob. Join the Angry Villagers on the steps of the Gazebo in Scarecrow Glen (400 block of South Main) every festival day at 3pm as they present a creepy chorale of spellbinding tunes that provide the perfect soundtrack for storming a castle.

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THE GHOULING STONES

Look out! There are some new "rock" stars in town...literally! Long ago in ancient Greece, these musical muses incurred the wrath of Medusa who turned them into stone. But don't take them for granite...these living statues still retain their voices and have travelled to Saint Charles with one concrete goal in mind: to become one of Legends & Lanterns'® "boulder" attractions.



PANIC! AT THE FORUM
A ROCK Concert!

Forget-Me-Not Plaza
100 Block of South Main
1PM Daily

They've sold out the Acropolis, they've brought the house down in Crete, and now the Ghouling Stones are ready to ROCK Saint Charles as part of the their ancient world tour! Get ready to party like it's CDXLVII B.C.E. as these singing statues take you on a musical journey that's as hot as Hades!

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DR. SCHNABEL: THE FIDDLING PLAGUE DOCTOR

600 South Main Street



During the Bubonic Plague, medical physicians would travel to infected villages wearing long black coats and their iconic beaked masks (these "beaks" were often stuffed with dried flowers and spices to keep away bad smells, which at the time were considered by many to be how the disease spread). These individuals were usually second-rate medical hacks (and in many cases weren't even doctors at all). In Dr. Schnabel's case, he believes that music is the best medicine and has travelled to Legends & Lanterns® (with fiddle in tow) in order to heal his "patients" with a prescription of Halloween tunes and hoe-down melodies.

Dr. Schnabel

Saint Charles, Missouri

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KARAOKE WITH THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Throughout Historic Main Street



In 1909, French author Gaston Leroux introduced readers to the Phantom of the Opera, the disfigured musical prodigy lurking deep within the catacombs of the Paris Opera House. The story of this ghastly specter has been adapted many times, including Lon Chaney's 1925 silent film and Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster Broadway musical. Today, having traded in his pipe organ for a karaoke machine, the Phantom prowls the historic district, in search of his new muse. So stay alert! You never know when this Opera Ghost may suddenly appear in order to challenge you to sing for a chance at Legends & Lanterns® stardom.

Erik Claudin



THE WARBLING GOURDS

Historic KATY Depot in Frontier Park

Sure, the tradition of carving Jack-o-Lanterns can be traced back centuries ago, but have you ever heard one sing before? Step into the historic KATY Depot where you'll step aboard the Wicked Wench, the haunted remains of a cursed pirate ship. Amid this dusty collection of Jolly Rogers and buccaneer treasure, you will find the Warbling Gourds, a trio of crooning pumpkins. Carve out some time to experience these vocalizing vegetables as they perform their repertoire of amusing Halloween "scare-ols."

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QUESTS & Activities

ACTIVIDADES Y RETOS

VAN HELSING'S MONSTER HUNTING TRAINING ACADEMY

Daniel Boone Statue • 700 Block of South Main Street



The name of Van Helsing is synonymous with ghoul eradication, but with the sudden uptick in supervillain activity on Main Street, it's time to call in the reinforcements... YOU! Esteemed members of Van Helsing's Secret Society of Monster Hunters have established a training academy for the next generation of angry villagers, and they will be on hand to share stories and advice on the best techniques for getting rid of vampires, werewolves, and other supernatural varmints. While practicing your axe throwing or browsing the latest model of pitchfork, stop by the Van Helsing BOO-venir Outpost for a wide array of official Legends & Lanterns® souvenirs to commemorate your visit to the festival.

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MACABRE MERCHANDISE

MERCANCÍA OFICIAL DEL FESTIVAL



Tourism Center
230 South Main

Van Helsing's BOO-venir Outpost
Daniel Boone Statue
700 block of South Main Street

Keep the spirit of Halloween going all year long, with our official collection of Legends & Lanterns® apparel and keepsakes.

New for 2026

Dia de los Muertos

Day of the Dead T-Shirt

New for 2026

Legends & Lanterns® Tarot Deck



Legends & Lanterns®
Commemorative Pins



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Legends & Lanterns® T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

































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SCAREDY CAT SCAVENGER HUNT

Meet Jekyll (the festival's unofficial feline mascot). Jekyll likes to "hyde" throughout the historic district during Legends & Lanterns®. A clue to our scaredy cat's whereabouts will be posted each festival day on the official Legends & Lanterns® Facebook page. Take a picture with our frightened feline and show it to one of the volunteers at the Tourism Center (230 South Main Street) in exchange for a small prize.

Don't forget to share photos of all of your festival adventures on social media with #LegendsAndLanterns



MOLLY CRENSHAW'S WITCH HUNT

Salem eat your heart out! Did you know that Saint Charles has its very own famous witch? According to the urban legend, Molly Crenshaw was a voodoo practitioner during the late nineteenth century. After an angry mob of local villagers blamed her for failed crops, Molly placed a curse on anyone who touched her. The disgruntled townsfolk cut the witch into pieces, burying her remains in separate graves (so that the body could not rise from the dead and get revenge). However, popular lore states that each year the graves inch closer and closer together...and now, these remains have converged on Main Street!

Each festival day, six remnants of the witch's body will be hidden throughout the historic district. Be one of the lucky six individuals to locate one of the limbs and turn it in to the Monster Hunters at Van Helsing's BOO-venir outpost near the Daniel Boone statue (700 Block of South Main), and earn a special reward!





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MARKING YOUR ADVENTURE: ICON MEDALLIONS

The practice of creating rubbings of tombstone inscriptions can be traced back to medieval Europe. The custom experienced a resurgence during the Victorian period when grave markers featured symbolic iconography.

