

Sharpen up the knives

Pumpkin carving 101

Halloween is not complete without carving the perfect pumpkin. Use the steps and photos below to guide you in carving endeavors.

1. After picking the perfect pumpkin, make sure to wipe it down with a damp paper towel to remove any dirt.

Cover your carving surface with a plastic garbage bag and get out a knife, carving

spoon and a bowl for the seeds and pulp.

2. Carefully lift the top off the pumpkin after cutting it out. Use your carving knife to cut off any seeds or pulp connected to the top then set the top aside.

3. Use your hands and/or a carving spoon to remove all seeds and pulp from inside the pumpkin. Set everything aside, you will need it later.

4. Using a smaller knife, cut

out the face shape you want your pumpkin to have. You can freehand carve or use a permanent marker to draw a face before cutting.

5. Arrange the seeds and pulp set aside earlier in the mouth of the pumpkin however you wish.

Your "party pumpkin" is now ready for display.

- Story and photos by Jordan Glover, Editor in Chief



Pirates, priests, Great pumpkin hunting starts before the patch

Best costumes this Halloween

By Heidi Koos, Jenni Park and Aldo Blanco

Halloween night would not be complete without the costumes.

Although many stop dressing up for the holiday once they reach high school and college, many costume stores cater to older shoppers who would like to see more than Harry Potter and Bob the Builder costumes on the racks.

The *Courier* sent three editors to local costume stores to find the information shoppers need: location, phone number and of course, the best selling college-age costumes.

In addition to costumes, these stores carry Halloween decorations, costume accessories and make-up. Happy shopping!

By Amanda Jones and Patrick J. Salem

In many places, the pursuit of a perfect pumpkin takes planning, patience and persistence.

Grocery stores, church groups and scout troops often sell pumpkins, but for serious gourd-heads, a mere smattering of orange orbs is not sufficient.

Luckily for them, the *Courier* staff has done some scouting and found a few places where perfect pumpkins are abundant.

When choosing a pumpkin, experts agree that one should choose one that is ripe and has no bruises, cuts or nicks. Bruised pumpkins do not last as long.

Experts also advise that a pumpkin should not be carried by the stem because it could break.

Pumpkins should be purchased with design in mind because size matters.

A detailed carving will look silly on a small pumpkin.

It doesn't hurt to carry a rough sketch of the design when shopping.

But before parting with the cash, one needs to know what to expect as to price.

In DuPage County, the average price for a carving pumpkin is \$.35 per pound, with cooking pumpkins and other specialty pumpkins ranging slightly higher.

"Ghost" pumpkins—whitish green pumpkins—can be as expensive as \$5.99 per pound.

Carving tools can range in prices as well. Experts say that for the average carver a good butcher knife is sufficient.

Care should be taken when carving so that only pumpkin flesh gets cut and people flesh remains intact.

As of Oct. 10, the following pumpkin patches were open for business.

\$.39 per pound for carvers
\$5.99 per pound for ghost pumpkins

THE FARM
34 E. 63 rd Street
Westmont

(630) 960-3965
Open Monday to Saturday,
9am to 6pm through Oct.
31.

\$.25 per pound for carvers
\$.40 for cooking pumpkins
They also have a variety of
small pumpkins for \$1 or
less

SONNY ACRE FARMS
29W310 North Avenue
West Chicago

(630) 231-9515
Open Monday through
Thursday, 10am to 6pm
and Friday through Sun-
day, 10am to 10pm

**SIEGEL'S COTTON-
WOOD FARMS**

17250 S. Weber Road
Crest Hill

(815) 741-2693
Open 7 days a week, 10am
to 6pm
\$.35 per pound for carvers

JOHANSEN FARMS

710 W. Boughton Road
Bolingbrook

(630) 759-8711 OR
680 N. Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook
(630) 739-7587

Open 7 days a week, 9am
to 7 pm
\$.40 per pound for carvers
Good hunting and
Happy Halloween.

