

OCT 11 2023

5-4

Teal Pumpkin Project Proclamation

City of New Baltimore

WHEREAS, as more than 33 million Americans have food allergies; nearly 6 million are children under the age of 18.

WHEREAS, research shows that the prevalence of food allergy is increasing among children and adults.

WHEREAS, nine foods cause the majority of all food allergy reactions in the U.S.: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy, wheat and sesame. Symptoms of a food allergy reaction can range from mild to severe, such as anaphylaxis.

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death.

WHEREAS, each year an estimated 3.3 million Americans require emergency room treatment for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to food. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic.

WHEREAS, emergency medical treatment for severe allergic reactions to food has increased by 377 percent in only a decade.

Whereas, the Teal Pumpkin Project is a worldwide organization, geared towards providing children with the opportunity to partake in a safe Halloween; and

Whereas, the Teal Pumpkin, placed outside on Halloween, can signify to children and parents, that there are non-food treats available for those who suffer from anaphylaxis; and

Whereas, alternative treats can be as simple as: small toys, glow sticks, note pads, even small coloring books; and

Whereas, checking the labels for latex toys is also important, because some children suffer from a latex allergy, and non-candy related Halloween toys can be found in bulk at party supply or dollar stores and;

Whereas, this worldwide movement is set to be an inclusionary, safe, and non-life threatening way for all children to enjoy Halloween and it eliminates the responsibility of parents for having to read every label before allowing their child to have candy.

Whereas, food allergies are a life-changing, serious and increasingly prevalent disease that affects more than 33 million Americans. One in every 13 children has food allergies or approximately two children in every classroom. In the U.S., emergency medical treatment for severe allergic reactions to food has increased 377 percent in only a decade. Each year an

estimated 3.3 million Americans require emergency room treatment for symptoms of a severe food allergy reaction. And, food allergies are costly – a study pegged their annual expense to the American economy as more than \$25 billion; and

Whereas, there is no cure for food allergies, allergic reactions to food can range from mild symptoms to anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction that can occur rapidly and is potentially life-threatening; and

Whereas, with your support in declaring TEAL PUMPKIN PROJECT, we can continue to increase public awareness about food allergies. It is our objective to help educate schools, restaurants and the citizens of our state on the serious and potentially life-threatening nature of food allergies.

WHEREAS, each year an estimated 3.3 million Americans require emergency room treatment for symptoms of a serious allergic reaction to food. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic.

WHEREAS, emergency medical treatment for severe allergic reactions to food has increased by 377 percent in only a decade.

WHEREAS, food allergies are expensive, costing the American economy more than \$25 billion each year.

WHEREAS, FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and the health of individuals with food allergies, and to providing them hope through the promise of new treatments.

Whereas, the City of New Baltimore is requesting citizens to help raise awareness for children with food allergies. The children of New Baltimore are the future of this community, and need to be protected; and

THEREFORE I, Thomas Semaan, Mayor of the City of New Baltimore, do hereby proclaim Teal Pumpkin Project in the City of New Baltimore and encourage the residents of the City of New Baltimore to increase their understanding and awareness of food allergies and anaphylaxis.

## Teal Pumpkin Project

Marissa Kyer: Bay-Rama Court 2023

### *What is the Teal Pumpkin Project?*

- The Teal Pumpkin Project is a worldwide organization, geared towards providing children with the opportunity to partake in a safe Halloween. The Teal Pumpkin, placed outside on Halloween, can signify to children, and parents, that there are non-food treats available for those who suffer from anaphylaxis.
- Alternative treats can be as simple as: small toys, glow sticks, note pads, even small coloring books. However, checking labels for latex on toys is also important, because some children suffer from a latex allergy. Majority of non-candy related Halloween toys can be found in bulk at party supply or dollar stores.
- This worldwide movement is set to be an inclusionary, safe, and non-life threatening way for all children to enjoy halloween. It also eliminates the hassle of parents reading every candy label before allowing their child to have the candy.

