10 Thanks · [166 Replies](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=69537424)

[llen Caldwell](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1480007/)

[Ellen Caldwell](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1480007/), Yolansdale·3d ago

You must be new to area. The town has been putting these up for years for halloween.

 Thank

8 Thanks

[risten Gregoriev](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3162378/)

[Kristen Gregoriev](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3162378/), Yolansdale·3d ago

I'd rather they look like happy scarecrows or funny goblins, than lynchings or crucifixions... maybe I'm too sensitive

 Thank

18 Thanks

[Sarah Bott](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12465410/), Yolansdale·3d ago

It never crossed my mind to think of them in that way. I could be wrong, but I believe they are made by Cedars artists, and most definitely not intended to offend.

 Thank

11 Thanks

[uellen Lamorte](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1504271/)

[Suellen Lamorte](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1504271/), Robson-Harrington·3d ago

I have no problem with them. Aren’t they supposed to be scarecrow like Halloween monsters? Just a decoration..

 Thank

5 Thanks

[Lauren Firestein](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15281046/), Sorich Park·3d ago

I actually feel the same way about them. I am new to the area too. Maybe I am too sensitive as well, but I agree when I see them out of the corner of my eye they look disturbing. Maybe it's because they are by themselves without other decoration around them? Or maybe I have been watching too much Game of Thrones, lol.

 Thank

7 Thanks

[Jean Goodman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4826377/), Yolansdale·3d ago

I've lived here 55 years-the Halloween scarecrow contest among the downtown merchants dates back a decade or so as I expect it each year it's not disturbing to me

 Thank

14 Thanks

[Molly Pikkarainen](https://nextdoor.com/profile/13730283/), Bay Road·3d ago

Happy Halloween. I love them!

 Thank

5 Thanks

[Gail Koren](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10869543/), Yolanda Station·3d ago

no. not plastic decorations. Creative.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[christine aralia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/19593220/), Yolansdale·3d ago

Great for Halloween but.......They really do look creepy now that all the other Halloween decorations are gone.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[atham Woodward](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3695231/)

[Latham Woodward](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3695231/), Yolansdale·3d ago

no...

 Thank

[usan Garcia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5602661/)

[Susan Garcia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5602661/), Robson-Harrington·3d ago

You should go to Cambria they have an amazing Scarecrow Contest we need to step it up in San Anselmo !!

 Thank

5 Thanks

[usan shannon](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2886859/)

[susan shannon](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2886859/), San Anselmo·3d ago

I am creeped out by lots of halloween creepy 'decorations' and yes, why can't they be sitting in chairs or something vs hanging... a sensitive fool I probably am...

 Thank

6 Thanks

[Nancy Briggin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6678023/), Manor Hill·3d ago

Nope. It's a scarecrow. On Halloween. Compared to Game of Thrones and Vikings, the 'crows are sweet.

 Thank

5 Thanks

[aniel Parra](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1708403/)

[Daniel Parra](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1708403/), Laurel Grove·3d ago

they are meant as "Scare Crows." You've watched too many SAW movies.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[herie Klein](https://nextdoor.com/profile/417694/)

[Cherie Klein](https://nextdoor.com/profile/417694/), Monte Cristo·3d ago

I thought they were creepy. Glad Halloween is over.

 Thank

7 Thanks

[Jason Watkins](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3469580/), Yolansdale·3d ago

I'm disturbed for sure. I see what looks like an al qaeda prisoner with a bag on his head and a black person. When I saw these down town I did a double take.

 Thank

14 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·3d ago

I think they are weird. Scarecrow or not it looks like a hanging person.

 Thank

14 Thanks

[elia Reid](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2931817/)

[Delia Reid](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2931817/), Deer Park·3d ago

I too find these disturbing and insensitive. And I believe that residents have voiced their concern to the town and Cedars yet there was a lack of understanding and no actions were taken. I would hope that our communities can show spirit in other ways.

 Thank

14 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·3d ago

Just because something has been going on for years doesn’t make it a good thing. If several people are seeing theses as odd and scary,maybe it’s time for a change and some new decorations.

 Thank

16 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·3d ago

Maybe they can't tweak them? They look like evil scarecrows and maybe we just need funny scarecrows?

 Thank

6 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·3d ago

Having them hung up so high,literally makes them look like they are strung up. Time for a change,Town of San Anselmo!

 Thank

6 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·3d ago

In general or on this post, specifically?

 Thank

[oey Talley](https://nextdoor.com/profile/479736/)

[Joey Talley](https://nextdoor.com/profile/479736/), Deer Park·3d ago

oh its just making fun of scary stuff, for laughs at whats frightening, a creative opportunity for variety on the scarecrow thing, eh?

 Thank

1 Thank

[Janis Hedvall](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5896183/), Sequoia Park·2d ago

Get a life! It was Halloween!

 Thank

12 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·2d ago

They do seem poorly executed.

 Thank

7 Thanks

[lizabeth McGrady](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4349590/)

[Elizabeth McGrady](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4349590/), Fairfax Heights·2d ago

I rarely comment on posts because I find it all goes downhill so quickly here. Can we please remember that these were created by Cedars clients that are developmentally and physically challenged. I found each one to be unique and in the spirit of FALL. Scare crows hang in corn fields. They traditionally hang. Cedars is a wonderful part of our community and should be celebrated. I am sure they have heard of this controversy and so have the merchants. It must hurt feelings and take away from the energy it takes to present fun traditional activities. Nothing will please everyone and nothing will be understood by all. I hear your points about what someone could associate these with but they also can just be SCARE CROWS.

 Thanked!

46 Thanks

[Jennifer Callaway](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15267426/), Kent Woodlands·2d ago

Were/are there only two entries? When will the judging occur?

 Thank

[elsey Mahoney](https://nextdoor.com/profile/21455585/)

[Kelsey Mahoney](https://nextdoor.com/profile/21455585/), Sorich Park·2d ago

They’re scarecrows ......

 Thank

7 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·2d ago

Next year, they could just install them lower and all would be fine.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[eslie Wilmington](https://nextdoor.com/profile/16588637/)

[Leslie Wilmington](https://nextdoor.com/profile/16588637/), Kent Flats·2d ago

Unfortunately, if they're hung lower people tend to steal items off of them.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[usan shannon](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2886859/)

[susan shannon](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2886859/), San Anselmo·Edited 2d ago

After reading this shorter thread this AM I drove through SA and guess what-they were cutting them down. Reminded me of the song Strange Fruit. I still don't get why they have to hang. I think this also is a good thread for inquiry around the lack of diversity and 'marin mind'-hanging these would likely not happen in some of the East Bay towns...and I know so many people I work with especially the older african american and asian people of color would really be triggered by the images. Lastly I hope there can be more reflection about some of these comments versus thinking this thread is only about having them hung up next year or not.

