

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF K. FRANCIS MEDIA

**The Hinsdale Humane Society's inaugural Black Cat Ball was a creative costumed affair.**

# Having a ball

## *Costume party benefits Hinsdale Humane Society*

*Mike Ellis*

HINSDALE—Several hundred area residents shined in a great variety of costumes while supporting the Hinsdale Humane Society (HHS) at the inaugural Black Cat Ball at Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge on Oct. 30.

The ball was organized by the HHS Ambassadors, a group founded last year, comprised of local women who collaborate to fundraise for the humane society.

Couples and individuals outdid themselves in their creative and intricate cos-

tumes. One guest marveled as a Jake Arrieta lookalike, while another effectively passed for a younger Hillary Clinton.

Meanwhile, couples paired as Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf, Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz, coach and cheerleader combinations from Big Ten universities, and even characters from a Roy Lichtenstein pop art painting.

Ben Bradley, weekend morning anchor for WLS Ch. 7 and a Hinsdale resident, served as the emcee, conducting the live auc-

tion on-stage, alongside the “black cats,” an honorary committee of local ladies who dressed apropos for the occasion.

Attendees bid on silent auction items that ranged from local business offerings, to autographed jerseys and other memorabilia items, to four passes to Walt Disney World.

HHS executive director Lori Halligan said the proceeds raised from the Black Cat Ball will support the humane society's general fund, and will help bolster fundraising efforts in 2015,

after rain put something of a damper on the organization's annual Pet Walk in June.

Halligan said HHS would like to continue holding the Black Cat Ball in the years to come.

The ball received positive reviews from those in attendance, who commented on the creativity of the costumes, as well as the contrast it offered to traditional black-tie events.

*To learn more about the Hinsdale Humane Society, visit [www.hinsdalehumane-society.org](http://www.hinsdalehumane-society.org).*