

Weather Warning Sirens

City of Bloomington warning sirens are activated by the McLean County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), with a backup at MetCom.

The EMA has a network of trained storm spotters that are activated when severe weather conditions arise. The Bloomington Fire Department supplies one of these storm spotters and positions them on the upper floors of State Farm's Downtown Building.

The storm spotter communicates with dispatch and the EMA by radio. Typically, reports of funnel clouds are verified by a storm spotter or other credible agency representative before sirens are activated.

It is typical to receive hundreds of reports of funnel clouds throughout the community. As such, it is important these reports are confirmed, as most of them turn out to be false.

Outdoor warning sirens are designed to alert people who are outside their homes and away from other media outlets. While sirens can be heard inside, there are a variety of factors that can influence someone's ability to hear a siren, such as topography, obstructions between the siren and the structure, construction of the building or residence, other noise sources (such as television, radios, hail, and wind) as well as distance from the siren.

The City's sirens are designed to have a 1.5 mile coverage area based on the decibel level per the manufacturer.

When the EMA determines siren activation is necessary, all sirens in the system are activated. They do not activate sirens

in a specific area only.

Individuals are responsible for monitoring conditions for their personal safety. The National Weather Service has created a warning system that consists of Watches and Warnings for a variety of weather conditions to keep people informed.

The informational watches and warnings are broadcast over television and radio. When weather systems approach, people should monitor either the TV or radio to keep up to date on the conditions. Weather alert radios are designed to receive broadcasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) thru the National Weather Service (NWS). These devices only broadcast weather information and are a valuable tool for monitoring severe conditions and are available in both desktop and portable units.

It is also important for individuals to understand the NWS Warning system. A **Watch** (Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado) means that conditions are right for these types of storms to occur. During a watch, people should monitor conditions and be prepared to take shelter.

A **Warning** means that severe weather is occurring in the area (Thunderstorm or Tornado) and that people should seek shelter immediately. People should not wait until the sirens are activated or a tornado is actually sighted in their specific area as this is too late.

A Warning is when people need to be in a protected place monitoring conditions until they improve and the situation



Storm spotters watch passing storms from the top floor of State Farm's downtown building during severe weather outbreaks.

passes.

As with any system, some failures do occur. Warning sirens are tested once a month in order to ensure that all are operational.

The redundancy of the system allows for outdoor users to hear sirens even when one closer may not sound. The Engineering Division of The City of Bloomington Public Works Department has personnel who maintain and repair non-operational sirens.

It is helpful for the public to assist the city in identifying sirens that are not operating during the monthly test by calling the Dispatch center at (309)820-8888.

If the public has questions or concerns they are asked to call the Bloomington Fire Department Headquarters at (309) 434-2500.

Why Worry?

Lightning

- Causes an average of 55-60 fatalities and 400 injuries each year.
- Occurs with all thunderstorms.
- Costs more than \$1 billion in insured losses each year.

Tornadoes

- Cause an average of 60-65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries each year.
- Can produce wind speeds in excess of 200 mph.
- Can be 1 mile wide and stay on the ground over 50 miles.

Straight-line Winds

- Can exceed 125 mph.
- Can cause destruction equal to a tornado.
- Are extremely dangerous to aviation.

Flash Floods and Floods

- Are the #1 cause of deaths associated with thunderstorms, more than 90 fatalities each year.

Hail

- Can be larger than a softball (5 inches in diameter).
- Causes more than \$1 billion in crop and property damage each year.



Enhanced Fujita Scale

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses the EF-Scale to assign a tornado a 'rating' based on estimated wind speeds and related damage.

| Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| EF Rating | 3 Second Wind Gust (mph) |
| 0 | 65-85 |
| 1 | 86-110 |
| 2 | 111-135 |
| 3 | 136-135 |
| 4 | 166-200 |
| 5 | Over 200 |

City of Bloomington Recycling Program Honored with Award



City of Bloomington Public Work crews collect materials from recycling carts set out on the curb by city residents. The Illinois Recycling Association has honored the city with the 2013 Outstanding Government Program Award.

As a result of the continued increase in resident participation and the commitment of city employees, the Illinois Recycling Association has awarded the City of Bloomington the 2013 Outstanding Non-Profit, Community or Government Program Recycling Award.

The award was received during the IRA's annual meeting held at the Bloomington-Normal Marriot Hotel and Conference Center on June 4.

Prior to receiving the award City of Bloomington Mayor Tari Renner said the announcement came as no surprise based on the significant efforts residents and city employees have shown in regard to the recycling program, "The award signifies that we, as a responsible recycling community, are headed down the right path. We encourage all residents to work alongside city employees and do their part in recycling efforts."