Spirit Halloween Superstores

Naperwest Plaza
514 South Route 59
Naperville, IL.60540
(630) 369.9512

Best sellers:
Women: Police, nurse
Men: Pirate

Spirit Halloween Superstores

Downers Grove
7241 Lemont Road
Downers Grove, IL. 60516
(630) 725.9071

Best sellers:
Women: Batgirl
Men: Batman

Spirit Halloween Superstores

Woodridge
7340 Woodward Ave.
Woodridge, IL 60517
(630) 810-4224

Best sellers:
Women: Playboy Costume
Collection, "Sexy Scholar,"
"Boot Camp Babe" and "Lit-
tle Bo Peep"
Men: "Keep up the Faith"
consisting of "a full-cut black
robe with attached collar, jock
strap and 'growing groin'
hand pump."

Halloween USA

Glen Ellyn
696 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, Ill 60137
(630) 545-0214

Best sellers:
Women: pirate
Men: pirate

For additional details on
Spirit Halloween Superstores
go to
www.spirithalloween.com

For Halloween USA
coupons go to
www.halloweenusa.com

Scary Library DVDs

The Birds (1963)

Birds are our friends, right? You might not think so after you see Alfred Hitchcock's avian horror story. Watching it is scary enough—imagine being Tippi Hedren and having all those live birds tied to your outfit, take after traumatizing take.

Yikes. Special features: All about The Birds, deleted scene, the original ending, Storyboard sequence, Tippi Hedren's screen test, The Birds is coming (Universal International newsreel)

The Blair Witch Project (1999)

You might not remember this, but when the movie first came out it was hyped as being REAL.

Real as in, three real students wandered into the woods to make a documentary about the Blair Witch, filmed the whole time, then someone found the movie and their sound equipment under an abandoned building.

Now, watch this movie and pretend you're one of those first people who saw it—it's real!

The Exorcist (1973)

Director William Friedkin's movie may be almost 35-years old, but it can hold its own among the disturbing movies of the last 5 years or so.

We're all quite familiar with the image of possessed Reagan MacNeil (Linda Blair)'s head spinning around and spewing the demonic version of split pea soup, but that scene's pretty tame compared to some others.

Paramedics had to attend to fainting, vomiting and hysterical theater-

goers when the film was released, so be warned!

Ju-on (2004)

A totally scary movie that makes the most of its limited budget and minimalist production and direction.

Forget Sarah Michelle Gellar and The Grudge (also directed by Takashi Shimizu) and be prepared to sleep sitting up, with the lights on for quite some time. Ghosts have never been this scary.

The Night of the Living Dead (1968)

George Romero's classic zombie film has defined zombie films for almost 40 years.

Without this little indie horror number we wouldn't have the great wealth of zombie or slasher flicks that emerged in the late 70s and early 80s, Night of the Comet, Return of the Living Dead, Halloween, Friday the 13th, Nightmare on Elm Street all owe their existence to the film-maker who was inspired to make horror movies after filming a segment for Mr. Roger's Neighborhood.

Shaun of the Dead (2004)

Here's another movie that owes a debt to George Romero.

This British romantic-comedy/zombie film put the folks who brought us this summer's Hot Fuzz on the map. It might not scare you, but Halloween isn't just about being scared, you know. It's also about candy.

The DVD is chock-full of awesome extras.

The Host (2007)

Have you seen this movie?! Ten bucks says you haven't. You might argue that this South Korean film is a little more sci-fi than horror, but I say that anything that makes you jump in your seat from suspense and surprise counts for this list.

Plus, it's got a giant mutant sea-monster that reaches onto dry land to grab its victims and drag them to their watery graves. Awesome!

Candyman (1992)

This movie version of Clive Barker's story "The Forbidden" takes place in Chicago's infamous Cabrini-Green—a place that was scary enough on it's own in the 90s without Virginia Madsen wandering around summoning the Candyman by chanting his name in the mirror.

Thanks, Virginia. And hey, please don't watch this movie by yourself. Or with bees.

The Shining (1980)

This is by far the best horror movie ever. I will rumble with anyone who begs to differ.

Seriously. If you have not seen Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece of madness then you must do so IMMEDIATELY.

Drop what you're doing, come to the library, rent this movie. We have it on DVD and in VHS so you have no excuse whatsoever.

If both copies are checked out, you are allowed to come to my office, hold up your index finger and say "Danny isn't here, Mrs. Torrance."

I will give you a piece of candy.