

Fall 2023, Issue 43

A Memorable Halloween in Prescott



Fall is a festive time of year. The weather starts to cool and the leaves begin to change their colors.

Prescott is no stranger to this phenomenon and it doesn't get any better than Mt. Vernon Street right in the heart of downtown Prescott. It is here that one of the time honored traditions of Halloween Trick- or-Treating takes place. With a backdrop of historic Victorian era homes, decked out in spooky displays, thousands of little ghosts goblins, superheroes and princesses alike parade up and down the street to gather treats!

At Halloween, we think of bats as scary flying night creatures. Did you know there are about 4,000 species worldwide? There are 28 in Arizona, more than any other state, and 14 in the Prescott National Forest. Bats are a protected species in the State of Arizona.

See page 2 for more about bats.

Recreation Services Advisory Board

Margaret Travers, Chair

Alan Blaine, Vice Chair

Gregory Jackson

Peter Kroopnick

Susan Wiens

Contents

Wildlife, Bats . . .	Page 2
Winter Sports . . .	Page 3
Special Events . . .	Page 4



Joe Baynes
City of Prescott
Recreation Services
Director

In recent years, the neighborhood off Park Avenue and Country Club have joined in on the festivities. With the presence of a Haunted House, pedestrian traffic has grown significantly. But what makes these streets different from any other neighborhoods is that, while not a special event, the City closes these streets to vehicle traffic in the interest of public safety. Also provided is an increased public safety presence with Prescott Police and Prescott Fire Department personnel on hand to handle issues that may arise, as well as portable toilets for participants.

Both communities are visited by over 1,000 annually on Halloween. Homeowners begin preparations in early September. Festivities usually kickoff on October 31st at about 4:00 p.m. and continue until about 9:00 p.m. If you have never participated in this event, families are highly encouraged to come with a lot of patience, comfortable walking shoes, and flashlights or glow sticks.

Information regarding closure times and detours will be found in early October on the City of Prescott website at:

www.prescott-az.gov

(Contributor: Michelle Stacy-Schroeder)





On September 25, 2014, Pat Gulley, Naturalist and volunteer at Highlands Center for Natural History, gave a presentation about bats to the City of Prescott's Volunteer Rangers at their monthly meeting.

Getting to Know Bats

A mammal, bats are a species of their own, chiroptera (meaning hand wing). There are approximately 4,000 species of mammals worldwide, bats comprise about one-quarter of them, and are the only flying mammal. Flying squirrels don't fly, they glide. There are 28 species in Arizona, more than any other state, and 14 in Prescott National Forest. They usually live in caves, under bridges, and in crevices (including within buildings), and migrate to Mexico and South America.

As a mammal, bats have fur, give live birth to one offspring per year, and nurse their young. They generally weigh between six and 15 grams (a paperclip weighs one gram). The largest bat weighs in at 60 grams with a wing span of six feet. The smallest is four grams and has a wing span of 6 inches.

In general, large bats are carnivorous and fruit-eating. Smaller bats commonly eat insects, including West Nile Virus carrying mosquitos. They consume three quarters of their body weight each night. Some bats eat small fish. To drink water they skim lakes, ponds, and streams. They are also pollinators. They are prey to hawks.

At least as smart as dogs, they also have good eyesight. To assist with locating prey at night, they use ultrasonic echo location. Their vocal chords project inaudible sound, so they are often seen flying open mouthed.

Bats are "silent fliers" because unlike birds, they have a membrane instead of feathers. When birds flap their wings, air escapes through the feathers. Bats "scoop up" air with a movement similar to the butterfly stroke in swimming. Unable to take off from the ground, they drop into flight from above (e.g. a tree, building, fence, wall, ceiling).

Mysterious, bats are often misunderstood and much is yet to be discovered about them.

(Contributor Nancy Nesbit)

Note: This page originally appeared in the Volunteer Ranger Newsletter, Fall 2014



Handling Bats

Bats are associated with Rabies, however they are no more likely to have Rabies than any other mammal. If a bat is found during the day, and especially on the ground,

they may be sick and always require special handling. Always wear leather gloves.

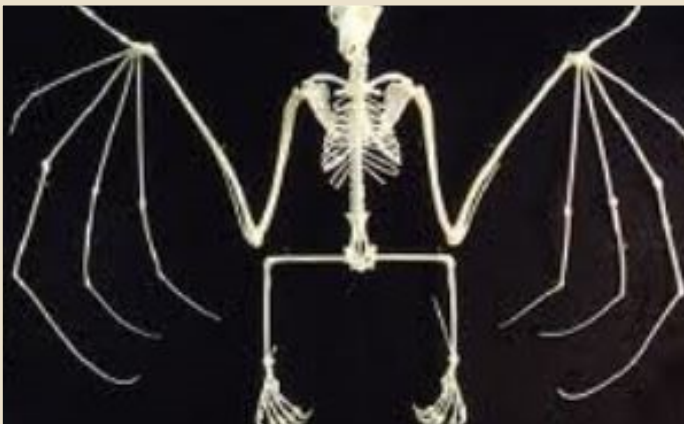
To capture a bat, place a box over the bat and gently slide a stiff piece of paper over the top. Leave it in the box and release it either early in the morning or in the evening.

Hold the bat up high to allow it to fly away, or place it on a building, fence, or tree branch. Bats usually cannot fly up off the ground.

All bats are protected in the State of Arizona and may not be collected or killed. It is unlawful to use chemicals or pesticides directly on bats. Bat exclusions should only be done with advice of the Arizona Game and Fish Department or a wildlife control business, and should not be attempted during the maternity season (generally May through September) to avoid separating mothers from their young.



