



**INFORMATION:**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Pumpkin Exhibit/Halloween

**WORLD-RENOWNED ARTIST CARVES  
ENCHANTED PUMPKIN GARDEN  
October 16-31, 2015**

*Town of Carefree Hosts Master Carver Ray Villafane, Live Carving Demonstrations  
And Magical Halloween Festivities*

CAREFREE/CAVE CREEK/N. SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., (September 15, 2015) - Halloween spirit invades Carefree in the form of whimsical pumpkin carvings from master carver Ray Villafane. The first of its kind in the United States, The Enchanted Pumpkin Garden is open to the public and woven throughout the 4 acre Carefree Desert Gardens. The display runs October 16-31, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., 101 Easy Street, Carefree.

This entirely free event celebrates incredible artistry and the enchantment of the Halloween season. Attendees are invited to stroll the gardens where Villafane's 3-D characters will be posed. For more information visit [carefree.org](http://carefree.org) or [CarefreePumpkinGarden.com](http://CarefreePumpkinGarden.com) call 480-488-3686.

The opening weekend starting Friday, October 16, will host live pumpkin carving demonstrations by Villafane in the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Photo opportunities will be available with the "King of Carefree" Pumpkin which stands five feet high, and is a 300-pound sculpted masterpiece with hand crafted pumpkin vine arms and legs. Each Villafane sculpture is a model of skillful talent and imagination. Arranged throughout the Desert Gardens will be 50 mischievous pumpkin characters, artfully imagined and frolicking in their magical new home. In addition to the playful pumpkins, Ray will carve ten 3D sculpted pumpkin faces preserved and displayed within hand sculpted Saguaros, carved by Villafane and lit by LED lighting.

Other special weekend events throughout the 16 day Pumpkin exhibit include special family carving nights with Ray Villafane and the YMCA, a pet costume parade lead by Foothills Animal Rescue, Picasso pumpkin activities for kids, craft beer tent, autumnal treats and more. On Halloween the garden will be open until 10 p.m., costumes encouraged.

Based in Arizona, Ray Villafane is an internationally acclaimed American sculptor who has travelled throughout the globe fashioning exceptional figures and scenes out of pumpkins, sand and snow.

Villafane has been called, "The Michelangelo of pumpkin carving," by Martha Stewart, carving for the President at the White House, and has appeared on numerous national TV programs as well as holding two World Guinness Book of Records. He's also known for his Food Network's Pumpkin Challenges, which he won in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

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For more information on the Enchanted Pumpkin Garden event visit [CarefreePumpkinGarden.com](http://CarefreePumpkinGarden.com) or call 480-488-3686. For more information on Ray Villafane and Villafane studios visit [villafanestudios.com](http://villafanestudios.com).

### **Calendar Brief**

**What:** Enchanted Pumpkin Garden featuring pumpkin sculptures from world-renowned artist Ray Villafane

**Date and Time:** October 16-31, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**Where:** Carefree Desert Gardens, 101 Easy Street, in downtown Carefree

**Cost:** Free admission