The IRA award recognizes a municipal government recycling or waste reduction program that achieves exceptional results in sustainable resources management that focuses on waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

City of Bloomington City Manager David Hales praised city employees for the dedication and commitment they have shown in assisting residents with recyclable materials, "I applaud our city employees for this achievement. They have all been key players in this success, from those out driving the trucks from house to house, to staff members who make the decisions on which direction the recycling program should go."

Solid Waste Superintendent Robert Henson said the city collected 393 tons of recyclable material in January, an

increase of 65 percent from January 2012. In February of this year 317 tons was collected, increasing last year's February bench mark by 68 percent.

"The city expects our recycle quantities to increase this year as we receive more requests for recycling carts from residents," said Henson. "The city will continue to sponsor educational programs in schools, in an effort to increase recycling in homes. We thank the residents for their participation in the recycling program and encourage them to continue."

Currently the city's Public Works Department services 25,871 residents of which 68 percent are utilizing the city's recycle cart program. This number has grown significantly over the past three years when it was at an all-time low of just 40 percent.

Jim Karch, Public Works Director for the city, said he feels education and partnership is also an important element to the program's success, a program that first began in the late 1980's.

"Over the past few years we have begun the process of increasing awareness through the city's website and while working with other programs such as the Ecology Action Center and Midwest Fiber," said Karch.

In regard to the city website, several items pertaining to community awareness and education can be found on the Public Works webpage. Items such as the interactive game "Recycling Jeopardy" as well as helpful videos allow the user to test their knowledge on recycling trivia.

For more information about the recycling program or to request a recycling cart, contact the Public Works Department at 309-434-2225 or by email at: publicworks@cityblm.org. Details are also available on the Public Works webpage at www.cityblm.org.



Several blue topped recycling carts are stored at City of Bloomington locations and are ready to ship to local residents upon request. The standard size for the carts is 95 gallons however there is a 65 gallon option.

SAFETY

Public Reminder

City Ordinance

Chapter 38 : Section 76 : Unauthorized Obstruction or Encumbrance on Streets, Etc. - Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful to place, throw, or leave or cause to be placed or left any encroachment, obstruction, or encumbrance in or upon any street, avenue, or alley except as authorized by this Code.

Chapter 38 : Section 77 : Same - Liability.

Any person who shall place or leave or cause to be left any encroachment, obstruction, or encumbrance upon any street, avenue, or alley shall in cases be liable to the City and to private persons for all injury or damage arising therefrom.

Chapter 38 : Section 81 : Removal of Obstruction.

The City Manager and all public officers of the City are hereby authorized to cause any obstruction, encroachment, article, or thing which may be in violation of the law or the provisions of this Article to be removed within a reasonable time after a notice to the owner, agent, or person in possession of the premises where such violation occurs or after notice to the person causing any such obstruction. In case the owner, agent, or person in possession of any such premises or the persons causing such obstruction cannot be found, then the City Manager shall cause any such obstruction to be removed at once. In addition to the penalty in this Article prescribed, the person or persons causing such obstruction shall pay all costs and expenses of such removal. In cases when notice has been given, the person or persons so notified, failing after a reasonable time to remove any such obstruction, shall be liable in a like manner as in cases where no notice is given. Every person who shall oppose or resist the execution of the orders of the City Manager in such regard shall be subject to a penalty of not less than Ten Dollars (\$10.00) nor more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).

Community Update

Safety Reminder Issued By City Officials

“The ordinance was created to keep people safe such as our children and we hope that parents and guardians can see the same concern we do.”

*- Jim Karch,
City of Bloomington Public Works Director*

City of Bloomington officials are reminding residents that obstructions to a roadway can cause severe safety issues for motorists and children.

According to Jim Karch, Public Works Director for the City of Bloomington, during summer months it is not uncommon to find items such as basketball nets and street hockey goals near or in suburban streets.

“It’s not surprising to find these items in the roadways where children have gathered to play during the summer,” said Karch. “However, having these items in the streets is not just a safety concern for motorists but it causes a major safety issue for the children who are playing in the streets.”


Under Chapter 38 (section 76) of the city ordinance code it is unlawful to place an item such as a basketball net or street hockey goal in a roadway, regardless if




Pictured is a private basketball net mounted on city property inches from a public roadway. The basketball net has since been removed by the owner.

the roadway is considered “not busy”. “The ordinance was created to keep people safe such as our children and we hope that parents and guardians can see the same concern we do.”

To report a safety concern such as a road obstruction, contact the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888. For all emergencies dial 911.