For information on bats visit Arizona Game and Fish Department at: www.azgfd.gov/w_c/urban_bats.shtml



Pictured is a Mexican Free Tailed bat (right) and skeleton. A colony numbering over 100 resided at Mile High Middle School.

Fall and Winter Sports Programs

The Sports division of the City of Prescott Recreation Services Department has ways for the community to stay active all year round and Fall and Winter are no exception! Our Adult Volleyball League will run from September through November and then we will go right into our Adult Winter Basketball league.

Basketball will start in January and end in March and registration will open in October. There's a league for all players and all skill levels! Leagues are for individuals 18 or older although players as young as 15 can compete with their parent's consent.

Last Fall we had 29 teams play across our seven different volleyball divisions and we're hoping to see even more this year. Leagues are offered on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights and are scheduled to play at the YMCA or Yavapai College who are great partners that help provide these opportunities for our athletes to compete. Without their support and efforts to provide our community with space to recreate these leagues wouldn't be possible.

If you miss your chance to play Volleyball this Fall don't worry, we have a Spring league as well and registration for that will open in early December (season starts in March 2024).

Winter 2023 saw 24 basketball teams compete in two different divisions on three different nights. Basketball leagues are offered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights and players can play in our competitive leagues or lower recreational leagues depending on their skill level and level of competition they are looking to partake in. Games will take place at the YMCA, Yavapai College and/or the Grace Sparkes Activity Center.

We have a great Recreation Services team who go out every night and officiate, score keep and supervise these leagues for our community. Their efforts and dedication are invaluable and the service they provide to our athletes is something I'm very grateful for. They are an amazing team who take pride in trying to create a valuable experience for everyone that plays in the City of Prescott sports leagues.

League information concerning registration and start dates can be found online at:

<https://www.prescott-az.gov/recreation-events/programs-special-events/sports/adult-sports/>

You can also call (928) 777-1558 for information or if you have any questions about leagues. If anyone is interested in playing in leagues but doesn't have a team, we do keep a list of free agents and will try to get you placed on a team if the opportunity arises. Please contact us at the aforementioned phone number to be placed on the Free Agent list. A good way to meet other athletes and join teams is to stop by the armory and play pickup volleyball and basketball games. Games happen throughout the week and the schedule for open volleyball and open basketball days and times can be found on our website at:

<https://www.prescott-az.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Open-Gym-Calendar.pdf>

(Contributors: Article-Ryan Harlow, Basketball Photo-Rick Hormann, Volleyball Photo-Nancy Nesbit)



Contact Information

For more information about City teams or leagues telephone (928) 777-1558 or

email: ryan.harlow@prescott-az.gov

Our calendar of sporting events is available at our Recreation Services Department office located at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
824 E. Gurley St.
Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone: (928) 777-1122

Visit us on the City's website at:
www.prescott-az.gov



Prescott 2023 Fall Special Events

Date	Event	Sponsor	Location	Website
Oct. 1	Dogtoberfest	Prescott Dog Magazine	Watson Lake	prescottdog.com
Oct. 7/8	Fallfest in the Park Arts & Craft Faire	Prescott Chamber of Commerce	Courthouse Plaza	prescott.org
Oct. 7	High Desert Roughriders Trail Ride	High Desert Roughriders	Peavine Trail	highdesertroughriders.com
Oct. 12-15	The Big Sting Country Music Festival	The Shadows Foundation	Watson Lake	thebigsting.com
Nov. 11	Prescott Veterans Day Parade	City of Prescott	Downtown	prescott-az.gov
Nov. 25	Prescott Holiday Light Parade	Prescott Downtown Partnership	Downtown	prescottdowntown.com
Dec. 2	Prescott Christmas Parade and Courthouse Lighting	Prescott Chamber of commerce	Courthouse Plaza	prescott.org
Dec. 5	Acker Night Musical Showcase	J.S. Acker Music Park Association	Downtown	ackernight.com
Dec. 14-17	Prescott Christmas Village & Christkind 1 Market	Prescott Chamber of Commerce	Goodwin Street	prescott.org
Dec. 31	Whiskey Row Boot Drop	M&M Entertainment	Whiskey Row	bootdrop.com

Dubbed Arizona's Christmas City, there are many events in the Prescott area to enjoy and celebrate during the season. Among the favorites are the Christmas Parade in the afternoon followed by the Courthouse Lighting in the evening which are always held on the first Saturday in December.

(Photo Right, Courtesy of: Nancy Nesbit)



Recreation Services Department
Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center
(Old Armory Building)
824 E. Gurley St., Prescott, AZ 86301
Telephone (928) 777-1122
Visit us on the City website at:
www.prescott-az.gov

Mission Statement

To preserve, protect and enhance the parklands, public open spaces, trails and lakes of the City of Prescott for the benefit of its citizens and the ecological health of the region.

To maintain leisure services system that is responsive to and directed by the diverse and changing needs of the community we serve.

To plan for the future growth and expansion of park facilities, lake properties, open spaces, trails, and recreation programs.

To construct, operate and maintain parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a safe, aesthetically pleasing and efficient manner.

This newsletter is a collaborative effort between City of Prescott employees and volunteers.

Compilation and graphics provided by Nancy K. Nesbit, Volunteer Park Ranger.

This newsletter is available on line at: www.prescott-az.gov

You can also pick up a copy at our office at the Grace Sparkes Memorial Activity Center.