

Calling All Creative & Artistic People!

Do you love animals, particularly cats and dogs? Are you dog-gone ready to jump into Fall with some easy arts and crafts? Then, have we got a fun project for you!!

The local non-profit, **The Spay Neuter Project** needs your help with a very special fundraising event. We've conjured up a new way to raise public awareness and money for the ongoing need to control mid-Missouri's pet over-population.

Since opening only 5 years ago, SNP has prevented more than 14,250 cats and dogs in the mid-Missouri area from reproducing. Even so, there are still too many companion animals living in uncertainty about their future. Mid-Missouri rescues and shelters do their best to help homeless pets find forever homes, but they need our support to keep the animals being held in kennels down to a manageable level, not to mention keeping the colonies of feral cats living all around us from continually reproducing. The Spay Neuter Project is a vital resource in our community for all of these animals. And, while we humans may be social-distancing these days, many cats and dogs are being, well, *cats and dogs!* Let's work together to put on a fun, creative and contact-free event that will both delight and educate. Introducing the...

1st Annual Pumpkin Pawlooza Online Auction • Benefitting The Spay Neuter Project

We're inviting animal-loving artists to explore their creative side! Here's your chance to dream a little, then create a whimsical pumpkin work of art for our very first online auction. We hope to showcase a wide variety of artistically inspired pumpkins, and highlight each artist with a brief bio, all while raising money for The Spay Neuter Project's *Spay It Forward Fund*, which sets aside monies to assist in paying for vaccinations and surgeries that would not otherwise be affordable to some individuals. This event will be emailed to over 5000 SNP newsletter recipients, and more than 6000 Facebook followers will see it. We are also planning to broadcast **Pumpkin Pawlooza** on local TV, radio and news outlets. What better way to get your name and artistic talents out there for all the world to see!!

Great! You say... How Do I Participate?

The first step is to **let us know you are interested!** All we need (as soon as possible) is a quick email telling us **"I'm In!"** Send us an email stating your name, your contact info (cell phone # is ideal), and, if you have an idea of what you want to create, a hint of what we might be putting in the auction. **That's it!** We will put you on a list and check back with you in a week to 10 days to see how things are going. In the meantime, we will leave you to work on your creations!

Pumpkin Pawlooza: The Details

1. **Let us know you will participate!** Send an email to tell us the good news to: jjohnston@spayneuterprojectmo.org Be sure to include your name and contact information. We will reply and put you on our Artist List.
2. **Create your masterpiece!** Decide if you want to go 'natural' (use a real pumpkin), faux, or create your own orb from the ground up. No need to spend a lot on supplies; just look through your craft drawers or scout around the house for interesting baubles to bring your pumpkin to life. But if the muse is singing your siren song, go BIG and decorate to the MAX! Here are a few links to get the creative juices flowing...
<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/g1714/no-carve-pumpkin-decorating/>
<https://www.ultimatepapermache.com/how-to-make-paper-mache-pumpkins>
3. **Send a photo of your completed project along with a completed Artist Entry Form** (at the end of this letter) to jjohnston@spayneuterprojectmo.org **by Monday, October 5th at 5 pm.** (Late entries risk not being included in the event.)
4. **Deliver your pumpkin** to the SNP Clinic at 206 Austin Ave., Columbia, **by Wednesday, October 7th**, between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Tuesday - Friday. (If other arrangements are needed, email jjohnston@spayneuterprojectmo.org or call Janeene at 573-239-3480).
5. **Follow Pumpkin Pawlooza** on [facebook.com/SpayNeuterProject](https://www.facebook.com/SpayNeuterProject)
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6. **Pumpkins will be auctioned off** on our Facebook page at facebook.com/SpayNeuterProject over a 3 day period: **Oct. 9-11 2020**. The Auction begins with a **LIVE FEED Friday, October 9th at 7:00 pm**. All entries will be displayed and described in detail by our moderator while information about you, your business, or studio will be shared with viewers. After the live feed, participants will have all weekend to look through the numbered entries (where your pumpkin's photo and your bio info will be displayed). Here, people can bid on multiple pumpkins, or simply "like" or "heart" the entries for no cost. You will be able to see the latest bids at any time, as well as the hearts and likes. **Bidding ends Sunday October 11th, at 5pm**. Winning bidders will be able to pick up their pumpkins on Monday, October 12th to enjoy for the rest of the season.

But That's Not All ~~~ We Have Incentives! ...besides the feel-goods you'll get from helping out a worthy cause ;-)

A) **Wilson's Garden Center** (4280 N. Rangeline St.) is offering **\$1 off your pumpkin purchases** (limit 3 pumpkins total) with a coupon we will send to artists, once we receive your initial email telling us you are participating. Chuck and his team will have a wonderful variety of pumpkins to choose from... big ones, little ones, gray ones, white ones, warty ones, and more! The best selection in town is at Wilson's Garden Center!

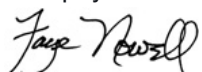
B) **There are prizes!!** We truly appreciate your craftiness, artistry and willingness to make this event possible, so we are also awarding **3 People's Choice Awards**, based on likes and hearts of the auction listings. **First Prize will be a \$100 gift certificate to Flyover Restaurant!**

Pumpkin Pawlooza Protocol: The Rules

1. All ages and artistic abilities are welcome and encouraged to participate.
2. All entries must resemble a basic pumpkin shape, using a real pumpkin, an artificial one, or by creating one through other media (paper-maché, etc.) Faux pumpkins may be cut or decorated however you wish. Any medium is allowed as long as it looks like a pumpkin! *(Other-shaped gourds are not what we are looking for this year; maybe next year!)*
3. Multiple pumpkins may be used in a single entry, if it correlates as one whole piece of art (i.e. stacking three small pumpkins decorated to resemble a snowman).
4. Limit 2 entries per artist, please. Each creation must have it's own entry form and photo.
5. Any **real pumpkins** should be painted and decorated only; **no carved pumpkins, please!** This will extend freshness for the winning bidder. Small punctures are fine, (as needed to secure other media), as long as there are no openings in the end product which could allow air in or out of the pumpkin.
6. Any size of pumpkin may be used in your creation, provided it is reasonably easy to lift and transport.
7. Any theme is allowed, but entries may be rejected for any reason, including lack of freshness, poor construction, or inappropriate language. Think FAMILY FRIENDLY. The theme need not be holiday or animal related. Contemplate outside the box *(or pumpkin, as it were)!*
8. Each entry must include a short biography and any information you would like shared during the LIVE online event, which will also be posted with your auction listing. Once your pumpkin masterpiece is ready for prime-time, print and fill out an **Artist Entry Form**. Note that any written information may be edited to conserve space on social media postings. Email the entry form, along with **a photo of your completed artwork** to: jjohnston@spayneuterprojectmo.org
9. Help us market this signature event by creating some **"Pumpkin Pawlooza Buzz"!** Feel free to message us photos of your **masterpieces in the making**, and share your efforts through your own favorite social media outlets.

We hope this will be a creative, safe and fun experience for our community. Let's work together to bring awareness and financial support to a worthy cause for the mid-Missouri area. Thank you from the bottom of our animal-loving hearts!

The Spay Neuter Clinic Team



Faye Nowell
Board Member