



STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)

TO: Chair Yamamoto and Members of the CLSC Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Christopher Roke, Parks and Recreation Director

MEETING DATE: October 13, 2025

TOPIC: Upcoming Events

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Community and Library Services Commission receive an update from staff regarding upcoming events.

BACKGROUND:

UNITY DAY

October is National Bullying Prevention Month in the U.S. **Unity Day** is held on the third or fourth Wednesday in October, with this year being recognized on **Wednesday, October 22**. Unity Day is the signature event of National Bullying Prevention Month. The key message of this month, and this day, is to unite for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion, to prevent students from being bullied.

Unfortunately, more than one out of every five students will be bullied this year. This is probably happening to someone you know and care about.

- **support** others who have been hurt or harmed
- treat others with **kindness**
- be more **accepting** of people's differences
- help **include** those who are left out

The Hercules Parks and Recreation Department encourages our community to take a photo of your work group, team, family, etc., wearing orange. Please share your photo with the Hercules Parks and Recreation Department, email the photo(s) to prregistration@ci.hercules.ca.us.

PUMPKATAAZ

The Hercules Parks and Recreation Department is holding it's 4th annual Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest during the month of October culminating in a live vote at the Trunk or Treat Contest Event on Friday, October 24, at the Hercules Community Swim Center. To vote, you must attend the Trunk or Treat event.

PUMPKATAAZ is a FUN, FREE and SAFE event for our community to share their creativity this Halloween! PUMPKATAAZ participants may decorate, draw, paint, carve, sculpt, etc, a pumpkin of any size/shape, and enter to win.

1st place is the “Best In Show”, and will be awarded the GREAT PUMPKIN distinction.

2nd place receives the HEADLESS HORSEMAN award. And

3rd place receives the famed JACK O’LANTERN award.

Of course all PUMPKATAAZ entries will receive a prize for being a part of the fun!.

There is still time to enter your pumpkin. To find out how, contact the Hercules Parks and Rec at (510) 441-4FUN (4386).

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Hercules Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event at the Community Swim Center on Friday, October 24, beginning at 6pm. Trunk or Treat is an alternative to traditional Halloween Trick or Treat activities. This year will be our 7th annual TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT.

Trunk or Treat is a FANGTASTIC, FUN, FREE, and SAFE event for families to spend a little Halloween time together! Car/Trunk participants decorate their vehicles and fill their trunks with candy, while children in costumes (along with their families) will stroll from car to car looking at all the decorated vehicles and collecting candy.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three votes for best decorated car trunks..

1st place is the “Best In Show”, and will be awarded the **Fab-BOO-lous** distinction.

2nd place receives the **SPOOK-Tacular** award. And

3rd place receives the famed **CASPER-esque** award.

There is still time to enter your vehicle for Trunk or Treat. To find out how, contact the Hercules Parks and Rec at (510) 441-4FUN (4386).

TREE LIGHTING/125th ANNIVERSARY

The Parks and Recreation Department will be holding the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event on Sunday, December 7, 2025. This year’s event will be extra special as the event will be returning to City Hall, and we’ll be including a special celebration to honor the City of Hercules’ 125th Anniversary of being incorporated.

Like last year, we plan to hold the event outside. We anticipate having all of the City Recognized Nonprofit Groups, the entertainers, and other community groups like Police, Fire, and Valley Bible participated in the festivities. The event will begin at 3:30pm and conclude with Santa lighting the tree at approximately 5:25pm. In short, we plan to do the same thing this year, only at City Hall instead of the Community Swim Center.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Most of the costs for these events are covered in donations, or within the cost of other programs. The Bay Front Run and Festival is a city co-sponsored event, that is run by the Bayfront Chamber. The biggest cost of Trunk or Treat is candy, and many of the City recognized groups enter at least one vehicle and/or donate lots of candy for the games and to ensure we don’t run out during the event. The biggest cost of PUMPKATAAZ are pumpkins

