



JoAnne Rome, Harry Hill and Julie Phillips, from Holyoke Community College's Institutional Advancement office, dressed as zombie baristas and won the award for best executed theme at the college's annual trunk-or-treat event last Friday. Submitted photos



HCC's admissions team re-created the Hogwarts School from the Harry Potter universe. They won two awards, scariest trunk and kids' choice.



Far left, a display, sponsored by the Dillard family, which won the prize for most interactive trunk at HCC's third annual trunk-or-treat pre-Halloween celebration on Oct. 25. Above, the Holyoke Women's Club created a lemonade stand for its display and won the award for best treats.

## HCC'S TRUNK-OR-TREAT SCARES UP A CROWD

Numbers alone aren't always enough to tell a good story, but in this case, they say a lot.

Roughly 900 children attended the third annual trunk-or-treat pre-Halloween celebration at Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 25, visiting 35 vehicle displays and one haunted bus.

"We tripled our attendance from last year, and we had more cars participating than ever, too," said Sheila Gould, HCC Early Education program coordinator and adviser to the HCC Education Club, the principal event organizer. "Trunk-or-treat was a huge success not just because the decorations were better than ever, or because so many people came out, but because, for the third year in a row, we gave the community one more way to access the campus and have a great experience here."

Trunk-or-treat started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go "trunk to trunk" to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

Vehicle sponsors include HCC clubs and departments, as well as area businesses and community groups who compete for prizes in various categories. One new feature was a voting booth for children to vote for their favorite trunk. The kids' choice award winner was the HCC Admissions office for its re-creation of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry from the Harry Potter books and movies.

"We also worked hard to make sure each car was also offering non-candy items to children with dietary restrictions, as well," Gould said. "We found that most of the children were very interested in the non-candy items, and we will increase that offering next year."

"As a parent, I look forward to bringing my three children to this event each year," Gould added. "My children are 10, 8 and 3, and this event is fun for all of them. Their favorite was the HCC Campus Police Monster Cruiser."

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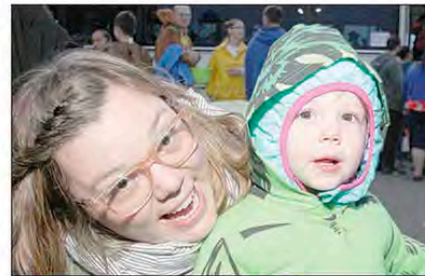
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Hayley Feyre Dunn hands out candy at the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade Committee station.



Kids pick through boxes of free books at HCC's trunk-or-treat.



Lauren LeClair of Westfield accompanies her daughter, Lydia Rae LeClair, who is dressed as the Incredible Hulk.



Mark Hudgik, HCC's director of admissions, portrayed the imprisoned wizard Sirius Black, the title character of the Harry Potter book "The Prisoner of Azkaban."



HCC Admissions counselor Shannon Sarkisian, dressed as a wizard at Hogwarts, hands out candy at the Oct. 25 event.

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