Inspired by this tradition, as you explore Legends & Lanterns®, keep an eye out for special medallions at several attraction locations. At the self-serve impression stations, you can create your own rubbing to commemorate your visit.

- Writers' Block (100 block of South Main)
- Gargoyles: History's Stone Guardians (500 block of South Main)
- Plaza del Dia de los Muertos (Berthold Square – 200 block of South Main)
- Scarecrow Glen (Gazebo area – 400 block of South Main)
- Cryptozoology Corner (Gazebo area- 400 block of South Main)
- Victorian Mourning Exhibit (KATY Depot – Frontier Park)
- Botanical Rascals (600 block of South Main)
- Van Helsing's Monster Hunter Training Academy (Daniel Boone Statue – 700 block of South Main)
- Pirates' Cove (900 block of South Main)

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MEET THE legends



They've sallied forth from Salem. They've crept out of their creepy crypts. They've braved the treacherous waters of the Caribbean...and now they've invaded Main Street!

During Legends & Lanterns® the most notorious villains, phantoms, and ne'er-do-wells from history and folklore have unleashed the magic of their enchanted lanterns in order to travel through time and space, and have decided to make Saint Charles their new favorite "haunt." These ne'er-do-wells have assembled during their favorite time of year to take you on a truly spellbinding adventure!

Swap recipes with the dastardly Mrs. Lovett, learn the origins of your favorite Halloween traditions with the Druid Priestess, brainstorm story ideas with the Brothers Grimm, get hair care tips from Medusa, and craft the perfect alibi with Lizzie Borden & the Big Bad Wolf.







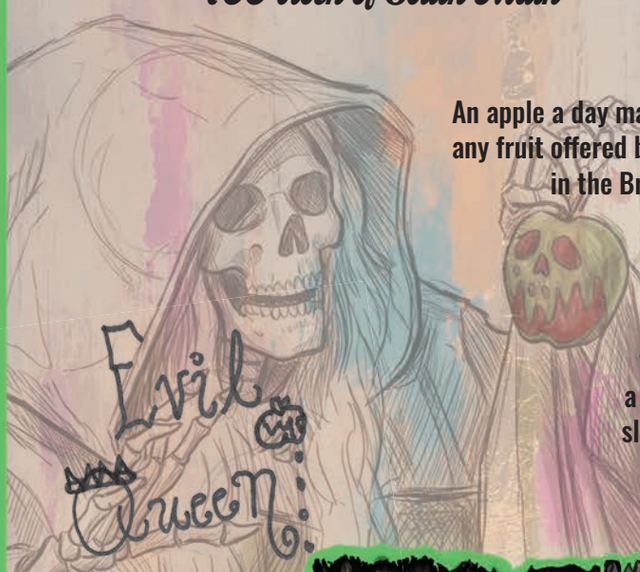
AN ENDLESS ASSORTMENT OF MACABRE MEMORIES AWAIT YOU.

Saint Charles, Missouri

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THE EVIL QUEEN

400 block of South Main



An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but we suggest steering clear of any fruit offered by this wicked sorceress. Described as "proud and arrogant" in the Brothers Grimm 1812 fairy tale *Schneewittchen* (Snow White), the vain Queen consulted her enchanted mirror each morning, validating that she was "the fairest in the land." When one day the mirror informed the monarch that it was her seven-year-old stepdaughter Snow White, and not she, who was the most beautiful, the enraged Queen formulated a plan to kill the young princess. After a huntsman fails to slay Snow White, the Evil Queen turns to dark witchcraft to transform herself into an old hag, and heads to the woods (where the young girl has found shelter in the cottage of the seven Dwarfs). After tricking her into eating a poisoned apple, the Queen watched her stepdaughter succumb to a death-like sleep. While Snow White's story ends happily ever after, the Evil Queen does not fare as well. In the original Brothers Grimm version of the tale, the Queen is invited to the princess' wedding... where as punishment, the vindictive monarch is forced to dance in red hot iron shoes until she dies.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: At the end of the premiere engagement of Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, all of the upholstery on the seats in New York City's Radio City Music Hall had to be replaced. Children were so terrified of the scene of the Evil Queen turning into the old hag, that they wet their pants.

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LOCH NESS MONSTER

Cryptozoology Corner
Gazebo- 400 block of South Main

Lurking in the dark waters of the Scottish Highlands, shrouded in mystery, is the Loch Ness Monster. Described over time as a 'monster fish', "sea serpent," and a "dragon," many refer to the dinosaur-like creature by the affectionate nickname "Nessie." The modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster entered the public imagination in 1933 when Mr.& Mrs. George Spicer witnessed an animal with a large body, and long neck (similar to an elephant's trunk) cross the road in front of their car and disappear into the water. While the Spicers helped kick off a fervor that exists to this day (Nessie tourism is estimated to contribute $54 million USD annually to the Scottish economy), their sighting was not the first. A millennia earlier, in 565, the earliest report of a sea monster in the vicinity of Loch Ness appeared when The Life of St. Columba, recounted a tale of the Irish monk saving a man from a "water beast."





FRIGHTFUL FACT: In 1934 the Loch Ness Monster's image was allegedly captured in a famous snapshot known as the "surgeon's photo" (the picture was attributed to a London gynecologist). The grainy, black & white image was ultimately determined to be a hoax. "Nessie" was actually a toy submarine bought from Woolworth's, topped with a head and neck made of wood putty.

