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Creatures, ghosts, scary things... Haunt S Create a Homemade Studies show that people actually find intense pleasure when facing their fears. This helps explain why nearly two million people will scream their way through a haunted house this Halloween season. "It takes a lot to get the average person's heart pounding in today's world," says Amber Arnett Bequeaith, spokesperson of the Haunted House Association (HHA). "Haunted Houses are real in the sense that the creative unknown is right there... behind that door... around the corner. There's just nothing quite like a good old-fashioned living, breathing hideous creature dropping out of the ceiling, or breathing on your ear to get the adrenaline going." Bequeaith said it's the dedicated actors, who themselves tend to love the horror genre, and the physical reality of an old house, commercial building or dark, confining maze that make professional haunted attractions intriguing and popular. This and the fact that the best operators spend big bucks every year to enhance technology and special effects. "It is certainly more expensive to scare people these days," said Bequeaith. "The cost of technology and elaborate sets and costumes is frightening. We spend a fortune on safety measures. But, the bottom line is, we are entertainers who like to make people happy. And, strange as it seems, scaring people makes them happy." The HHA, which promotes attendance, best practices and safety within the haunted house industry, has some tips to make professional haunts safe. If you decide to create your own haunted house this year, take these tips into consideration: Never use any open flame indoors and be very careful with bonfires and Tiki torches outside. Always make sure the path of your haunt is free of tripping hazards, especially in very dark areas. For a scary sound, fill an old pot with bolts and tape the lid on. Great scares can also be provided by animal calls found at most sporting good stores. Turkey calls, moose calls, and coyote calls are a few. Low-voltage lighting is a great way to light your haunt. Shop your local hardware store for 12-volt yard lights. Always warn your guests if using strobe lights. Strobes can cause some people to enter into a seizure. Note: Haunted Houses begin operation as early as September. For a full listing of, and information about members of the Haunted House Association, log onto [www. hhassociation.com](http://www.hhassociation.com). This N That VARIETY & CONSIGNMENT • quality clothes & household • new & used wedding dresses • formals • jewelry • lots to choose from • plus sizes • women's, men's, children's • household furnishings 28 S. THIRD ST. • FRUITPORT • 231-865-2079 MON-FRI 10-6 • SAT 11-4 www.womenslifestylenorthshore.com • NORTHSHORE EDITION • October 2010

Create A Homemade Haunt

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