

CARVE



SECOND ANNUAL PUMPKIN-CARVING EVENT PROMISES FALL FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

By SUSAN BLOOM • Correspondent

What do you get when you mix pumpkins, carving tools and enthusiastic Halloween revelers? You get the second annual CARVE event — a unique pumpkin-carving contest and fall display hosted by SwellColors Glass Studio & Gallery in Haven Beach from Oct. 29 to 31. Held between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day, visitors will select pumpkins and have access to a variety of basic tools that they can use to create their own carving, which will be lit up at night to help celebrate Halloween and reflect the beauty of the season.



“I have always loved Halloween and the concept of a lot of pumpkins lit up at night,” explains SwellColors studio owner and CARVE event creator Mary Tantillo. “Our shop has a big parking lot, so we thought it would be really cool and artistic to invite the community over to carve pumpkins, then light them up at night to create a fun holiday atmosphere.”

The first CARVE event last year accomplished just that, with more than 80 pumpkins carved, lit and put on display for all to enjoy.

“We had a great turnout last year, and we’re definitely hoping to build on that this Halloween weekend,” Tantillo said. Among those recognized for their pumpkin handiwork last year were Beach Haven Gardens residents Cammy Beauregard, 10, and her sister Jackie, 7, who won second place with their scary take on the time-honored Halloween tradition.

“We put fangs on our pumpkin with markers and gave him a bloody head and scars on his face,” Cammy said. “We had so much fun and were so excited to win! We will definitely be doing it again this year.”

This year, pumpkins will be judged in each of five categories: silliest, scariest, most original, coolest and cutest. Three independent judges will cast their votes at 4 p.m. Oct. 31, and all carvers can pick up their pumpkins after judging on Halloween. As an added touch this year, SwellColors is offering a free gift to anyone who shows up to CARVE in costume.

SwellColors Glass Studio & Gallery, at 110th Street (Virginia Avenue) and Long Beach Boulevard in Haven Beach, offers a variety of made-on-the-premises stained-glass mosaics, mirrors, beads and other glass items and was first opened by LBI native and resident Tantillo four years ago to “help build a fun, artistic vibe in the community.”

The store offers daily workshops to help visitors make their own glass creations.

“The purpose of CARVE is to have fun, embrace the autumn season and celebrate creativity,” Tantillo said. “We really hope to build a lasting and memorable event for people in LBI.”

The fee to participate in CARVE is \$6 per pumpkin, and includes a pumpkin, carving tools and refreshments. For more information on CARVE, visit www.swellcolors.com or call SwellColors Glass Studio & Gallery at 609-492-3783.



Last year's CARVE event was a big success. (PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SWELLCOLORS GLASS STUDIO & GALLERY)

READY, SET, CARVE!