 Thank

19 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·2d ago

It’s not how they were made it’s how they are hung up!

 Thank

8 Thanks

[Sara Matson](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6403095/), Yolansdale·2d ago

These are retraumatizing for people. Lynching and suicide by hanging are real and sensitive issues.

 Thank

10 Thanks

[Jennifer Callaway](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15267426/), Kent Woodlands·2d ago

Has an award been given for the best scarecrow?

 Thank

1 Thank

[eslie Wilmington](https://nextdoor.com/profile/16588637/)

[Leslie Wilmington](https://nextdoor.com/profile/16588637/), Kent Flats·2d ago

By the way they're given two pieces of PVC pipe assembled like a cross to build these on. When I managed a store downtown each business did their own.

 Thank

[ynthia Briggs](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7243764/)

[Cynthia Briggs](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7243764/), Sorich Park·2d ago

My kids LOVE them! Please don’t take this joy away from them at Halloween. They are scare crows, not happy crows. They are meant to hang and if they were lower or not hung there would be damage done to them. Some are in children’s super hero costumes, some are playful and fun, they are all different and creative. A great tradition for a good cause in my book.

 Thank

11 Thanks

[Anne Donnelly](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5120390/), Yolansdale·2d ago

I appreciate the artists of Cedars and think they enrich our community with their gifts and their presence. That said these figures are disturbing. We can say they are scarecrows and traditional which has some truth (although I remembered in rural NC where I grew up the scarecrows were always white or burlap and just looked up images of scarecrows and indeed they are overwhelmingly white with very few exceptions) but in the South, many claim the rebel flag to be traditional in spite of the fact that it represents white supremacy to many of their neighbors. In the context we live in now and in a community that is largely white, I feel a responsibility not to take these concerns lightly. Having a black faced scarecrow hanging from a lamp post is disturbing. And I do think the height at which both of the figures hung is an issue as well. I would hope that a good dialogue could lead to traditions being kept in a way that is inclusive of all of the community.

 Thank

15 Thanks

[usan Lundy](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8612673/)

[Susan Lundy](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8612673/), Pacheco Park/Downtown·2d ago

Nope.

 Thank

1 Thank

[elen Hayes](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10751169/)

[Helen Hayes](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10751169/), Kent Woodlands·2d ago

Hey Jean, I’ve lived here 55 years also, And love these Halloween hangings. I would miss than if they stopped! Newbies may find them scary, but they are not!!!!!

 Thank

6 Thanks

[Sheila Hitchens](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2865129/), Sun Valley·2d ago

Yep, a little creepy

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Sara Matson](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6403095/), Yolansdale·Edited 2d ago

I appreciate that these are scare crows, and the spirit in which they are made, and by whom, and for what holiday. I have no qualms with any of that. But to deny that these may be jarring to anyone and traumatizing to people with certain life experiences is insensitive. They may not be scary to you, but surely you can imagine that they may be for others.

 Thank

10 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·2d ago

Not only “newbie’s” think this tradition is inappropriate and may trigger past traumas for people. I have lived in Marin for 50 years. I’m all for them coming down and staying down. Although,these aren’t meant to be what people are seeing them to be,that’s not the point. Also,most if not all of us are white folks on this thread,African American folks have a history of their ancestors being lynched. If that was the first thing that came into my head when I saw these,as a white woman,you can bet people of color are thinking the same too. It’s not just a cute Halloween tradition,we don’t live in that world any longer.

 Thank

11 Thanks

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·2d ago

Paul Asper: "They do seem poorly executed" -- pun intended? If so, brilliant!

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·2d ago

No pun intended. I think these were likely made with the best intentions and maybe they need to change the display system. Let’s not blow this out of proportion.

 Thank

9 Thanks

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·2d ago

Sorry Paul, my mistake. No doubt you're right about the intentions, and I'm sure today's political climate / context plays a role in how they're being perceived, but I agree with those who found them disturbing. With the heads down, hanging up high like that . . . they're just too reminiscent of lynchings, imo.

 Thank

11 Thanks

[Trish Krause](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10023200/), Sorich Park·Edited 2d ago

I've lived here for 17 years and never noticed until this year my 10 year old admitted to me that she was scared to go to downtown SA because of the "hanging men". I had no idea what she was talking about until we drove into the town and she pointed at the scarecrows. They seem in poor taste regardless of the history.

 Thank

10 Thanks

[ohann Gerlach](https://nextdoor.com/profile/20873451/)

[Johann Gerlach](https://nextdoor.com/profile/20873451/), San Anselmo·2d ago

no

 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·2d ago

If these photos had been taken in Charlottesville or somewhere in South Carolina, and the locals were saying, "Oh lighten up, they're just scarecrows, we've done this for years"... might seem a little different, no?

 Thank

9 Thanks

[ollie Cummings](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7380318/)

[Mollie Cummings](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7380318/), Bothin Park·2d ago

Yes.. very disturbing !

 Thank

6 Thanks

[isa Rao](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1081104/)

[Lisa Rao](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1081104/), Deer Park·2d ago

I mean, to be blunt the blackface looking like its being hung could be taken the wrong way, especially in today's climate... especially for such a snowwhite town. Why not have an orange pumpkin face as a guideline. I understand this was not intentional but I just think its a good idea to be mindful perhaps something to consider for whoever is working with these artists and curating this next year.

 Thank

8 Thanks

[ob Wipfler](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7649569/)

[Bob Wipfler](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7649569/), San Anselmo·2d ago

As Charlie Brown would say 'GOOD GRIEF'. Get a life!

 Thank

12 Thanks

[tephanie Burns](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12208456/)

[Stephanie Burns](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12208456/), Bay Road·2d ago

I did find this creepy. Not so much for the racial part, as I'm sure it wasn't intended, but for the general creepiness of looking like real bodies.

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·2d ago

A little Blair Witch, but it's Halloween. ;-)

 Thank

1 Thank

[Lauren Firestein](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15281046/), Sorich Park·2d ago

Having had a close family member commit suicide by hanging himself, these are disturbing. I can deal with witches and werwolves and vampires and all sorts of halloween images. But images that look like someone either hanging themselves of being lynched is not a halloween image. If the whole town were decorated like halloween, with streamers up the light poles, or with some having pumpkins on them, or witches, or something else...but to just have the hanging people up there and the rest of the town look normal? It's disturbing. And yes, I do have a life.

 Thank

10 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·1d ago

Totally with you,Lauren! So sorry for your loss!

 Thank

3 Thanks

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

I was disturbed by the one with a black face which connoted lynching to me.