During this time of year garage sales become a standard event in homes and neighborhoods. While the City of Bloomington doesn't prohibit these sales, there are a few ordinances in place to keep them from becoming a blight and nuisance. Please keep the following concerns in mind:

- No more than three (3) garage/group sales are to be held on any premises during any calendar year.
- The duration of the sale is limited to three (3) consecutive days or two consecutive weekends.
- Garage sales shall only be conducted during the daylight hours.
- A group sale shall be considered as

having been conducted for and by all premises from which merchandise is contributed or on which merchandise is sold.

- Garage sale signage shall not be placed in the public right of way nor placed on any utility box or pole. Illegal signs are subject to removal by City staff.
- Sales found to be in violation of the ordinances adopted by the City of Bloomington are subject to being terminated.

For complete details visit:
www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=262,
 or send emails to PACE@cityblm.org, or call
 (309) 434-2226.

Creativity

City Manager’s Monthly Report Wins Design Award

The City of Bloomington’s City Manager’s Monthly Report has recently been presented with the Gold Hermes Creative Award.



City Manager, David Hales said the award is a salute to staff members who are responsible for constructing the report that is directed by Assistant to the City Manager, Alex McElroy.

“This acknowledgement is a reflection of all the hard work staff performs on a daily basis. City staff does an exceptional job making sure their duties in serving our community are accomplished and that our City Council and citizens are informed of all the work being performed with their tax dollars”.

Of the approximately 5,600 organizations that entered the contest, 15 percent were awarded at the Platinum level, 19 percent were awarded at the Gold level and 11 percent were awarded Honorable Mention Certificates.

Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative profession-

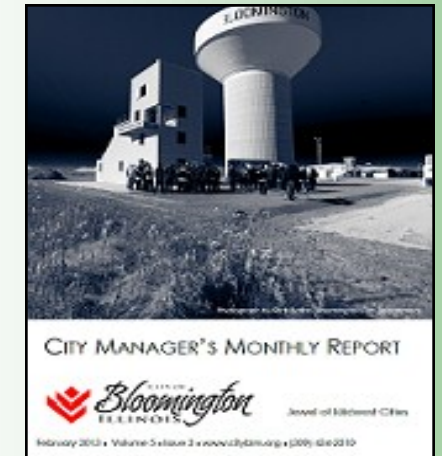
als involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional materials and programs, and emerging technologies.

Entries into the competition originate from corporate marketing and communication departments, advertising agencies, PR firms, Fortune 500 companies, graphic design shops, production companies, web and digital creators, freelancers and local governments.

The Hermes Creative Awards is administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. This international organization consists of thousands of marketing, communication, advertising, public relations, media production, web and freelance professionals.

The AMCP oversees awards and recognition programs, provides judges and sets standards for excellence.

The competition has grown to one of the largest of its kind in the world. A look at the winners shows a range in size from individual communicators to media conglomerates and Fortune 500 companies. The competition is so well



The above City Managers Monthly Report was submitted in the Hermes Award Contest.

thought of in the industry that national public relations organizations, local ad clubs, and local business communicator chapters are entrants.

Each month, staff creates an informative City Manager’s Report that allows City Council and residents of Bloomington to remain well informed of City operations and performance levels.

The monthly report can be found at www.cityblm.org/index.aspx?page=21&parent=4227.

Zoo News

Bloomington Zoo Goes Koo-Koo Over New Laughing Kookaburra Chick

“Since this is the first Laughing Kookaburra chick ever born at Miller Park Zoo, that makes it even more special.”

- Jay Tetzloff, Zoo Superintendent

For the first time in the facility’s 122 year history, a Laughing Kookaburra chick has hatched at Bloomington’s Miller Park Zoo.

The chick hatched on April 8, and the proud parents are a pair of Kookaburras that were introduced to the Zoo in 2011 (the male) and 2012 (the female). The two birds are currently the number one breeding pair in the country.

The Kookaburra is the largest of the kingfishers. It has one of the best-known calls in the animal kingdom, a rising “kook-kook-kook ka ka ka” made famous in jungle movies.



Pictured is a Kookaburra Bird that hatched on April 8th at the Miller Park Zoo.

The bird's cackling calls can be heard over great distances and are usually raised in a loud chorus of crazy "laughter" at dawn and dusk. Kookaburras mate for life and live in extend-

ed family groups. They usually occupy the same territory year-round. The Kookaburra nest in hollow trees, termite nests, or nooks and crevices of buildings.

“It’s always exciting to welcome a new animal to the Zoo,” explains Zoo Superintendent Jay Tetzloff. “Since this is the first Laughing Kookaburra chick ever born at Miller Park Zoo, that makes it even more special. I encourage everyone to come out and see the new addition!”

The addition to the Zoo family is on display in the Zoo’s Australia exhibit.

For more information contact Jay Tetzloff at the Miller Park Zoo, 309-434-2250. The Zoo is open from 9:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. everyday.