### *Why is the Teal Pumpkin Project important?*

- One in thirteen children suffer from a major food allergy, some cases involving a family not knowing until anaphylactic shock is present. Even a small dosage of an allergen, can end in a life-altering ER trip.
- Majority of candies passed out on Halloween include the following ingredients: nuts, milk, eggs, soy, and wheat. These are a few of the top major allergens that affect children and adults world wide.
- Statistics have shown that there is an 85% increase in hospital visits on major holidays, centered around children having allergic reactions. Reactions can occur within five to thirty minutes of being exposed to an allergen.

### *What is anaphylaxis? Why is it important to be knowledgeable?*

- Symptoms of anaphylaxis include the following: airway blockage, swelling of the tongue, vomiting, high fever, swelling of the face and body, itchy rash, loss of consciousness, lightheadedness, low blood pressure, and eventually medical shock. Symptoms begin within minutes, and rapidly increase until life threatening.
- If someone suffers from anaphylaxis, it is always important to carry two epi-pens, incase a second injection is needed. It is also vital to keep a plan on how to deal with anaphylactic shock visible, incase a bystander needs to assist. Always try to keep airways clear, on the chance a seizure occurs, turn the person on their side. Make sure to speak calmly, and keep observers calm in the situation, to prevent panic overcoming the person having the reaction. Understanding the severity and health risks alloted with food allergies, can help action be pursued quicker.

### *Asking for communal help on this matter:*

- I am calling on the city of New Baltimore to help raise awareness and advocate for children with food allergies. The children of New Baltimore are the future of this community, and need to be protected. One in thirteen children suffer from a life threatening food allergy, that is on average two children per classroom in the school district. This Halloween I am proposing the utilization of the Teal Pumpkin Project, to make sure safety is in place on this fun night.

- I am asking each business and person participating in New Baltimore's Trunk or Treat to place a teal pumpkin outside, and to also help educate others on its meaning. I also highly encourage houses within the community to place a teal pumpkin outside on Halloween night. My dream is to strive for a safer community, and educate those who overlook things considered small, but are truly life threatening.

*Tragic story at the hands of anaphylaxis:*

- Most of the time asthma and allergies can run together. Both of these medical diagnoses were the case for Oakley Debbs. Oakley had a severe nut allergy, and on a Thanksgiving trip in Maine, he indulged in a cake including nut extractions. After a few hives on his lips, a benadryl helped them disappear. His mom thought nothing of it, because Oakley said he was doing better and continued to play outside. A few hours later, Oakley suffered a heart attack, fell limp in his fathers lap, turned blue, and passed away. Today he would be eighteen years old, still living like he cried out in his final minutes.

**Marcia Shinska**

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**From:** FARE - Food Allergy Research & Education <contactfare@foodallergy.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 5:21 PM  
**To:** Marcia Shinska  
**Subject:** [SPAM] The Teal Pumpkin Project Map Is Back!



**Help Turn Your Neighborhood Teal This Year!**

October is here, and we can't wait to celebrate. When the leaves start to turn orange, it's time for the pumpkins to turn teal! Teal Pumpkin Project makes trick-or-treating safer for kids with food allergies. With three easy steps, you can help make Halloween fun and inclusive for everyone this year.

1. Place a teal pumpkin on your doorstep or post a teal pumpkin poster on your door.
2. Offer non-food treats in their own bowl, separate from any candy.
3. Add your address to FARE's Teal Pumpkin Project map to let local food allergy families know that children can find safe, non-food treats at your house.



## It's Easy to Participate

We are proud to announce that CVS Pharmacy® is the Exclusive Retail Partner of the FARE Teal Pumpkin Project 2023. CVS Pharmacy will simplify Halloween shopping for families with food-allergy concerns by offering over 100 convenient and affordable food-allergy safe items in 7,000 stores and on CVS.com. Families looking to join in the Teal Pumpkin Project can find participating CVS store locations on FARE's interactive neighborhood map.

**Also, check out our event listing feature. Having a Teal Pumpkin Project event in your community? – add it to the map so that everyone can join!**

To access more information about the Teal Pumpkin Project including the interactive map, suggested non-food treats, candy facts and ways to help spread the word, visit [TealPumpkinProject.org](https://TealPumpkinProject.org).