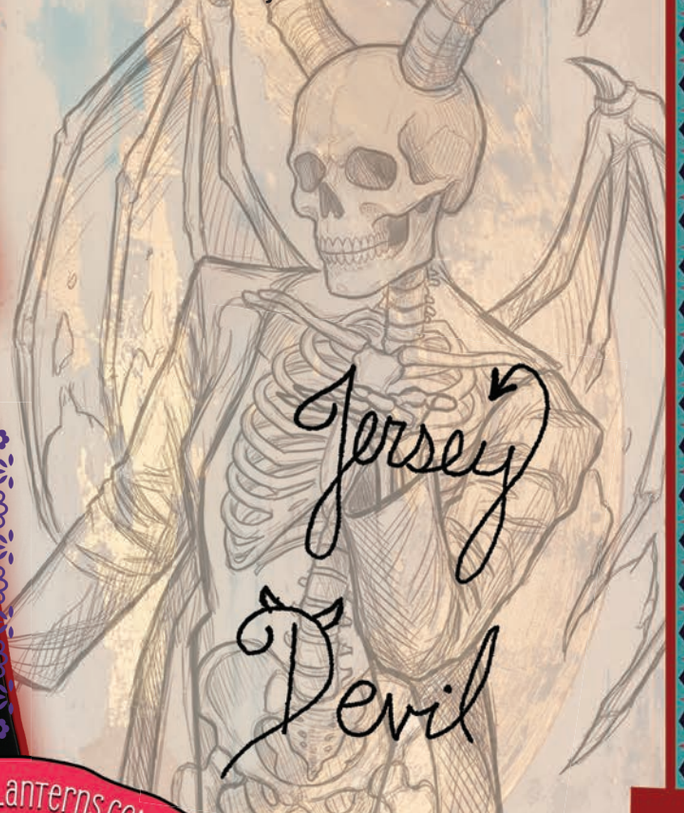
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THE JERSEY DEVIL

Cryptozoology Corner
Gazebo- 400 block of South Mainn

Among America's most iconic cryptids, the lore of the Jersey Devil can be traced to the country's colonial era. According to legend, in the early 1700s, New Jersey was home to a woman known as "Mother Leeds." While giving birth to her 13th child, the exhausted Mother Leeds was horrified to discover that she had spawned a baby with wings, hooves, and horns. The creature began flying around, causing mischief before disappearing into the Pine Barrens. Napoleon's brother, Joseph Bonapart, once lived in New Jersey and often recounted the tale of his personal run-in with the Jersey Devil (a fiend he described as having wings, legs like a crane, and the face of a camel). In 1909, reports of odd footprints being found in the January snow were enough to close businesses and schools after citizens were too frightened to leave their homes. Strange happenings in the Garden State are often attributed to the Jersey Devil. To stop the nuisance, in 1960, merchants in the city of Camden offered a $10,000 bounty for anyone who could capture the monster...who remains on the loose to this day.



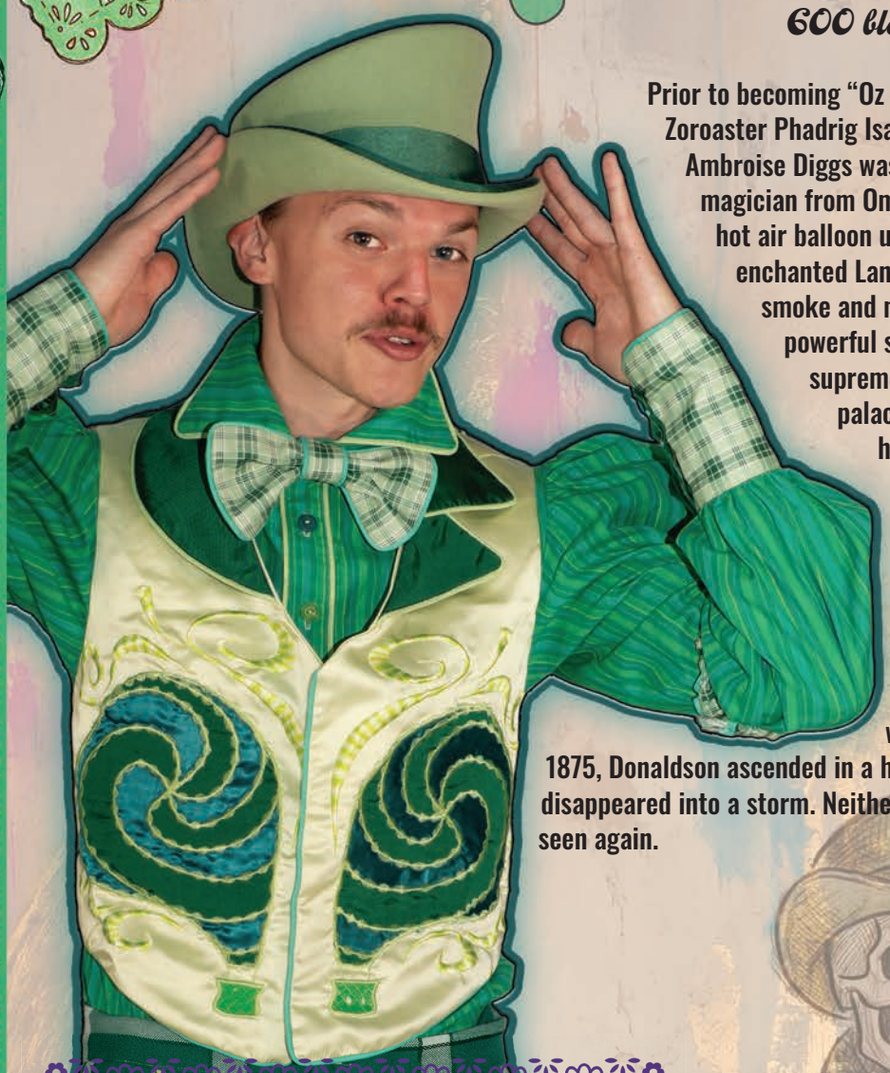


FRIGHTFUL FACT: In 1982, a National Hockey League team from Colorado relocated to the Garden State. After a contest was held, fans voted to rebrand the team...the New Jersey Devils.