 Thank

8 Thanks

[miriam hamsa](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3817919/), Marinda Oaks·1d ago

Let's ban the Wizard of Oz while we are at it!

 Thank

1 Thank

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

We are just discussing impressions and not banning anything. Just a conversation with different viewpoints.

 Thank

6 Thanks

[Nicki Silva](https://nextdoor.com/profile/7484539/), Sorich Park·1d ago

Our family loves these and look forward to them every year!

 Thank

2 Thanks

[ai Moore](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23660667/)

[Kai Moore](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23660667/), Sorich Park·1d ago

Didn't see these. Wouldn't like the blackface one. Especially, as an African American that has often felt unwelcome in this community. However, extremely used to people using tradition and hypersensitivity as an excuse to ignore how their neighbor's experiences. This is "privilege". I am glad I didn't see it. Glad my kids didn't. I hate having to explain this all of the time.

 Thank

20 Thanks

[ulia Zaslow](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5519500/)

[Julia Zaslow](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5519500/), Manor Hill·1d ago

Yes, I find them extremely disturbing. They look like lynchings or hangings. I was shocked to see them in downtown SA. I avoided taking my son there all month. I think the town probably lost business. Clearly from this thread, I wasn’t the only one.

 Thank

6 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

I have lived in Ross Valley more than 30 years. I love the work of the Cedars artists. However, the way these scare crows are hung is insensitive to those of us who have worked in the Civil Rights Movement. "Strange Fruit" is right. No one is saying to take them away. People are saying put them lower and in chairs. I just got back from Cambria. All the scarecrows are whimsical and low to the ground and no one disturbs them.

 Thank

7 Thanks

[usan Garcia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5602661/)

[Susan Garcia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5602661/), Robson-Harrington·1d ago

Sandy you got it Maybe we should contact Cambria and get some pointers There has been so much interest on Nextdoor that if we put all our energy together we could create something very special.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·Edited 1d ago

Here are some photos of this year's Cambria scarecrow festival: <http://highway1discoveryroute.com/scarecrow-festival-2017/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwyvXPBRD-ARIsAIeQeoFxAg898JxQnVID1Rekqe8sWJQVl2er3cUdGynbRnyDn0pD6Cn6v_caAukaEALw_wcB>

 Thank

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·1d ago

I think they need to rethink the blackface and also the installation.

 Thank

5 Thanks

[risten Gregoriev](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3162378/)

[Kristen Gregoriev](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3162378/), Yolansdale·1d ago

Thanks for the link to the Cambria festival - San Anselmo we need to step it up! There's lots of creative folk in town.

 Thank

1 Thank

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

I am new to Marin and only saw these from this posting. If they have been up for years as is I assume they precede the wide use of social media enabling people to have area-wide conversations. I also assume (right or wrongly) that the connotations some of us may have had were not intentional on the part of the creators. The only way the owners of these scarecrows will know is to give them feedback in a constructive manner. I recommend changing the hanging by the neck position and make the faces white. Who wants to give the owners the feedback and suggestions?

 Thank

2 Thanks

[wendy todd](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3123047/), Yolansdale·1d ago

I did give cedars and our town officials feedback. They decided to keep the scarecrows as is/was.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

Good for you. Thanks for doing that. You have raised awareness by engaging us in a conversation and they may get more feedback next year and more the following. Who knows? Worth doing regardless.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Yes, Sondra. The only proper hanging scarecrow is a White one... really? Pretty sure All Hallows Eve predates any perceived "American" racism and some people's apparent need to impress their own sense of political correctness on others. How about just leaving art and the festivities alone? Not everyone's tastes and sensibilities are the same. That would be incredibly boring. Wouldn't it?

 Thank

1 Thank

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

You are entitled to your opinion but please spare the condescending sarcasm. I was not putting anyone down.

 Thank

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

Dave, Dave, Dave: imagine that you are addressing your words to someone who lives in San Anselmo who is African American, not white. Could you?

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

Absolutely could, Sandy.

 Thank

[aren Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/)

[Karen Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

Yes. I️ think they are gross! Representing mutilated people? That’s not Halloween fun.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

And Sondra, being "new to Marin", why so self-important that you feel you need to "let the owners of the scarecrows know" your constructive feedback? By who's standard? Yours? Hardly condescension. Just calling it as I see it. Why not just enjoy the efforts of others that they put forth to celebrate the the Halloween tradition. It was about things that people didn't speak much about long before it was kids soliciting candy from their neighbors.

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

Karen, how is a scarecrow with a black cat face or a scarecrow with a square head representing mutilated people?

 Thank

[Nicholas Goffeney](https://nextdoor.com/profile/16059844/), Greenfield Avenue·Edited 31m ago

I would urge anyone who does not understand why hanging scarecrows might shock and offend to Google for images of actual lynchings. The similarities are remarkable.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Liz di Carpegna](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4312245/), San Anselmo·1d ago

I can not believe this was posted. A great San Anselmo tradition. People are getting way too sensitive these days. My kids have always loved them. And most of the San Anselmo homes have much more disturbing images up. Maybe we should start to complain about all the gore and bloody creepy things up in Halloween at most homes?

 Thank

5 Thanks

[aren Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/)

[Karen Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

Because they are hanging and missing body parts. Like feet chopped off!

 Thank

1 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Nicholas, that logic is (imo) why words like "niggardly" get erased from popular vocabulary. Are people so easily offended that they can't properly discriminate between two clearly separate things even though there may be some level of similarity? In an abstract sense, doesn't a scarecrow look like a cross? Should we further an argument for separation of church and state for the holiday now?

 Thank

[aren Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/)

[Karen Davis](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12189391/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

It’s subliminal messaging no one needs. A representation of a hanging person missing body parts. To much of this stuff is real in the world. Totally unnecessary. I️ Love Halloween stuff. Just not these. Ghosts, gobbling, witches, pumpkins, spiders, etc all good!

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

The scarecrow artists are sending subliminal messages? Do you realize how that sounds?

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

I think Kai Moore's post deserves another read -- pretty sure "political correctness" has nothing to do with her point of view: "Didn't see these. Wouldn't like the blackface one. Especially, as an African American that has often felt unwelcome in this community. However, extremely used to people using tradition and hypersensitivity as an excuse to ignore how their neighbor's experiences. This is "privilege". I am glad I didn't see it. Glad my kids didn't. I hate having to explain this all of the time."

 Thank

8 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

I think that if people are going to look for problems with anything, they're going to find it, whether or not an actual problem exists. That doesn't make something or the people who created it racist or insensitive.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

I don't think anyone was looking for a problem -- it found us. And I don't think anyone said the people who created it were racist or insensitive, but that the images and the feelings they stirred up were disturbing.

