

# 99th Annual Alton Halloween Parade brings joy, not fear, to residents

by Madelaine Gerard, Staff Writer  
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**ALTON** - Spooky skeletons, princesses and living mannequins all joined forces for the **99th Annual Alton Halloween Parade** on this cool and rainy **Halloween night**.

The parade began at **7:30 p.m.** at the corner of **Washington Avenue and Broadway**. The parade traveled to **Piasa Street**, ending at the amazing **Frew's Bridal** live mannequin display.

Leading the parade this year is **Grand Marshal Bill Keller**, a long-time **Alton Housing Authority employee**, who has been participating in the parade in some way or another since the early 1960s.

**Alton Mayor Brant Walker** also got in on the parade action, dressing up like the **Cookie Monster** and riding along the route in a beautiful yellow sports car.

Folks from outside the Alton area travel from as far as **St. Louis** to enjoy the annual Alton tradition.



“From where we’re from,” the St. Louis-native said, “We have never even heard of a Halloween parade before.”

Various marching bands from around the area, including the **Alton High School Marching 100**, entertained the crowds along the chilly streets of Downtown Alton.

**Dream Home Reality Centre of Wood River** took home the first place prize in the commercial division category for their **Flintstones-themed** float. It was even decked out with a projector to display the classic live-action film.

Coming in second place in the commercial division was **Mugeunast Alton Toyota** with their **Ghostbusters-themed** float. Slimer and even the Stay Puft Marshmallow man were



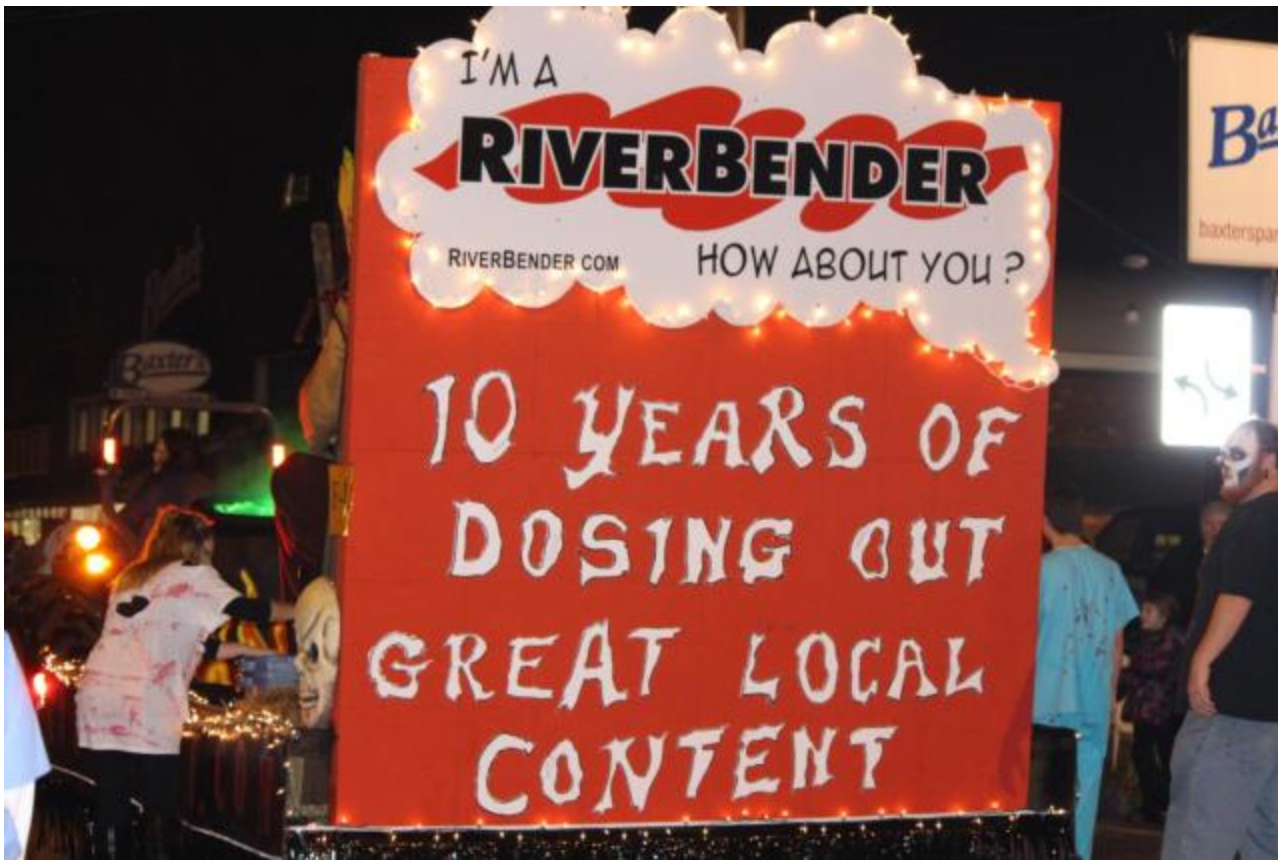
on display as the employees handed out candy. Of course, the Ghostbusters theme played in the background.



**Dr. Bruce Vest's Orthopedic and Sports Medicine practice** came in third place with their oceanic and medical mixed theme. Employees dressed as nurses while Dr. Vest posed with a skeleton.

Lastly, in fourth place of the commercial division, **RiverBender.com's** offering of the "daily dose" of local news was loved by the judges. Green-colored fog billowed out of a Frankenstein's cauldron while volunteers of the **RiverBender.com Community Center** put on their best "zombie" walk and made their trek down Broadway.

Coming up to the parade's 100th anniversary, this year's parade sure ended the century-long stretch with a bang.



[CLICK HERE FOR A GALLERY OF THE 99th ANNUAL ALTON HALLOWEEN PARADE:](#)