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THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ

600 block of South Main



Prior to becoming "Oz the Great and Terrible," Oscar Zoroaster Phadrig Isaac Norman Henkle Emmanuel Ambroise Diggs was a simple conman and circus magician from Omaha, Nebraska. After his iconic hot air balloon unexpectedly floated into the enchanted Land of Oz, he used his talents for smoke and mirrors to present himself as a powerful sorcerer, and soon became the supreme leader of Oz (ruling from his palace in the Emerald City). Aside from his introduction in the 1900 book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, author L. Frank Baum includes the character of the Wizard in several other books in his Oz series. Baum may have been inspired by a real-life figure, Washington Harrison Donaldson (a magician who worked for P.T. Barnum). On July 15, 1875, Donaldson ascended in a hot air balloon near Chicago, and disappeared into a storm. Neither he, nor the balloon were ever seen again.



FRIGHTFUL FACT: While filming the classic 1939 movie musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, Frank Morgan (who played the title character) was costumed with an old overcoat that the MGM wardrobe department acquired from a second hand shop. While on set, Morgan turned a pocket inside out to see the name "L. Frank Baum" stitched on the inside, suddenly realizing that he was wearing a coat that had belonged to the author who created the world of Oz.

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THE WICKED WITCH OF THE EAST

600 block of South Main



In L. Frank Baum's classic 1900 fairy tale, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy, a young farm girl from Kansas, finds herself in a fantasy land ruled by witches (both good and bad). Though she is often overshadowed by the ferocious green-skinned Wicked Witch of the West, the Wicked Witch of the East was a powerful force for evil in her own right. As the governor of Munchkinland, she terrorized the tiny people of Oz, ruling over them with an iron first, until the fateful day Dorothy's cyclone-blown farmhouse "dropped in" on her. Though she only appears briefly in Baum's story (and the subsequent 1939 MGM movie musical), her fashion sense is instantly recognizable, with her striped stockings and enchanted slippers that were commandeered by Dorothy, taking her on that familiar journey down the yellow brick road.



FRIGHTFUL FACT: In the original L. Frank Baum book, the Witch of the East's enchanted shoes are silver, not ruby. For the film version of *The Wizard of Oz*, the shoe color was changed to a more vibrant red in order to take full advantage of the new process of Technicolor®.

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CAPTAIN JAMES HOOK

Pirates' Cove • 900 block of South Main



The terror of Neverland, Captain James Hook was first brought to life in 1904 when Scottish novelist J.M. Barrie first debuted his tale of Peter Pan. This quick-tempered pirate commander provided a fitting archenemy to the sprite-like boy who wouldn't grow up and soon joined the rank of legendary fictitious buccaneers alongside the likes of Long John Silver. As elegant as he is bloodthirsty, the ruthless Captain Hook is known for his fanciful outfits and is instantly recognized by the hooked appendage on his arm (his hand having been eaten by a crocodile that provides a continuous source of anxiety for the pirate). Sailing aboard the notorious vessel the *Jolly Roger*, Hook and his bumbling crew of cutthroats dominate the uncharted waters and mermaid lagoons of Barrie's fantasy island, as they tangle with the various tribes and Lost Boys of Neverland who get in the way of the Captain's pursuit of the impish Peter Pan.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: Many pirate crews had their own pirate flags (often referred to as a "Jolly Roger") that acted as their unique calling cards and were used to intimidate enemy ships. It is thought that the term Jolly Roger comes from the French phrase "joli rouge" which means "pretty red" (many pirate flags were red rather than the stereotypical black and white).

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ANNE BONNY (1697-?)

Pirates' Cove • 900 block of South Main



Proving that piracy was not exclusively a boys' club, Anne Bonny was one of history's few female buccaneers. Born in County Cork, Ireland, as a young woman, she met the eccentric Captain "Calico Jack" Rackham, and became seduced by a life of piracy. Bonny and Calico Jack terrorized the Caribbean aboard their commandeered ship *The William*. With her battle axe in hand, Anne Bonny was known as a ferocious fighter. Her flaming red hair was just an outward manifestation of her fiery temper. On November 15, 1720, as *The William* came under attack, she shot at her own crew for being too inebriated to fight back. The whole crew (including Anne) were apprehended and sentenced to hang, with her famous last words to Calico Jack being "had you fought like a man, you need not have been hanged like a dog." While history is unclear of her fate, it is believed that she escaped execution and lived into old age in Charles Towne (now Charleston), South Carolina.

Captain Anne Bonny

FRIGHTFUL FACT: A popular legend claims that Anne would often smear her ship, sails, and crew with turtle blood when approaching merchant ships. The scene would look so horrific that often the targeted ships would immediately surrender without a fight.

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THE SIREN

Pirates' Cove
900 block of South Main

Seafarers have long been prone to superstition. Since the dawn of ocean voyage, nearly every culture has had their own unique menagerie of sea monsters to be wary of (such as the legendary Kraken). However, among the deadliest of nautical adversaries are the Sirens. These mythic menaces use their hauntingly beautiful singing voices to hypnotize sailors, causing their ships to crash and sink, as the Sirens lure the men to their watery demise.