 Thank

8 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Pretty sure Kai came out and said that and Nicholas certainly alluded to it. Which is actually pretty sad. No one that I know as my neighbors here would think that way. At least not any way that I've been picking up. We seem to be pretty color blind as a community regardless of the demographic percentages.

 Thank

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·1d ago

No one is looking for problems and I can bet no one believes the people who made these are racists. We all know that was never the intention. These conjure up uncomfortable feeling’s and memories for many people in our community,as we can all see from this long thread. Does anyone know how we go about getting different decorations next year? Maybe the people who made these can make something else? That would be great!

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

And maybe people can just learn to get over their own personal issues and find a way to enjoy or at least ignore things that other people find enjoyable. The mountain does not always have to come to Muhammad.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

And would that apply to folks who like to fly the stars and bars, or maybe dress up in Nazi uniforms? A lot of people probably find that enjoyable, too.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Andrea Schnitzer](https://nextdoor.com/profile/21392045/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

I think we should really rethink as a community what the intentions of the artists are and try to lighten up. I am sure they were trying to embrace the spirit of Halloween and not creat any ill will. I embrace the creativity. What happened to the freethinking spirit of Marin?😢

[](https://d3926qxcw0e1bh.cloudfront.net/post_photos/3a/d6/3ad637e0bba95cf607453a31ac6149d0.jpg)

 Thanked!

5 Thanks

[Andrea Schnitzer](https://nextdoor.com/profile/21392045/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

❤️

[](https://d3926qxcw0e1bh.cloudfront.net/post_photos/ba/fa/bafa5c174b1fdaf50f567e3af92ecc60.jpg)

 Thanked!

3 Thanks

[Andrea Schnitzer](https://nextdoor.com/profile/21392045/), Ross Avenue·1d ago

👻

[](https://d3926qxcw0e1bh.cloudfront.net/post_photos/2c/b3/2cb316baecdab28aa51db1205c0f3d90.jpg)

 Thanked!

3 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

Unless it's illegal to fly the stars and bars (or any other flag) or dress up in Nazi uniforms, then it is imperative upon us as citizens to tolerate other citizens' freedom of expression as provided for in the U.S. Constitution and as upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States of America, regardless of how we may personally feel about it. Damn straight, Tom.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

Then I guess we’ll have to agree to disagree. Goodnight Dave.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·1d ago

I’m pretty sure these lovely people who made these would be happy to create something else? Why is this such a bone of contention for those who it doesn’t conjure up negative images? What’s the big deal if we have a different Halloween decoration then a hanging-scarecrow body? Before the scarecrows hung,there was most likely something else.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

It is not a big deal if we have a different Halloween decoration (at least not to me in my limited understanding of what is important in tradition here). It \*becomes\* a big deal if changes are being forced upon a community by a small minority with non-protected reasons. I am not saying that the community in general should be insensitive to specific people within the community, but how we behave is how we are perceived by others - both within and without the community. I think the point (at least the one that I'm trying to make), Gwynaeth, is of tolerance. It is up to us to find the good in what others do. It's very easy to find problems and in the current political climate to scare well-meaning people into abandoning positive or just plain fun programs because "someone" feels badly or disenfranchised. The reality is that no matter what is done, someone isn't going to like it for one reason or another. Some things clearly should be addressed (or maybe not so clearly), and some things people should just find it within themselves to get over themselves about it. I'm not saying to overlook a dissenting minority, and I'm certainly not suggesting that only a majority rules, but more to the point of what makes Marin great - being tolerant of others and try to find the good spirit in things that are obviously well-intentioned, even if they are not to our personal tastes. Because that is what makes this place so special, and we should work hard to keep it that way.

 Thanked!

6 Thanks

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

How are people saying that the 'black face' one is disturbing, it's a cats face! How is that disturbing! Because everything has to be made racist now? All scarecrows look like this! The ones in the movies, the ones at the pumpkin patches a lot of you go to, etc, but because they put them up out of reach so people wouldn't steal or damage them then it's a huge issue, because there are some people who have to turn it into something it's not. Such entitlement. Seriously, It's Halloween!

 Thank

6 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

Why is it necessary to call people you disagree with “too sensitive“ or “entitled“? No one is calling the Cedars artists racist. No one has objected to scarecrows for Halloween, not even these particular scarecrows. People have objected to the way these scarecrows are hung looking like images from Civil Rights history (or suicides) some of us have witnessed. If you are not familiar with those historic and recent images, please google “lynchings.”

 Thank

8 Thanks

[olleen Carroll](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1724739/)

[Colleen Carroll](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1724739/), Cascades·1d ago

I agree with Sandy. No one here is calling the artists racist or suggesting the beloved tradition end. Many well-intentioned actions have unintended negative outcomes. As the intention was not to allude to lynchings (which is precisely what came to mind when I saw the black-faced scarecrow with its head sagging), I would think the artists and organization would be receptive to making a few changes so no one- not even a minority- can see what looks like the effigy of a dead black body hung high in one of the wealthiest, whitest communities in the country. If only a minority of people find offense in the image and cannot get past the context of well-intentions in which it was created and their emotional ties to the tradition of which it is a part- that is also very telling and deeply problematic. As others suggested, a few simple changes/guidelines could easily resolve this problem and allowed this beloved tradition to continue, and fulfilling the intention of the artists in creating a fun town decoration: 1. Only burlap or pumpkin heads (no black faces) 2. Hang lower 3. Prop the head up- all the other scarecrows I’ve seen online and elsewhere have their heads up- because they are supposed to look like living people to scare the crows...not look like dead people with their heads hung I plan to write a letter expressing my views. I should have done it much earlier and I am grateful for this thread to bring up my thoughts on the scarecrows. Many people who travel or visit San Anselmo don’t have the context to understand the symbols and part of town tradition and the black-faced one in particular is obviously sending the wrong message to many who saw it. I know it is cat now, but until I looked closely at the photo above, it was hard to tell. When driving and walking through town I couldn’t see the cat shaped eyes. If something like this doesn’t disturb you or if you can’t imagine how it could disturb anyone else or your attachment to the tradition overwhelms your ability to think critically about the symbols, that is what “creeps” me out.

 Thank

11 Thanks

[ocelyn Clark](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3928461/)

[Jocelyn Clark](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3928461/), Deer Park·1d ago

They are meant to be creepy Halloween scarecrows. And yes, they are.

 Thank

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

Jocelyn Clark, please read the comments in the thread.

