

At Syracuse —

Retail merchants plan Halloween party

By JULIE MOORE
Staff Writer

The Syracuse Retail Merchants hashed out plans for the upcoming PTO Halloween Carnival slated for Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Syracuse Elementary School at its meeting last Friday.

Working in conjunction with the PTO to coordinate efforts, the merchants will once again provide prizes and judges for four age groups competing in the costume contest. This year, however, merchants will beef up the prizes for the three child divisions giving out five top honors in each category, while adults will still be vying for first, second and third.

Volunteering to dress up and judge costumes at the carnival were merchant officers — Mark

Hubbs, Sande Wappes and Brenda Miller. Judging will be at 7:30 p.m.

The merchants agreed to invite carnival coordinator Stephanie Szynal to attend their next meeting this Friday to finalize plans for the event. Meanwhile, retailers will be searching for a volunteer to dress up as a witch and pass out candy at the school.

Following the festivities at the school, the merchants and their employees will have a Halloween party of their own at a still undetermined location. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

In other business, the merchants moved ahead in organizing Santa's visit. Hubbs, president of the merchants, said he might be able to swing having the Jolly Old Fellow arrive via helicopter this year instead of by fire truck.

And next year's fall arts and crafts festival is still in the works. Wappes, vice president of the merchants, said she has made some preliminary contacts and with the go ahead she'll continue looking into it. She got the green flag.

"I think it would be nice to have the input early that way we can get some ideas for later on," noted Hubbs.

In a final note, Jeanne Gar-

diner suggested to the retailers that they invite representatives from the Kosciusko County Convention and Visitors Bureau to a meeting in order to learn more about the CVB's free hospitality seminar.

According to Gardiner, through the seminar merchants would learn about what the county has to offer visitors and how best to present that community image locally. "If we get going in the winter time, we might be able to have it for our summer guests," she said.

The Syracuse Retail Merchants will meet again on Friday, Oct. 12, at noon at Gropp's Famous Fish of Stroh, Syracuse.

At CR 900N and Old State Road 15 —

Approve four-way stop

By SCOTT DAVIDSON
Staff Writer

The intersection of Old Road 15 and CR 900N, south of Milford, will be safer for area motorists if action taken by the county commissioners yesterday accomplishes its intended purpose.

During their regular meeting, the commissioners voted 3-0 to approve the recommendation of Ken Traylor, county highway superintendent, and make the intersection a four-way stop. Additionally, an overhead flashing beacon signal will also be installed at the corner for traffic travelling westbound on CR 900N.

"We feel that action was definitely needed with the number of accidents at the intersection and with Ken's survey and advice with regards to the problem, we feel this is the best way to go," said commissioner Maurice Beer, who represents the northern district, which includes the intersection.

The scene at the intersection of Old Road 15 and CR 900N over the past several years has been one of numerous serious accidents. The latest, on August 1, sent four persons to area hospitals with serious injuries after one of the vehicles failed to stop while westbound on CR 900N. That accident left area residents near the scene wondering what could be done to alleviate the problem.

Beer, who himself resides within a mile of the intersection, said that he has heard the voices of area citizens concerned for the safety of the intersection. "We're taking this in hand now to try and solve the problem and I really do feel for the people near the intersection because of the safety factor involved with the accidents over the years," stated Beer.

The issue of safety at the intersection was first brought up by Beer at the August 14 meeting of the commissioners after he had heard from residents due to the serious accident there on August 1.

Traylor noted to the commissioners that the intersection does warrant a four-way stop due to the number of accidents that have occurred over the past several years at the scene. "It will take an adjustment for motorists traveling on Old Road 15 to become accustomed to having to stop, but after studying the intersection myself I feel this is the way to go to make the situation safer," said Traylor.

Beer noted that the project will cost about \$5,700 after original estimates placed the cost at around \$3,500. "The extra cost is due to the fact that NIPSCO would not move the poles that need to be moved but it's worth the money to make the intersection safer," commented Beer.

The action by the commissioners yesterday to place a flashing beacon light for westbound traffic on CR 900N is a first for the county. When operational, the light will be the first of its kind in the entire county.

Traylor noted that the installation of the signs and flashing beacon light at the intersection will probably take between 10 days and two weeks to complete. "The flashing signal won't be activated until we have the signs in place and I anticipate it taking about two weeks," said Traylor.

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