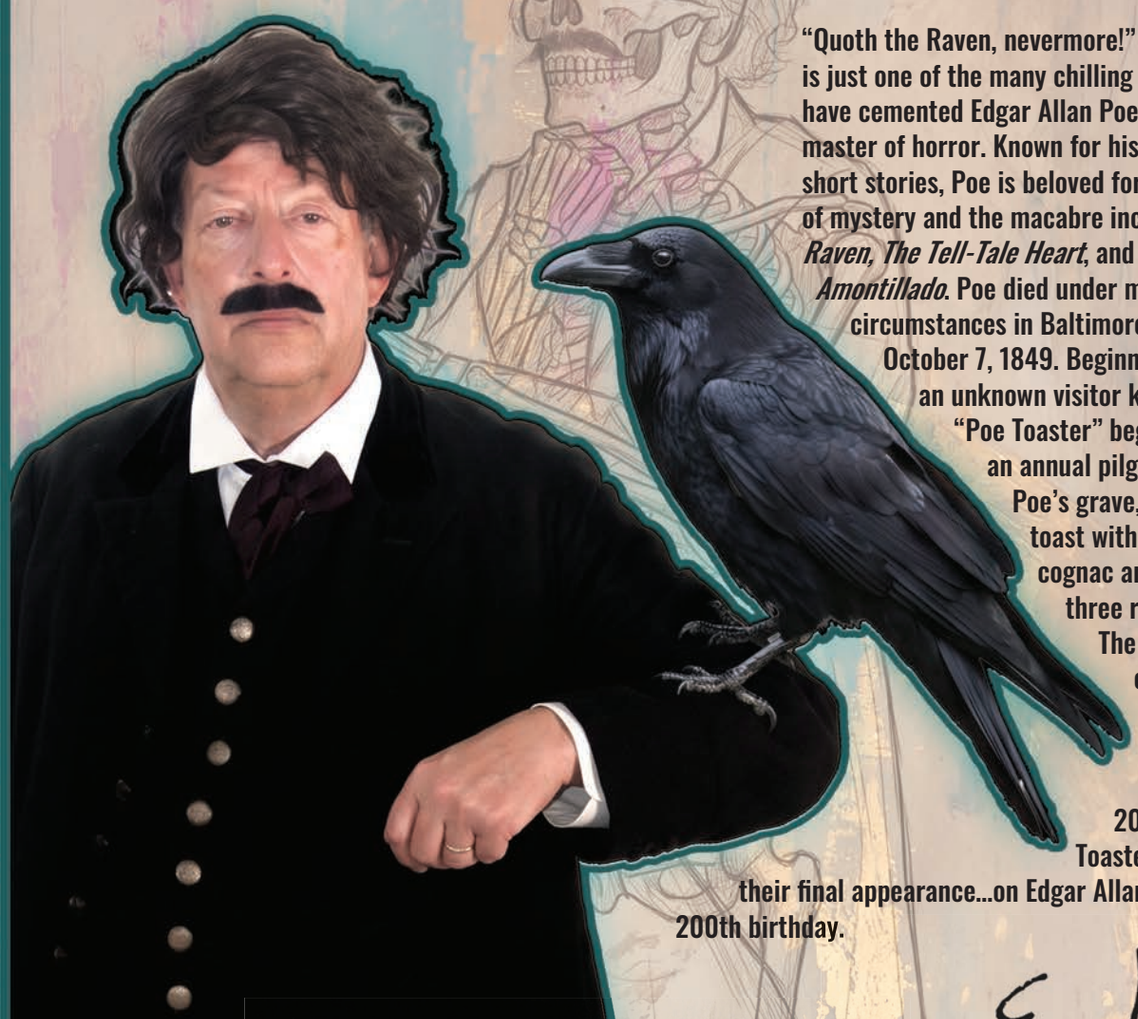


FRIGHTFUL FACT: Many famous seafarers, including Captain John Smith and the notorious pirate Blackbeard noted mermaid sightings during their careers. In 1493, Christopher Columbus claimed he had seen three mermaids, disappointedly describing them to be "not half as beautiful as they are painted." The alleged mermaids turned out to be three manatees.

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EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809-1849)

Writers' Block
100 block of South Main



"Quoth the Raven, nevermore!" This excerpt is just one of the many chilling passages that have cemented Edgar Allan Poe as America's master of horror. Known for his poetry and short stories, Poe is beloved for his tales of mystery and the macabre including: *The Raven, The Tell-Tale Heart*, and *The Cask of Amontillado*. Poe died under mysterious circumstances in Baltimore, Maryland on October 7, 1849. Beginning in 1949, an unknown visitor known as the "Poe Toaster" began making an annual pilgrimage to Poe's grave, raising a toast with a glass of cognac and leaving three roses.

The tradition continued for six decades until January 19, 2009, the Poe Toaster made their final appearance...on Edgar Allan Poe's 200th birthday.

E. A. Poe

FRIGHTFUL FACT: In Baltimore, the city where the author lived his final days, the NFL team is named "The Ravens" after his most famous literary work. Their ornithological mascot is appropriately named "Poe."

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STINGY JACK

800 block of South Main



Centuries ago in Ireland lived the miserable ne'er-do-well known as Stingy Jack. Jack took great joy in playing pranks on people. One day, however, when he played a trick on the Devil himself, Jack was cursed to wander the earth aimlessly for all eternity with only a glowing red ember from the underworld to light his way (which Jack placed in a hollowed out turnip he used as a lantern). Irish peasants who grew up listening to this tale, took to placing candles in turnips, beets, and other vegetables carved with grotesque faces as a way to ward off Stingy Jack (and any other evil spirits), hence creating the first Jack-O-Lanterns.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: When Irish immigrants came to America (the native home of the pumpkin), they found that the large orange gourds made the perfect canvas for their centuries-old Jack-O-Lantern tradition.

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THE QUEEN OF HEARTS

Gazebo • 400 block of South Main

Hold on to your head! This hot-tempered sovereign from Lewis Carroll's 1865 fantasy novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* has a nasty habit of settling disputes by severing heads for the most minor offense. Known for her dislike of white roses, love of tarts, and her penchant for playing croquet (with flamingos as mallets and hedgehogs in lieu of croquet balls), this majestic menace has garnered a reputation for her cruelty, making her a frightful foe for Mad Hatters, Cheshire Cats, and young girls named "Alice."