 Thank

[ocelyn Clark](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3928461/)

[Jocelyn Clark](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3928461/), Deer Park·1d ago

But actually, that said, that creepy is supposed to be creepy, I think keeping them from looking like lynch victims should be required. When there are a bunch and some get limp and dead looking, it is embarrassing and cringe-worthy for the town. If they all ended up that way, I would be more than embarrassed.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·1d ago

I went through most of these posts and the pros/cons are just about equal if not slightly more for making subtle changes next year (NOT eliminating them). Given this, I would not call the concern over how these scarecrows may be perceived by some as a "minority" view for what that is worth.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·1d ago

Above we had an African American say these made them feel funny. I think it is pretty tonedeaf of a bunch white folks to at least acknowledge this could be an issue.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

Paul, I heartily agree. To be sure I'm taking your meaning, though, I'm not sure if you're responding to Sondra's comment regarding a "minority" view: I took that to mean that being disturbed by the images was not a minority opinion of those who are part of this thread (and therefore of lesser concern), but actually was the opinion of more or less half of those who have responded -- as opposed to the opinions of those who are African American, and part of an ethnic minority ... if you follow? In other words, there are apparently a lot of us who are not African American and yet were affected by the way the scarecrows were displayed, and based on the number of thoughtful posts, I'd say these concerns are legitimate and should not be trivialized. And it's such an easy fix, just follow the suggestions that Colleen lists above in her excellent post. No one needs to be demonized; honest, unintended mistakes happen, so let's fix it and move on.

 Thank

5 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

I also think it was very sad the anyone could feel unwelcome here — but this area really lacks diversity and when peope live in a bubble they can lack perspective. I feel lucky to have lived in the most diverse big city in America. Tom: they look weird to me and I’m white. I think this is easy to fix as well.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

Amen to that!

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

Btw, I have a life-sized, black felt clip-on crow that might help to re-inforce the intended idea, sitting on the shoulder of a (happy! friendly!) scarecrow -- I'll be happy to donate it to the Cedars.

 Thank

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

For those of you who say no other scarecrows have their heads hanging. Basic google search will show many of the ones that look no different than these ones in town, yet actually scarier and more 'disturbing' looking imo.

[](https://d3926qxcw0e1bh.cloudfront.net/post_photos/c2/ce/c2cec69d080a79e120249c704dbbfdff.jpg)

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·1d ago

That image is “scary” but not in the same way — the above doesn’t bring to mind lunchings at all and looks far more halloween oriented. It is a good model.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

Let's be real the only one that has any resemblance to 'lynchings' is the one that has started drooping from probably being up there over a period of days. If your argument is for them to make sure the head and arms are fastened tighter to stick straight up and out, then that's an easy fix, but the argument has become so much bigger then that which I think is the problem. And for anyone to say that the cat one looks anything comparable to a 'lynching' is full of it because honestly it is nothing other than the fact that it's face is black.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·1d ago

Full of it? Let's all take a breath, shall we? Lisa, I never realized it was a cat until someone pointed that out on this thread. I can only tell what my reaction was, what it looked like to me.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Tom McAfee](https://nextdoor.com/profile/23756104/), Cascades·Edited 1d ago

This might be a good time to re-visit the "pledge" from Elevate the Discussion: “I pledge to discuss challenging community issues with thoughtfulness, to treat people whose opinions differ from mine with respect, and to focus on ideas, policies and solutions. I will encourage others to do the same. I will speak up and publicly object when I hear name-calling, stereotypes, disparaging comments and slurs. I will do this because our community’s health and social well-being is important to me and I know that we cannot effectively deal with challenging problems without these commitments.” And to the extent that any of my comments didn't live up to this pledge, I apologize to all.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

My point being even if it wasn't a cat, if it was just a painted on face, it does in no way compare to the other of having any resemblance to a lynching like people are saying. To people's arguments that they look like lynchings because their arms are sagging and have their heads drooping which makes them look dead. Well the cat has none of those. It's arms are straight out and his head is held high like they keep saying they would prefer. I'm saying the only problem people have with that one is the fact that is has a blackface, yet still have to turn it into something it's not by comparing it to a lynching

 Thank

2 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

Lisa Rod, when you say "...yet still have to turn it into something..." you are not respecting other people's thoughts and feelings. No one is trying to make this into something that it isn't. We are telling you how we really feel and think. Also, we want people of all races to feel welcome to come to the Ross Valley. It may not bother you to see the image, but imagine how it might appear to someone who lives here or visits who is African-American.

 Thank

5 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·1d ago

Lisa. I think you are being grossly insensitive. You're not the best judge of how this looks to OTHERS. I had a double take on it. If I and others are politely informing you that it is offensive, why not accept that and I and hopefully others can accept that this was not your intent. Respect for community views and values would seem something we all could support. Thank heavens people here react that way rather than support objects that could be deemed to be a message of white supremacy and discrimination. Please reflect further on this matter. Ron Loshin

 Thank

1 Thank

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

I have many African American friends who have all seen them and are not personally offended or disturbed by the scarecrows, -although they agree and say if anything was to look offensive to someone it would be the drooping one, which i did say before I can see where people are coming from and like I said can be an easy change, but in regards to the cat one, I think it is way too easy for people to turn things into something racist, literally just because it has a black face! It's clearly not racist in any way or degrading to African Americans is any way but it is still a big issue in these comments. And like everyone else here I am just expressing my opinion.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

In correction to my last comment I meant to say it is not meant to be degrading in any way. In my opinion If it looked like the other one that was hanging all droopy like that I would entirely agree with you all, but the fact that it is exactly how most of you are proposing a scarecrow should look, it just doesn't make sense to me that the problem with it is it has a black cats face. It doesn't look like it's being hanged, or have a drooping head so I just don't understand the correlation to anything problematic

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Paul, why should scarecrows be "happy, friendly"? Especially at Halloween? Are we supposed to just neuter anything remotely disturbing to someone because they say it disturbs them or might disturb others? We're already seeing books by Mark Twain removed from schools or re-written to be less "offensive". Shall we ban art and speech too because someone doesn't like how something looks or what is said? How boring our towns would be if we censor art to the point that everyone would be happy with it (knowing full well that the people that were happy with it before would be missing what they previously enjoyed). Where would that leave us? Mediocre, expressionless, it would seem to me. You wrote that Lisa's scarecrow is acceptable, but it seems to me that anything placed with its arms out could be construed by some to resemble a crucifixion. And it's head is clearly "down" - even though there's no face that I can see. Does that not imply a lynching even though that seems to be the criteria for it from previous posts? Oh, it's missing hands and feet - clearly rotted off or cut off as someone previously posted. Creepy! O.O At some point, this goes back to the First Amendment and protected speech (which includes art). Have we learned nothing from Fahrenheit 451?

