



INFORMATION:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Pumpkin Exhibit/Halloween

**WORLD-RENOWNED ARTIST CARVES
2nd ANNUAL ENCHANTED PUMPKIN GARDEN
October 17-31, 2016**

*Town of Carefree Hosts Master Sculptor Ray Villafane, Live Carving Demonstrations
and Magical Halloween Festivities*

CAREFREE/CAVE CREEK/N. SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., (Sept. 2, 2016) - Halloween spirit invades Carefree for its second year in the form of whimsical pumpkin carvings from master sculptor Ray Villafane. The Enchanted Pumpkin Garden will be open to the public and woven throughout the four acre Carefree Desert Gardens. This free, one-of-a-kind fall festival celebrates incredible artistry and enchantment of the Halloween season for all ages and runs October 17-31, 2016, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., 101 Easy Street, Carefree, Arizona.

New in 2016 will be the unveiling of Ray's life size scarecrows which are hand crafted mostly of organic materials. Visitors are invited back to stroll and experience the many new mischievous pumpkin characters, artfully imagined and frolicking in their magical garden home. In addition to the playful pumpkins, Ray and his team will carve ten 3D pumpkin faces preserved and displayed in tanks that resemble Saguaro cacti, sculpted and immersed in a pickling solution for preservation and lit by LED lighting. Ray will again, carve multiple "colossal" 400 lb. pumpkins. Visitors are welcome to ask questions while kids can carve with him up-close and personal.

Other special weekend highlights include family carving nights with Ray Villafane and the YMCA on October 26 & 27, reservations recommended. New this year, Jelly Belly will invite visitors to take the "Bean Boozled Challenge" and get their picture taken with the Jelly Belly pumpkins. Easy Street Galleria will offer kids crafts along with face painting by a local artist. Adopt a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, register for the pumpkin pie eating competition and enjoy a local craft beer garden along with culinary food trucks and autumnal treats. On Halloween, costumes are encouraged and kids are welcome to trick or treat at various stations throughout the gardens.

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.

For more information visit Carefree.org or CarefreePumpkinGarden.com call 480-488-3686. For more information on Ray Villafane and Villafane studios visit Villafanestudios.com.