FRIGHTFUL FACT: It is believed that the Queen may be a reference to Queen Margaret of the House of Lancaster. During the War of the Roses, the symbol of the House of Lancaster was a red rose, while the symbol of their rivals, the House of York, was a white rose.

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AOS SI

200 block of South Main

The Aos Si (pronounced EE-SHEE) are a supernatural race in Gaelic folklore similar to elves and fairies. The name Aos Si means "folk of the burial mounds," where they are forced to reside, after having been cast off the earth by humans. They now guard the portals to the otherworld. Unpredictable by nature, these mystical creatures are often described as being stunningly beautiful, but can also be terrible and hideous, causing great harm and trouble. During the Celtic festival of Samhain (the ancient origin of Halloween), the veil between the living world and the world of the dead was lifted, and the Aos Si were able to walk the earth. In order to protect themselves from potential mischief from these malevolent fairies, ancient people would disguise themselves in horns and animal pelts to avoid detection (this practice evolved into the modern tradition of dressing in costume for Halloween).

FRIGHTFUL FACT: In 1999, a motorway in County Clare, Ireland was rerouted in order to preserve the Latoon Fairy Bush, a tree believed to be inhabited by supernatural forces.

Aos Si

Saint Charles, Missouri

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ABIGAIL WILLIAMS (1680–?)

700 block of South Main



The spiteful niece of village minister Samuel Parris, Abigail Williams was the ringleader of the "afflicted girls" of Salem, whose accusations led to the arrest and imprisonment of more than 150 innocent people as "witches" (and sent 19 individuals to Gallows Hill) during the infamous Salem Witchcraft Hysteria of 1692. Some experts speculate that fungus-infected rye may have led to hallucinations that Abigail Williams and others believed to be witchcraft. The state of Massachusetts did not formally apologize for the trials until 1957 (more than 250 years after the events took place). In June of 1692, Abigail disappeared from the historical record, and what happened to her is unknown.

Abigail Williams

FRIGHTFUL FACT: In 1953, Abigail Williams came to Broadway as a principal character in Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*. Set during the Salem hysteria of 1692, Miller used the play as a commentary on McCarthyism and the communist "witch hunts" that were taking place in the United States at the time.

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MORGANA LE FAY

300 block of South Main

A pivotal character of Arthurian lore, the story of this enigmatic fairy sorceress varies greatly depending on the source material. In later works, Morgana Le Fay is depicted as powerful and incredibly dangerous. Having learned her magic from the wise wizard, Merlin, she becomes enamored with the dark arts, and seeks to use her malevolent powers for evil. After developing a seething hatred of Queen Guinevere, Morgana Le Fay is banished from Camelot. She then retreats to her magical kingdom of Gorre, where seeking revenge, the enchantress plots to steal the magical sword Excalibur and bring about the downfall and demise of Arthur and his queen, allowing for her to claim the throne and rule the kingdom.



FRIGHTFUL FACT: Some versions depict Le Fay as the ruler of Avalon (where King Arthur died). Avalon is thought to be located in modern day Glastonbury Abbey. In 1191, a large oak coffin was discovered with the inscription “Here lies King Arthur buried in Avalon.” Inside were two skeletons (believed to be Arthur and Guinevere). The remains were moved to an ornate marble tomb, which was destroyed in 1539. Where the skeletons are today is a mystery.

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MERLIN

300 block of South Main

Merlin



Wizard, fortune teller, advisor…mythology's most famous magician, Merlin is best known for his role in the legend of King Arthur. Merlin's first literary appearance was in the 1136 book *Historia Regum Britanniae* ("History of the Kings of Britain") by Geoffrey of Monmouth. Soon after, various bards, poets, and writers expanded on Arthurian lore (and by extension, the story of the famous sorcerer). A master of the magical arts and potions, Merlin planted the famous sword in the stone (prophesying its extraction by the boy king for whom he would act as a mentor). Legend also says Merlin constructed the renowned Round Table of Camelot. Though most consider him a myth, Merlin was inspired by a real-life figure: Myrddin Wyllt, a court advisor to a sixth-century king known for his ability to see into the future.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: Myrddin Wyllt, the "real-life Merlin," once predicted that he would suffer a "triple death" by falling, stabbing, and drowning. The prophecy came true in 584 when he perished after being chased off a cliff by shepherds, then being impaled by a fisherman's spear in the water below (where he ultimately drowned).

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MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT SHELLEY (1797–1851)

Writers' Block • 100 block of South Main



A literary pioneer and feminist icon in early 19th century England, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley is best known for authoring what is arguably the most iconic novel of the horror genre. While on a trip to Lake Geneva in May of 1816, dreary weather kept her travel party indoors. In a bout of cabin fever, the group entertained each other with a competition to see who could write the best ghost story. It was from this challenge that nineteen-year-old Mary penned the short story that would become *Frankenstein* or, *A Modern Prometheus*. In 1818, her tale of a scientist's successful attempt to reanimate a corpse was published; horrifying and capturing the imagination of readers around the world. Though she wrote many other novels, her enduring gothic novel, *Frankenstein* has stood the test of time and spawned countless motion picture adaptations (everything from a 1910 silent film to Mel Brooks' 1974 comedy *Young Frankenstein*).

Mary W. Shelley

FRIGHTFUL FACT: When her husband died in a boating accident, Mary kept his heart, carrying it with her wherever she went. A year after she died, the heart was discovered in her desk wrapped in a copy of a love poem that her late husband had written her.

Saint Charles, Missouri

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DORIAN GRAY

400 block of South Main

A libertine and a Victorian playboy, Dorian Gray first came onto the scene as the primary character in Oscar Wilde's 1890 novella *The Picture of Dorian Gray.* In the story, the vain and hedonistic aristocrat expresses a desire to sell his soul so that his painted portrait would age, allowing him to remain young and handsome. The wish is granted, and the figure in the painting becomes increasingly grotesque and reflects the vices and sins that he commits.

