

# Senior News

## Georgia

*Providing Helpful Information for Mature Adults in GEORGIA!*



*Halloween Month  
in Georgia... It's a  
Southern Experience!*



# Halloween Month in Georgia... It's A Southern Experience!

By Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

**COVER: Pirates enjoying Delicious food!**

**P**icture this – it's October 31st and all across the Peach State Halloween is unfolding, not just as a holiday, but as a spectacle of folklore, mystery, family events, and good old-fashioned fright. Well, let's explore this month of October and look at a few places celebrating Halloween. First, in the haunted corners of Savannah, one of America's most famously haunted cities, we hear tales of ghostly soldiers, weeping widows, and long-lost souls. Many of us will travel to Savannah to gather in the

moonlight for ghost tours – some on a walking tour and others by horse-drawn carriage – to view the dedicated haunted houses and spooky attractions.

Then we venture over to the maze throughout Bonaventure Cemetery for some frightening ghost stories and shadowy alleyways. Oh... it's spooky for sure! Lanterns will flicker bright yellowish orange, as our spooky guides in vintage Halloween clothing, will whisper tales about ghosts, vengeful spirits, and mysterious supernatural entities. Yes, Savannah is one of the nation's most haunted cities and celebrating during October is a spirited and festive experience for us.

Ah, there are more celebrations. Just hundreds of miles to the north, in neighborhoods outside of Atlanta, Halloween takes on an entirely different life. Here, it is an event for families, from the younger grandkids to the grandparents, showing off their front lawns which transform into mini haunted houses complete with inflatable pumpkins and motion-activated skeletons bouncing and howling in the night.



**Creativity in downtown Alpharetta!**



**Pumpkin display in Helen!**



**Savannah is ghoulish!**



Then, there are also the school age children in Alpharetta who spend weeks decorating pumpkins, making scarecrows and unique displays of ghosts and goblins to everyone's delight. Ambling through the downtown, street after street... on every corner... we are enchanted by the whimsical and creative displays of ghosts, goblins, haunted houses and jack-o-lanterns.

Jack-o-lanterns. Pumpkins. Yes, we now travel up north Georgia and find hundreds of them. And it is right in Helen, Georgia. Helen is no ordinary town. It's nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and it's a surreal place of Bavaria tucked into Georgia. The Bavarian-style village stirs to life in early September, with its cobbled streets buzzing with excitement and the timber-framed buildings with painted shutters and flower boxes magically transforming for the long running Oktoberfest. Pumpkin displays greet us as we stroll down Main Street, as we delight in the creativity of such magnificent displays. Yes, the festivities for Halloween begin with the September 6th Oktoberfest Parade.

Oktoberfest runs until November 2 and here in Helen we find a unique blend of spooky and cultural experiences for Halloween. Many dress in costume and families bring the children and grandparents to experience the family-friendly atmosphere of pumpkin carving contests, Bavarian music and dancing, and delicious food of every kind. Of course, there are special costume parties



**Large creative presentation!**



**Getting ready for the party in Helen!**



**Spooky jack-o-lanterns from Alpharetta!**





**Savannah phantom display!**



**Middle school display !**

and gatherings for families and friends. And yes, we can take a night time ghost tour through Helen's very haunted areas, hear all the local legends and participate in a paranormal investigation in Unicoi Hill Park. This October is the time to explore the bewitching and mystical town of Helen.

Yes, by the time Halloween night arrives, Georgia has built the mood for all the excitement for nearly the months of September and October. Everything leads up to the magical evenings in October when ghosts walk again, graveyards come to life, and Southern charm meets the spooky traditions of this magical month. Enjoy your Southern experience!



**Colonel Sanders ready to party!**



**Terri and Sue look spooktacular!**