 Thank

4 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

If I say, "Ouch! You're stepping on my foot," your task is to get your foot off, not to defend your right to keep it there, whether you intended to step on me or not.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Absolutely, Sandy. That would be a violation of your physical space and is protected. However, just because someone might not like a particular piece of art or the way that it may be displayed does not create an imperative for the artist or commissioner to adjust it to someone else's liking. That is protected speech (as long as it doesn't violate a First Amendment protection) and should be appreciated by all for what it is.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[rancine Loutas](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9401399/)

[Francine Loutas](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9401399/), San Anselmo-Brookside·1d ago

It’s all to scary!!!!!🤡😱🎭 San Anselmo had a Halloween Event with hundreds of happy Children. All the shops handed Out candy, the street was packed With children in costume. Nobody looked traumatized, So please don’t read more into this???? It’s freaking HALLOWEEN Get a life!!!!!

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·1d ago

Dave. Many of us are sensitive to the arts including me and to freedom of expression and to good judgment. Yes, as you write: "At some point, this goes back to the First Amendment and protected speech (which includes art). Have we learned nothing from Fahrenheit 451?" But what is that point? That is the point. We're in a racially divisive period and will remain so as long as Trump and his kind are in The White House. Do you favor statutes celebrating the heroes of the Civil War who fought to maintain and spread slavery? I go a very long way towards erring on freedom of expression and art. And if that's your view it is a defensible one and one in another era I might support as well. But this is Trump time and this is another divisive element that respectfully, I believe, is ill-advised under present circumstances.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

I really don't know what to say, Ron. President Trump has something to do with this? Really? The point of the Fahrenheit 451 statement, if it was missed, is that by banning things that some people might find unpleasant - for whatever their reasons might be - that ALL of society loses something. It might not be much at once, but in the end, it adds up over time and everyone can suffer greatly from the loss. Thank goodness for the wisdom of our nation's forefathers, the Constitution that they wrote, and the liberties that we enjoy because of it. Let us not waste their efforts and those of the generations that have come before us to provide what we have today.

 Thank

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·1d ago

Racism has been a constant in this world long before trump was our president. But what it has done is make us all more aware of how alive it really is in the world and how people aren't afraid to express it now, which I disagree with entirely, but it has also made people much more sensitive to something like this. The fact that these scarecrows have been there every year since as long as I can remember but now has become such a debate and issue shows that even more. Whether he is our president or not it will still be a part of our world no matter how much we fight it.

 Thank

1 Thank

[evin Finnane](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3593992/)

[Devin Finnane](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3593992/), Sleepy Hollow·1d ago

When I saw these in fairfax I guessed people would see these as offensive. I get their idea, but there is definitely a more thoughtful way of doing it. I say take them down. Come up with something less sensitive.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Ron: To answer your question about civil war statues (I'll assume that answering that question is important, but I think it deserves its own entry): I do not favor statues celebrating the heroes of the Civil War who fought to maintain and spread slavery. (Your words, not mine). I DO favor the expression of others, misguided or not, that make us think about times past, present, and future, lest we make the same mistakes as the past or lack vision for the future. Removing protected art for political correctness's or insensitivity's sake does all of us and future generations a disservice, whether we recognize it today or not.

 Thank

[Aria Pearson](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15110821/), Camino De Herrera·1d ago

I remember when I first saw these decorations, not sure what year it was, I definitely did a double take and felt uncomfortable. I think it's because they look so much like real dead bodies. They definitely invoked the idea of hangings and lynchings for me. I completely understand that that is not the intention, but the thoughts come instinctually and then I have to take a quick beat to remind myself that they're scarecrows and push the thoughts away. That picture that Lisa posted looks like a floating witch or ghoul. It has a supernatural vibe. The scarecrows in town have a realistic horror movie vibe, which definitely has it's place, but I personally don't think it's the best idea for downtown decorations. Like someone else mentioned, I have to avoid downtown SA in October if I have my kids with me because they get freaked out by these (even though they don't get freaked out by all the bloody skeletons and zombies and stuff in front of people's houses). It's the realism and the position and the drooping heads that takes these past creepy into the realm of disturbing. I don't have a problem with disturbing images generally if they are meant as art and are meant to invoke that kind of discomfort (think horror movies or controversial art installations). But in those instances you make the choice to go see the disturbing images. My personal preference for downtown decorations, which you can't avoid very easily, is for more supernatural and spooky decorations, rather than realistic and disturbing.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[andy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/)

[Sandy Handsher](https://nextdoor.com/profile/628428/), Cascades·1d ago

Dave, No one has suggested removing the scarecrows. People have suggested not hanging them.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[christine aralia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/19593220/), Yolansdale·1d ago

I really like the idea of some collective community re-imagining of how this Halloween decoration can be transformed into a collective community-sensitive expressional halloween art installation for next year that honors the day of the dead and halloween :-)

 Thank

6 Thanks

[upe Ledesma](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3673508/)

[Lupe Ledesma](https://nextdoor.com/profile/3673508/), West Fairfax·1d ago

I'm a 30 year resident of this county, I have lived in San Anselmo for 10 years and worked there for 20. As a brown woman, I have always found these hanging "scarecrows" disturbing and reminiscent of lynchings (so many other choices of decor could be made). As far as "tradition", all cultures have traditions that have expired in our human evolution and would serve us better if laid to rest. Presently, I have been called too sensitive when my toes were stepped on, "angry". My local $hopping is now done in Fairfax and San Rafael where I feel better welcomed.

 Thank

10 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 1d ago

Yes, Sandy. And not using a black color for faces (whether it's a black cat or not), or allowing the heads to bend down, and making sure that they have proper appendages, and burlap for nondescript heads, and don't look too scary... Maybe let the artists who created them decide how they will look? Oh wait...

 Thank

[Lauren Firestein](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15281046/), Sorich Park·Edited 1d ago

If the scarecrow competition were in an actual field, or an open space, or even on a lawn that would make it way less disturbing - heads hanging or not. I don't know anywhere in history, halloween or not, where scarecrows were hung on random light poles in a town. The context is the issue here I think - and the fact that there are no other halloween decorations around them. I actually don't think it's the political climate that has brought this to issue - rather is the fact that we have NEXTDOOR now...a place to actually discuss stuff like this. How many years have these been up and have people been disturbed by them and never had the ability to comment on it? We have no idea because no one ever had a forum to do so. Now we know. I don't think we are more sensitive, we are just now more connected to each other. For me this is less about some people being offended or disturbed, and more about this how they make this town look. Given the reality of racism and suicide, the way these were executed and the fact that no one seemed bothered by it actually made me embarrassed to live here. I'm glad I now know that others feel the way I do. I understand the contribution that Cedars makes to the community, I have been there multiple times. But given the context of light poles in a small town, can't we come up with something else that doesn't disturb so many people? Why not witches on brooms or skeletons or black cats or wearwolves? Or put the competition on a lawn or somewhere that scarecrows make more sense.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·1d ago

Lupe, thank you for speaking out (and shopping in Fairfax ;-) ). But it's a shame that you would feel unwelcome in San Anselmo. What could be done to make you feel more welcomed?