Dorian Gray



FRIGHTFUL FACT: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* has been adapted several times into motion pictures, one of the most famous being a 1945 version starring Hurd Hatfield and Angela Lansbury. The title portrait was filmed in technicolor, in what was otherwise an entirely black & white film (having a startling effect). More than just a mere set piece, the painting that was used in the movie now hangs on display in the Art Institute of Chicago.

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THE DRUID PRIESTESS

500 block of South Main



Many of the beloved traditions of Halloween originated with the ancient Druids. All Hallow's Eve began as the Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, the darker half of the year. It was during Samhain that it was believed the veil between the worlds of the living and the dead was lifted. Gifts of food were left to appease the Aos Si (the spirits or fairies that could cross over into the living realm), and many individuals would disguise themselves in animal pelts in an effort to avoid being recognized by any malevolent spirits. This practice (eventually called "mumming" or "guising") morphed into what we know today as trick or treating. Several centuries later, the Church, in an attempt to draw attention away from the Pagan festival of Samhain, established a holiday the next day (November 1st) called All Saint's Day (known by the Middle English name, Allhallowmas). Hence, Samhain became All Hallow's Eve, or in its shortened form: Halloween.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween and is derived from the original name of the holiday.

Saint Charles, Missouri

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BIGFOOT

Cryptozoology Corner
Gazebo
400 block of South Main



Arguably the most famous cryptid of all, the legendary Bigfoot is believed to prowl the woodlands of the Pacific Northwest. Also known as Sasquatch (derived from an indigenous word meaning "wild man"), this ape-like creature has similarities to other figures of folklore around the world including the Australian Yowie, the Japanese Hibagon, and the infamous Yeti of the Himalayas. British explorer David Thompson is often credited with finding the first set of Sasquatch footprints (supposed tracks that have been found in the wild have been as big as 24 inches long and 8 inches wide). The lore grew in 1924 after five gold prospectors claimed to have had a violent encounter with "gorilla men" on Mount St. Helens (in an area now known as "Ape Canyon.") Over the years, the accounts of Bigfoot have been filled with conspiracy theories and images (including a famous 59-second video recording from 1967, allegedly depicting a Bigfoot walking through the forests of Northern California), that have both captured the imagination and been decried by sceptics. While some believe the creature to be nothing more than a misidentification of bears walking on their hind feet, there are a small number in the science community who believe that Sasquatch may be a surviving remnant of Neanderthals.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: The nickname "Bigfoot" started in 1958, when a group of loggers found large tracks at their worksite in Humboldt County, California and brought their story to the media. When Ray Wallace, one of the employees of the company, died in 2002, his family made a shocking discovery in his basement: a collection of large, carved wooden feet allegedly used to make the footprints.

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MEDUSA

200 block of South Main



Amid the pantheon of gods and monsters throughout Greek mythology, few figures are as feared as the Gorgon named Medusa. Once a strikingly beautiful priestess, she incurred the wrath of Athena (goddess of wisdom, arts, and war) who cursed Medusa with a hideous transformation. The young priestess found her hair turned into a nest of venomous, writhing snakes, and her gaze made so abhorrent that it could turn onlookers to stone. Repulsed by her grotesque metamorphosis, and embittered from being shunned by the world, an enraged Medusa soon became the monster that her outward appearance suggested.

FRIGHTFUL FACT: Though she is generally considered evil, Medusa's head is seen as a symbol of protection and has been depicted everywhere from the Sicilian flag to French military uniforms during World War I. Since 1993, it has been used as the logo for the fashion house Versace (Gianni Versace said he chose the image of Medusa because "she made people fall hopelessly in love with her with no chance of ever going back." He hoped his company would have the same effect on people).

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BIG BAD WOLF

400 block of South Main

Who's afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? Whether making a meal out of Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother, committing property damage while terrorizing the Three Little Pigs, or lending a musical threat to *Peter and the Wolf*, this woodland beast has provided storytellers with a formidable foe for generations. While contemporary audiences may regard these fables with nostalgia, they were received quite differently when they first appeared. When European peasants were first introduced to the adventures of Little Red Riding Hood in the 10th century, the Big Bad Wolf provided an enemy both on and off the page (where many villages found vicious wolf attacks to be an unfortunate reality). The stories also stood as a cautionary tale of the dangers of straying into the wilderness (medieval Europeans and early American settlers were very superstitious of untamed woodlands which they considered to be evil and mysterious).



FRIGHTFUL FACT: Many animators (including the Walt Disney Studios) used the Big Bad Wolf in propaganda films during World War II. Tex Avery (an artist who helped develop characters like Bugs Bunny and Porky Pig) released *Blitz Wolf* in 1942. Featuring the Three Little Pigs, it stars the Wolf as a buffoonish parody of the Third Reich.

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ICHABOD CRANE

900 block of South Main

In 1820, author Washington Irving published what would become the quintessential classic American ghost story: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The tale follows the supernatural misfortunes of ill-fated Ichabod Crane, the quiet hamlet's new schoolmaster. Along the way, the eternally nervous and devoutly superstitious Crane makes the acquaintance of a colorful cast of characters, including the charming Katrina van Tassel and the gruff town bully Brom Bones. Late one Halloween night, while riding home from a party through the Western Wood, Ichabod has his worst fears confront him as he encounters Sleepy Hollow's most famous undead resident: the terrifying Headless Horseman. The next morning, the schoolmaster's hat was discovered in the woods alongside a smashed pumpkin. Ichabod Crane was never seen in Sleepy Hollow again. Did he escape to another village? Or did he become a victim of the Headless Horseman?



