‘We lucked out’

Hundreds enjoy downtown trick-or-treating

By DOMENICO DOLLI
Staff Writer

GREENFIELD — No, you’re not dreaming.
A mix of princesses, witches and
your favorite movie characters
marched down Main Street on
Wednesday as part of Greenfield’s
Downtown Trick or Treat, Rag Shag
Parade & Costume Contest, hosted
by the town’s recreation department.

Dozens of families decked out in
costumes and makeup went trick-or-
treating starting at 4 p.m., stopping
by various local businesses for candy
before the parade began at 5:30 p.m.
Children dressed as fairies, ninjas,
Boston sports players and countless
superheroes sauntered around Main
Street under the safe watch of par-
ents and guardians, just as the event
is designed to ensure.

Luciano Stoffolano, 7, and 3-year-
old brother Noah made out like ban-
dits—even though they were dressed
as Mario and Luigi, from the popular
video game franchise. During a
break at the Greenfield common,
they showed off the loot they col-
lected, mentioning that KitKats are
their favorites, before playing on the
cannon statue. Their mother, Melissa
Stoffolano, dressed as Princess

SEE RAG SHAG A8

Tuba player Logan Field, above, heads down Main Street with the Greenfield Marching Band during the annual Rag Shag Parade, Wednesday, in Greenfield. Below left, Rachel Cronen-Townsend, from left, Julia Ellingboe, Meg Baker, and Steve Cronen-Townsend dressed as the four seasons. Below right, John Burt, 9, marches down Main Street as a school bus.
Maple Pollock, 2, dresses as a prize-winning rat from the Franklin County Fair during Halloween festivities in Greenfield, Wednesday.

Rag Shag

FROM A1

Peach, and grandmother, Susan, said the event provided trick-or-treating fun in a structured environment.

“Everyone’s very generous and we appreciate it. And we have fun,” Susan said. “It’s easier and safer than walking around neighborhoods. And we like that it’s early.

“And it’s a warm night,” she added. “We lucked out.”

Emily Ethier of MedCare Emergency Health Ambulance parked near the Veterans Memorial Mall, with fun-size candy laid out on a stretcher for people to take.

“I don’t think it scared any one away. It actually seemed to interest them more because they wanted to see if I had someone,” she said with a smile. “And I told them, ‘Nope, it changed it by magic into candy. It’s Halloween magic — just candy.’”

She was helped by her father, Jerry Ethier, who started the ambulance company at Mercy Ambulance in 1970.

Emily said the only challenge she didn’t foresee was the tinest children having to be hoisted to grab some candy of the stretcher.

“So next year I’ll bring a stool,” she said.

The United Way of Franklin County set up a table on the common to give out free children’s books. Executive Director Kelly Brigham Steiner said the thought was to offer a treat “that promotes lifelong learning that lasts a long time.” She said she started with candy and hundreds of books, and only one child opted for an 11/1/2018 Thursday, 1

Best Homemade: First place, Christian Clark (Transformer). Second place, Elijah Castillo (astronaut); Most Original: First place, Sparrow Badi (waitress). Second place, Bryn Appell (pet rocks); Scariest: First Place, Ryan Volland (scary guy). Second place, Felicia Gallison (bloody zombie girl); Cutest: First place, Maple Pollock (wagon). Second place, John DeStefano (baby wizard); Best Cartoon Character: First Place, Simone Wells (Cookie Monster). Second place, Kelli Broga (Oscar); Adult Open Category: First Place, Juliette Ellingboe, Meg Baker, and Rachel and Steve Croun Townsend (season). Second place, Trouble Mandeson (universe); Group/Family Category: First place, Morin family (chicken coop). Second place, Anderson family (Viking ship).

Reach Domnic Poi at dpoi@recorder.com or 413-772-0261, ext. 262.