 Thank

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·23h ago

To Dave - Yes, Trump and current events certainly relate to how people see and interpret things. If statues are needed to remind people of past ill deeds then we have surely failed in our education. But such failure does not extend here. Except for racists, people no longer need statues glorifying those who fought against freedom and our nation's principles to make them aware of the eveils of such actions. Taking your logic to the extreme, you might favor a statue of Hitler to sit on Times Square so we never forget the horror's caused by Hitler's Germany. No we don't need libertarian ideology or ill-conceived statues to remind us of life's horrors of humankind. And if there are such works of "art" to preserve, let's place them in museums where they can be displayed along with an explanation of their historical context. I much prefer to keep pictures of the flag raising at Iwo Jima and at The World Trade Center, where I was almost killed on 9-11 then pictures of Hitler and al-Qaeda. That's enough to remind me of such evils and my faith in our countrywomen and men gives me great confidence that it is enough for them as well. You might spend your time better protesting Trump's attempted intrusion on our free press then defending statues celebrating attempts to preserve slavery. but I see little if anything from those who proclaim libertarian principles, who should be part of the front line in defense of free press and expression.

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 23h ago

Ron, you have absolutely no business trying to tell me how to best use my time, or anyone else for that matter. Who are you to think you should do so? Were it not for those who would defend our liberties, we might have nothing at all. (Libertarians or not themselves as the case may be). Chalk one up for divisiveness. Good job, Sir.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·23h ago

Forgot it. Your rudeness and unacceptable language says it all. This is my last note to you. Do what you will with your time. I suggested a possible good use for it to speak up for freedom of speech and expression. I embrace you choosing to spend your time as you wish and to make public your feelings.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[ondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/)

[Sondra Card](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12980308/), Kent Flats·23h ago

Thank you to all who have expressed their views. For the most part the majority of people on this thread have been respectful and have not attacked or put anyone down personally whose views may differ from their own with a few exceptions. Please let’s not bully or justify talking to anyone with a condescending tone. That’s really not necessary or constructive.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[ara Gereau](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2188157/)

[Cara Gereau](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2188157/), Yolanda Station·23h ago

And this is the definition of white privilege here - while some minority voices say this bothers us, this makes us feel unwelcome the privileged respond with this is our space, we like it, you are no fun, this is our tradition, don't be so sensitive, we don't want to rethink anything, this is our fun, (i.e. We don't need to make space for you, we don't need to understand you, we don't need to make you feel safe, we don't need to understand how some traditions we find cozy make you cringe, the media supports us, the justice system supports us, be quiet or go away).

 Thank

12 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·23h ago

Amen! We can be very grateful that our community embraces a broad spectrum of views and an ability to openly share such views among us. People get excited but I think all have added to our understanding of the differing viewpoints, each of which has merit. The fact that this has given cause to so much emotion and strong expression of viewpoints shows that it evoked community attention, which is so helpful. Let's put aside the insults and be glad that we could openly discuss this as a community. We all care deeply about this matter unlike so many other communities. I thank everyone who participated.

 Thank

4 Thanks

[wynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/)

[Gwynaeth Atwood-Pettit](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4609053/), Sorich Park·22h ago

Cara’s comment is THE most important one on this entire thread! STOP and LISTEN,People! Actually,take into consideration of how other’s who are feeling uncomfortable,feel. Please stop justifying you stance just because you aren’t effected by it! It’s high-time we start listening to those who aren’t being listened to! This is far bigger then the scary “scarecrows”! Wake-UP!

 Thank

6 Thanks

[atrice Hickox](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8554133/)

[Patrice Hickox](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8554133/), Fairfax Park·22h ago

yes

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 20h ago

I'm still trying to fathom how Cara's apparent (forgive me for lack of a better word) confusion of a numerical minority: those that don't like the scarecrows or are silent about it, with an apparent numerical majority: those that do or are silent about it, becomes "white privilege". I mean this in the sense that the town council was elected by a majority of local voters (which I doubt were solely "white", but clearly most were) to perform actions on behalf of their constituents and the town council obviously approved the display. Would the same thing be said if clowns were mounted on poles around town? Nothing "racist" about that (that I'm aware of), yet I know of a number of people - which would likely make up a numerical minority - who would freak out about the sight of them. Point (to Gwynnaeth) being that people are listening just by virtue of the conversation. Those one one side or the other of a topic don't necessarily have to cater to the other side's interest in order to have a valuable dialogue about it.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·20h ago

This is more work to discuss than to fix. Just mount them lower next time and be done. By the way, I don’t believe in banning books or revising history. Someone mentioned that Germany doesn’t have Hitler monuments — that doesn’t have much to do with this. Funny thing is people around here love VWs and that company was started by Nazis and built by slave labor. Other thing that bugs me about Germans is according to everyone I’ve ever meet, their ancestors were never involved in the war. Maybe they need a few reminders of how evil their were. History is important to remember.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·20h ago

I just noticed that Dave failed to post his actual response to me that he sent as a private message. He conveniently left out his obscenity. Here is what he actually sent me in reply In addition, he misstated my suggestion as to how he could better spend his time as me telling him how to spend his time. Dave Lieberman, Deer Park Ron, you have absolutely no business trying to tell me how to best use my time. Who the F are you to think you should do so? Were it not for those who would defend our liberties, we might have nothing at all. (Libertarians or not themselves as the case may be). Chalk one up for divisiveness. Good job, Sir. Original post by wendy todd from Yolansdale (138 replies): Is anyone else disturbed by these images? Nov 2 in General to 41 neighborhoods View or reply Thank · Private message Instead he posted: Dave Lieberman, Deer Park·Edited 2h ago Ron, you have absolutely no business trying to tell me how to best use my time, or anyone else for that matter. Who are you to think you should do so? Were it not for those who would defend our liberties, we might have nothing at all. (Libertarians or not themselves as the case may be). Chalk one up for divisiveness. Good job, Sir. I think we can all put responses to Dave at rest. He is outside of our boundaries. I also think our community newsletter would be well served to bar those who can't adhere to common decency and language. It's outrages. Had I not noticed that he posted something different than his true note, I would have been more tolerant. But when someone has to censor their own words without then sending an apology, my high sense of forgiveness put aside.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·19h ago

Actually when he first replied to you, and It was the one I read hours ago, it was his original message that he posted but people were instantly so offended he said 'the F' that maybe he changed it.