Ichabod Crane

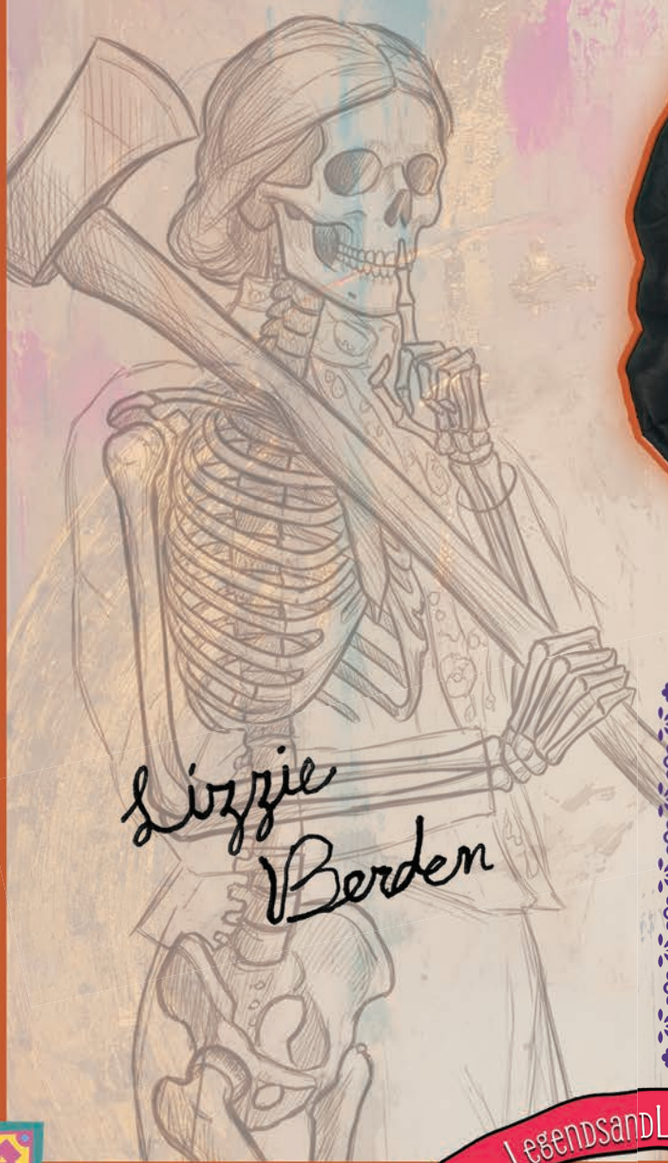
FRIGHTFUL FACT: Sleepy Hollow is a real place. Located in the Hudson River Valley of New York, it was originally called North Tarrytown (until the town voted to officially change the name to "Sleepy Hollow" in 1997). The school athletic teams are known as "The Horsemen."

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LIZZIE BORDEN (1860-1927)

700 block of South Main

Did she or didn't she? Acquitted for the infamous 1892 axe murders of her father and stepmother in Fall River, Massachusetts, Lizzie never quite convinced history of her innocence. The sensationalized dramatics of the courtroom led Lizzie to become an overnight celebrity, and for the trial to dominate conversation around the country. After the trial, Borden decided to remain in Fall River (though she was greatly ostracized by the community). The story of Lizzie Borden was immortalized in a famous school rhyme. The exact identity of who crafted the poem is unknown, but some folklore points to the author as being renowned nursery rhyme personality, Mother Goose.





FRIGHTFUL FACT: Today, 134 years after the crime, you can stay in the infamous house where "Lizzie Borden took an axe." Now a Bed & Breakfast, the Fall River, Massachusetts home allows curious visitors to sleep overnight at the crime scene and enjoy the same breakfast the family shared on that fateful day, August 11, 1892.

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GINGERBREAD WITCH

500 block of South Main

As one of the most nefarious villains from the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, this old crone has been teaching children not to take candy from strangers since 1812. When German siblings Hansel and Gretel are left in the woods by their father and stepmother, they are entranced by a house made entirely of gingerbread and sweets. They are tricked into entering the sugary abode by a witch who in turn forces Gretel to be a servant and locks Hansel in a cage (fattening him up to make a meal out of him). When Gretel pushes the witch into an oven, the children are able to make their daring escape.

The Gingerbread Witch



FRIGHTFUL FACT: In Africa, early translations of *Hansel and Gretel* replaced the witch's gingerbread house with a cottage made out of salt, which was highly prized by children.

Saint Charles, Missouri

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SWEENEY TODD & MRS. LOVETT

900 block of South Main near Magpie's

Victorian readers looking for a quick thrill would often turn to "penny dreadfuls," (serialized horror stories sold weekly for a penny). An 1846 penny dreadful titled *The String of Pearls* introduced the world to the ghoulish tale of Sweeney Todd. Nicknamed the "demon barber of Fleet Street," the vengeful Todd lured over 150 victims into his tonsorial parlour with the promise of "the closest shave" they would ever know. What happened to them was a mystery. Curiously, Todd's fiendish accomplice, an entrepreneurial widow named Mrs. Lovett soon had a booming business selling meat pies (made using a "secret ingredient") to unsuspecting customers. The chilling account of the dastardly pair has since been adapted into silent films, television programs, and stage plays, most notably a blockbuster Stephen Sondheim Broadway musical (and its subsequent Tim Burton motion picture adaptation).



FRIGHTFUL FACT: While the debate has raged for years as to whether Sweeney Todd was a real person, the address of his notorious London barbershop does exists. But don't go there expecting a trim and a shave, 186 Fleet Street is now a bookstore.

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WARMEST GREETINGS FROM



NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 24

NOVEMBER 27: NOON-8:30PM
FRIDAYS: 6PM-8:30PM • SATURDAYS: NOON-8:30PM
SUNDAYS: NOON-5PM • CHRISTMAS EVE: 11AM-2PM

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" STROLL
WEDNESDAYS: 6PM-8:30PM



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