



Salem Haunted Happenings will hit a new note in 2016 **36th Annual Salem Haunted Happenings includes a new a cappella festival, food trucks, and a celebration of the National Parks Centennial**

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Images available

Salem, MA . . . The 36th Annual Salem Haunted Happenings festival will feature a month of programs and events to suit Halloween enthusiasts of all ages. The October program, which always includes a scary dose of theatrics, will be enhanced this year by live music, great food, and costumed pets.

Headlining the new events for 2016 is the Haunted Harmonies a cappella festival on October 8. High school and collegiate a cappella groups will converge in Salem for a day of performance and learning that will culminate with a professional showcase and performance by Vox One. Also new this year is a Food Truck Festival on October 1st and 2nd on Salem Common, the Howl-o-Ween Parade for pets on October 2, and a Chowder Fest to benefit Breast Cancer Research on October 15.

The 2016 Haunted Happenings Grand Parade will step off on October 6 with a celebration of the National Park Centennial. The theme this year is, “100 Years of Parks & Play.” Salem students from pre-school through Salem State University will be led by Grand Marshall Paul DePrey, Superintendent of the Salem Maritime and Saugus National Historic Sites.

The *Guide to Salem Haunted Happenings* is now available from Destination Salem. Featuring a zombie theme, the publication includes a robust calendar of events, and articles about Halloween Night Safety & Sense, Salem’s Historic Burying Grounds, and Haunted Happenings “Do’s and Don’ts.” The Guide also includes information on Salem’s attractions, tours, entertainment, shopping, parking and transportation. New this year is a section on “Grab and Go Eats,” which flushes out a robust list of dining options.

October weekends in Salem are always busy and visitors are encouraged to use public transportation. The Salem Ferry, operated by Boston Harbor Cruises, provides daily service between Salem’s Blaney Street and Boston’s Long Wharf North. Salem is located five stops from Boston’s North Station on the Newburyport/Rockport lines of the Commuter Rail. The MBTA runs expanded service to and from Salem on the final weekend of October and on Halloween, and sells a Special Event Ticket on Halloween Night.

For more information, visit HauntedHappenings.org or contact Destination Salem at (978) 741-3252.

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About Salem Haunted Happenings: A month-long celebration of Halloween and fall in New England, more than 250,000 people travel from around the world to visit Salem during October. Celebrating its 35th year, the festival features scores of events and special programming, which complement the attractions, museums and tours that are in Salem throughout the year. For complete information on Haunted Happenings, visit HauntedHappenings.org.

About Salem: Salem, Massachusetts, is a destination recognized around the world for its rich history, which includes the tragic Salem Witch Trials of 1692, the glorious maritime era that left its indelible mark on Salem through architecture, museums, and artifacts, and for its month-long celebration of Halloween. Today nearly one million people visit Salem annually, generating more than \$100 million in tourism spending. For more information, visit Salem.org.