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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*—photography available—*

**CITY OF HIGHWOOD DEDICATES SCOUT PARK TO THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
SCOUTS, VETERANS & MILITARY MIX AN MINGLE DURING THREE DAYS OF  
EVENTS AT GREAT HIGHWOOD PUMPKIN FESTIVAL  
TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THE WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

**HIGHWOOD, IL (OCTOBER 21-23, 2010)** –As the fun and excitement surrounding the Great Highwood Pumpkin Festival gets underway, and the community sets its sights on the lighting of 32,000 jack-o-lanterns to break the Guinness Book of World Record, the City of Highwood is proud to announce the dedication of Scout Park to the Boy Scouts of America as they celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year of Scouting. Scout Park, located at 814 Sheridan Road in Highwood (across from Subway), will bring together 100 Scout packs and troops from across Northeast Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin, Veterans and local military for three days of recognition, starting Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup> through the record breaking pumpkin lighting on Saturday evening, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Each day will have a different theme, along with live music, food and pumpkin carving!

In an effort to raise awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project ([www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org)), Scout Park will kick off its celebrations at a Pumpkin Fest Dinner BBQ on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. Scouts of all ages are encouraged to invite Veterans and Wounded Warriors to come out and share their war stories. Scouts will work on citizenship rank requirements as they collect videotaped interviews. Scouts, military, Vets and Wounded Warriors eat for free. A suggested \$5 donation for all others will benefit and create awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project.

A highlight of the evening will be the ceremonial lighting of the main pumpkin wall by General BG Hanley.

“With Great Lakes Naval Base and Fort Sheridan Army Reserves in our backyard, the military is a huge part of the City of Highwood,” says Mayor Charlie Pecaro, whose son is a member of Troop 35. “We understand a serviceman’s roots begin in the early scouting years. We wanted to do something to bring together these three generations of community, leaders and servicemen while raising awareness for a great cause.”

**-more-**

## **HIGHWOOD DEDICATES SCOUT PARK/ADD ONE**

On Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Scout Park will turn into one giant campground as the Scouts pitch their tents for the night and carve their pumpkins. 100 Scout packs and troops from the Northeast Illinois and Southeast Wisconsin areas will be setting up camp coinciding with the 100<sup>th</sup> year of Boy Scouts of America. The 100-year celebration continues the following day with a plaque dedication ceremony, Scout alumni and lunch.

As the countdown begins to the grand lighting display and record breaking attempt, Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> will be a day filled with numerous scout activities, pumpkin carving, popcorn selling, and a pumpkin chuckin' catapult contest from 1-3pm. Bring your own pumpkins or buy one at the park and get ready to aim and fire!

The local Scouts have dedicated themselves to providing 10,000 pumpkins to be part of the record-breaking attempt, almost a third of the needed pumpkins! In the weeks ahead, attending packs and troops will be handing out commitment cards to the public to pre-order pumpkins that will be put towards the specific troop's wall. The pack or troop with the most pumpkins carved will receive a trophy and a recognition pin for each member, so please contact your local scout pack or troop to help them get the most pumpkins.

Please join the Boy Scouts of America, military, and veterans as they come together at Scouts Park for the Great Highwood Pumpkin Fest. For more information please contact City Hall, visit [www.celebratehighwood.com](http://www.celebratehighwood.com) or [www.neic.org/pumpkin](http://www.neic.org/pumpkin).

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### **About The City of Highwood**

Highwood was founded in 1868 by William Wallace Everts, a Chicago civic leader and world-renown educator. His concept of a family-based community has endured for more than a century. The beautiful Everts Park, in the heart of downtown Highwood, has been named in the founder's honor. Benches and trees in the park celebrate and remember people who, through turbulent times and peaceful ones, built and sustained the community. Many of Highwood's street names recall Everts' family and friends whom the founder encouraged to build homes here. Residents of Swedish, Irish, Italian, Latino and other heritages have since populated the community, each enriching the community through their cultural traditions.

The Village of Highwood was incorporated in 1887. The name briefly became Village of Fort Sheridan and then City of Fort Sheridan. In 1904, the community officially became known as the City of Highwood. Fort Sheridan, a former army base northeast of the City, has had a profound influence on Highwood's development, and it continues to do so today as part of its land, incorporated into the City, nearly doubled Highwood in size. Today, Highwood is blending the past and present with exciting new plans for its future.

The City of Highwood, IL administrative offices are located at 17 Highwood Avenue Highwood, Illinois 60040. For more information, please visit <http://www.celebratehighwood.com> or <http://www.cityofhighwood.com> Tel: 847.432.1924.

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