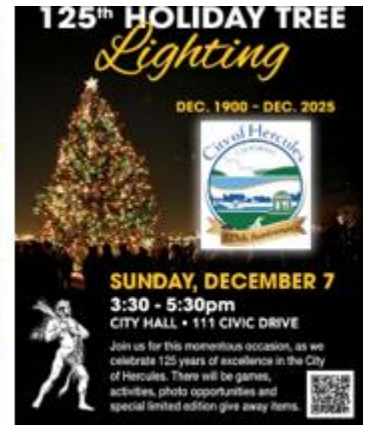
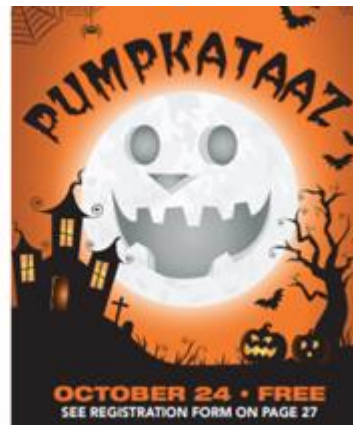
that we purchase for our in-house program like preschool and afterschool. However, these programs, would be making the purchase of pumpkins for craft projects anyway, so the cost is already accounted for.

Parks and Recreation feels fortunate not to have a need to purchase decorations, because of past Halloween programs there is a plethora to choose from. In addition, both preschool and after school programs create lots of decorations that can be incorporated into the events décor.

If you are interested in making a donation for either the Trunk or Treat or the PUMPKATAAZ events, please contact the Hercules Parks and Rec at (510) 441-4FUN (4386).

ATTACHMENTS:

NONE



HALLOWEEN IN HERCULES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

The 2025 Trunk or Treat and PUMPKATAAZ events will be held on the last Friday of October, at the Hercules Community Swim Center. What is Trunk or Treat? What is PUMPKATAAZ? Simply put...

- **Trunk or Treat** is an alternative to the traditional Halloween Trick or Treat activity.
- **PUMPKATAAZ** (pronounced Pump-Ka-tah's), is our version of a good old fashion pumpkin carving contest.

Trunk or Treat and PUMPKATAAZ have become a community favorite here in Hercules. Both events are run by Hercules Parks and Recreation in conjunction with City Recognized Nonprofit groups, as well as many other businesses, partners, and stakeholders in the community. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Hercules Park and Recreation.

REGISTRATION: ☐ **Trunk or Treat** ☐ **PUMPKATAAZ** ☐ **Both**

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



How to participate for Trunk or Treat: vehicles are accepted on first come first serve basis. Prizes awarded by the participants at the event. Prizes for the top 3 include a unique medal & gift card - 3rd Place = CASPER-esque; 2nd = SPOOK-Tacular; 1st = Fab-BOO-lous (Best in Show).

- ☐ Register & decorate your vehicle trunk, provide pre-wrapped candy at event
- ☐ Vehicle (make/model/Plate#) _____
- ☐ Theme (inspiration for your decorated trunk) _____



How to participate for PUMPKATAAZ: must pre-register for the event. Carve, sculpt, decorate your pumpkin, and bring to the Swim Center before the event. Top 3 will be awarded a unique medal & gift card... 3rd Place = Jack O'Lantern; 2nd = Headless Horseman; 1st = The Great PUMPKIN (Best in Show).

- ☐ Register & decorate a Pumpkin
- ☐ Theme (name of your pumpkin) _____

Other ways to be involved with the event...

- ☐ Volunteer to work the event (must submit parental permission slip)
- ☐ Donate candy (for Trunk or Treat)
- ☐ Donate Pumpkins (for PUMPKATAAZ – pumpkins must be dropped off 2 weeks prior to event)
- ☐ Become an Event Sponsor



Rules for Trunk or Treat

- Must complete and submit registration form.
- Arrive at Hercules CSC between 4:30-5:00pm on Friday 10/24/25
- Be completely ready by 6:00pm
- Provide pre-packaged candy for estimated 1,200 kids
- Stay until the end of the event
- Trunk inspections (Photo of you and entry before event)

Rules for PUMPKATAAZ

- Must complete and submit registration form.
- Deliver entry to CSC in advance of the event.
- If carved, may bring Friday 10/24/25, between 12-5pm
- All others bring Thursday 10/23/25, between 8:30am-6pm
- Name your design
- No electricity, NO open flames

**Hercules Trunk or Treat and PUMPKATAAZ events are FUN & FREE,
and done in a safe environment. For more information,
please contact the Hercules Parks and Recreation Department at
(510) 441-4FUN (4386)! Or scan the QR code.**