 Thank

1 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·Edited 18h ago

Actually, Ron, I never sent you a private message. I posted the original message in public, recognized that it was in appropriately written (yes, the "F" was mine originally, no other letters), and immediately edited it. If anyone saw that and was offended, then so be it, my bad, and please accept my apology for it. (Second paragraph redacted. Enough said. I can put it back if requested)

 Thank

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·18h ago

I accept your apology. I never saw your original post. I’m engaged in other things besides following your postings, Another reader just brought this to my attention. So concluding that I am lying is another misjudgment. Had you sent me the revision, I would have left it at that. I mean you no insult. Your point was deserving of attention and respect. My intent was to reply in a respectful manner. I thought and think that I did just that. That you judged it not to be so, shows that my wording could have been better. I impute no malice to you nor to the images posted. They meant no harm. It is important that we all respect one another and consider each other’s viewpoints. I will take more care in the future should I comment on any matter to show my respect for the other’s point of view. Thank you for bringing this to my attention and good wishes to you. . Ron

 Thank

1 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·18h ago

Thank you, Ron. Same to you. Good wishes.

 Thank

[Adam Blum](https://nextdoor.com/profile/4111496/), Yolansdale·18h ago

I like the slightly jarring scarecrows. This town needs edgy creativity, that is part of the culture of San Anselmo. Once we start to put downward pressure on artistic expression we will lose an important character of our town.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Lisa Rod](https://nextdoor.com/profile/9165260/), Cascades·18h ago

In your defense Ron Nextdoor sends an email of all replies on the thread that you have been posting on, so I can see how maybe the one you got in your email may have made you think it was a private message. But he's fair in his response as putting someone's character on blast without the true facts can be offensive and cause for a defense. I don't believe you did it with bad intentions or means of malice or harm, in conclusion going back to the whole start of this conversation, the scarecrows were not our of no bad intentions or harm but it's all about how each individual perceives it. Some may be offended and dislike them, where others may have no problem with them. No one person is right or wrong, we are all just here stating our personal opinions

 Thank

1 Thank

[christine aralia](https://nextdoor.com/profile/19593220/), Yolansdale·18h ago

I hope there is the community will to see a space where the spirit of halloween can be whimsically expressed in a way that honors and respects our entire community. Power of intention..... please as a community see that It is possible for all the disparate perspectives of what a scarecrow traditionally or artistically could represent to be done in a way that is enlightening, empowering, respectful, sensitive and beautiful way....Isn't this something we all hope for San Anselmo?

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·18h ago

Thanks Dave. Obviously the scarecrow meant no to do no harm. I'll even go so far as to say that it may have been unreasonable to think that anyone could have taken offense to it. But once we know that people did - I among them - can't we find other creative ways to express the fun of this holiday that does not so painfully offend members of the community, several of whom have shared heartfelt personal stories of how it upset them? We all must be on guard against intrusions into the freedom of artistic expression. If it comes down to free speech or enduring offensive artistic expression, I'm for free artistic expression. I grew up in the era of Lenny Bruce while I attended NYU in the Village and was fortunate enough to know him. But must we make this an either-or matter? I think we can all do better than that. I hope so. Ron

 Thank

1 Thank

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·18h ago

Nothing remotely edgy about these at all and no one is saying they should be banned. Some of us are just saying they might consider installing them lower to avoid any misconceptions. That’s really it.

 Thank

[Randy Raugh](https://nextdoor.com/profile/10722907/), Oak Springs Woodside·18h ago

No

 Thank

[Dave Lieberman](https://nextdoor.com/profile/15339622/), Deer Park·17h ago

Thanks Ron. I'm sure that there's a solution out there to improve things for next year's display that is more inclusive. Good to be talking through this.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Ron Loshin](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1196558/), Sleepy Hollow·15h ago

Thanks Dave. Once there is understanding, sensitivity and mutual respect, which I hope we have helped to foster, solutions will come very naturally. Good getting to know you in spite of the circumstances. Thanks for staying with this so we could work through our disagreements in a constructive manner. Ron

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Mark Krajan](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1073134/), Yolanda Station·15h ago

Those scarecrows with the tight jeans are disturbingly insensitive to all those Marin Dads who wear baggy Dad jeans.

 Thanked!

6 Thanks

[imberley Michelle](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1760721/)

[Kimberley Michelle](https://nextdoor.com/profile/1760721/), Sorich Park·15h ago

GLAD they are being cut down forever. Wake up to reality people. They are very obviously offensive to African American people, no matter what your reasoning is. It's a fact, now take them down.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Meaghen Blakely](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8913521/), Kent Flats·6h ago

I understand how neighbors could feel bothered by the placement of these scarecrows. I really do. Here's an idea 💡 perhaps some of y'all can volunteer your time at Cedar of Marin and come up with a solution for next Halloween. Possibly the community could come together and find a safe and inoffensive place for the scarecrows. As a mother of a special needs child I want to express how our kids can look forward to certain events all year. It's important to them. Some of these scarecrow makers may not understand how people may find these distasteful because they just see a scarecrow. ☮️💟

 Thanked!

5 Thanks

[atrice Hickox](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8554133/)

[Patrice Hickox](https://nextdoor.com/profile/8554133/), Fairfax Park·5h ago

those decorations have been hanging around san anselmo for years..and..they were never ok. take them down. there are pumpkins and spiders and bats, and cats..lots of halloween images that arent lynched looking bags of straw. my grandaughter is terrified of those things and i am not thrilled about them either. what will they do about thanksgiving?

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Paul Asper](https://nextdoor.com/profile/12580350/), Deer Park·4h ago

At they model a healthy BMI.

 Thank

[ina Andropoulos](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5962821/)

[Tina Andropoulos](https://nextdoor.com/profile/5962821/), San Anselmo-Brookside·4h ago

We thought some looked like lynchings. Some are fine, though.

 Thank

1 Thank

[ndrea Pinkson](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2304599/)

[Andrea Pinkson](https://nextdoor.com/profile/2304599/), Oak Springs Woodside·3h ago

I HATE these.....freaks me out every time I go to town.

 Thank

2 Thanks

[laudia Tomaso](https://nextdoor.com/profile/286184/)

[Claudia Tomaso](https://nextdoor.com/profile/286184/), Pacheco Park/Downtown·2h ago

i think san anselmo can do much better - these 'decorations' are in extremely bad taste.

 Thank

3 Thanks

[Suziannah Helms](https://nextdoor.com/profile/6560658/), West End·1h ago

Perhaps they can take all the scarecrows, and create a pumpkin patch with them… And the red Baron! Right in front of the library

 Thank

1 Thank

