



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – October 30, 2023

On the evening of October 28th, 2023, more than 5,000 people lined the streets of Ocean Springs, MS to see 450 witches take “flight” down the streets of downtown Ocean Springs for the 6th Annual Witches Ride of Ocean Springs. The 450 registered participant witches walked, rode on bicycles and tricycles, as well as golf carts, to deliver tricks and treats for ghouls and goblins, tall and small!

The ride route began on Washington Avenue at Joseph Street (South of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art) heading North, with a banner proclaiming “Madam Magique’s Cirque du Curiosities”, the theme of the 6th annual Witches Ride. The parade of costumed adults, many on elaborately decorated brooms, bicycles, tricycles, and golf carts headed turned East onto Government Street and ended at Ward Avenue near the Mary C’s Spooky Springs Haunted house event.

This year’s Witches Ride of Ocean Springs was the largest to date in terms of attendance, registrations, and sponsorships, but also in terms of fundraising! The Witches Ride of Ocean Springs began in 2018, with the mission of raising funds for local animal welfare agencies while bringing smiles to those along the streets of downtown Ocean Springs. The Witches Ride of Ocean Springs is a volunteer-run, certified non-profit that in past 5 years has donated over \$35,000 to local animal welfare organizations. This year, the public nominated their favorite charities, and participants voted for their favorite at checkout. This year, the proceeds total \$28,000, that will be divided between the top 4 winners: Friends of Jackson County Animal Shelter, Jackson County Animal Shelter, Humane Society of South Mississippi and Feral Feline Coalition.

Immediately following the Witches Ride, there was a Pub Crawl with 6 downtown participating bars and restaurants: Mosaic, The Red Apple, Lost Springs, Neon Moon, The Lady May and Glory Bound, as well as a post-ride party at Mosaic restaurant. In addition the The Witches Ride and Halloween Pub Crawl, the Witches Ride of Ocean Springs hosted 2 additional sold out events held earlier in October: a Monster Murder Mystery Brunch held at Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort and a Bingo & Booze event held at The Julep Room.

The Witches Ride of Ocean Springs would like to thank all of their amazing sponsors: businesses and individuals who support not only the spirit of joy that the Witches Ride brings to Ocean Springs, but also the animals in need on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Extra thanks goes to the their Platinum Sponsors: Tito’s Handmade Vodka, Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Odom Creative Services, Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce, The City of Ocean Springs, Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort and Mosaic. It is with the help of these sponsors that the event was such a resounding success bringing individuals and families from as far away as Nebraska and Maine.

If you would like more information on the Witches Ride events, contact organizers of the Witches Ride at: info@oswitchesride.com, 601-345-4089 or visit their website at www.oswitchesride.com .

