



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Event Page:** <https://www.onlineatanthem.com/autumnfest>

### **ANTHEM'S AUTUMNFEST WILL BE REIMAGINED AMIDST PUBLIC GATHERING RESTRICTIONS**

**Anthem, Ariz.** - As a result of ongoing restrictions on large-scale events due to COVID-19, and concerns for public health, Anthem's fall-favorite Autumnfest will look a little different this October. However, some elements of the event have been reimagined, in order to maintain the spirit of the fall-favorite festival.

#### **Virtual Arts & Crafts Fair**

Anthem Community Council's (ACC) special events staff has reached out to arts & crafts vendors who have participated in Autumnfest the last two years, in order to obtain websites, photos & details about their products. On **Oct. 16** (and lasting through Cyber Monday on Nov. 30), an online catalog will be posted on the ACC's website, so that dedicated festivalgoers can enjoy shopping from their favorite Autumnfest vendors.

"We know that many people come to Autumnfest with holiday shopping in mind," said Debbie Pulidio, ACC special events manager. "This way, those who normally enjoy the event can shop online or reach out to vendors directly, in order to support the businesses they've come to know and love."

#### **Pumpkin Picking**

On Friday, **Oct. 23** (3-7 p.m.) and Saturday, **Oct. 24** (10 a.m.-5 p.m.), a new-look pumpkin patch will be set up in Community Park on Softball Field #4. Starting Oct. 1, using Anthem's online registration system, residents will be able to reserve a timeslot. The patch will be split up into five smaller "mini patches," and families will be asked to stay within one zone during their timeslot as they browse for pumpkins.

"This setup allows us to ensure that we can maintain social distancing protocol to keep everyone as healthy as possible, and also gives us the opportunity to order the perfect amount of pumpkins," Pulido said.

Each registered Anthem household who visits the patch will receive two complimentary pumpkins, and kids will get foam face kits to decorate their pumpkins, as well as bagged popcorn and other treats.

“This is one small way that we can thank residents for sticking with us through this roller-coaster of a year,” said Pulido.

Special thanks to pumpkin patch sponsors DLC Resources, Republic Services, Justin Simons State Farm, First Impression Ironworks, and the Amy Gilner Real Estate Team.

*If mandatory mask policies are still in place within Maricopa County on Oct. 23-24, residents will be required to wear masks during their scheduled time at the pumpkin patch.*

### **Virtual Pumpkin Display**

For the past few years, the decorated pumpkin contest has been a growing favorite at Autumnfest, highlighting the creativity of residents and organizations in our community. This year, a virtual pumpkin display will allow even more people to participate beginning **Oct. 1**, with pumpkins “on display” on the ACC’s social media accounts from **Oct. 16-30**.

The ACC announced these Autumnfest changes in August, based on several factors, including the carnival withdrawing from the event due to public health concerns, vendors being hesitant to register amidst unknown factors, anticipated reduced revenue from sponsors as a result of economic hardship, and the state’s restrictions on large gatherings (limited to 50 people as of press time).

“Critical lead time needed to plan the event was compromised due to the state’s restrictions on large gatherings,” said Kristi Northcutt, ACC public affairs director. “Permits, deposits, contracts, and many other factors depend on long-range facts that we just don’t have. It is also our responsibility to help protect public health and ensure that we don’t contribute to community spread of COVID-19 by hosting a large-scale event that would draw thousands of people into Anthem. We’re as disappointed as we know our residents are, but we hope that our reimagined event offerings bring some joy to our one-of-a-kind community.”

Visit **[OnlineAtAnthem.com/Autumnfest](https://www.onlineatanthem.com/Autumnfest)** for details and more information, and follow the ACC on Facebook (AnthemCommunityCouncil), Twitter and Instagram (@AnthemAZCouncil) for announcements.

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