

October 31, 2008

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Keeping Kids Safe on Halloween

Safety tips provided by Safe Kids Kansas

Halloween is an exciting holiday for children, but they can be vulnerable to injury on this night. To ensure trick-or-treaters stay safe, Safe Kids recommends that children:

- Always trick-or-treat with an adult.
- Only trick-or-treat in familiar areas that are well lit.
- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing; always walk, don't run, when crossing streets.
- Make eye contact with drivers and watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths; if there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- Wear light-colored, flame-retardant, costumes decorated with retro-reflective tape or stickers.
- Wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes to prevent trips and falls.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick to increase visibility to drivers.
- Wear face paint and makeup; a mask can restrict a child's vision.

Driving Safely on Halloween:

Drivers need to do their part to keep trick-or-treaters safe from harm. Motorists are reminded to be extra careful this Halloween and it is recommended that drivers:

- Be especially alert in residential neighborhoods.
- Drive more slowly and anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic on and near the road.
- Be sure to drive with your full headlights on so you can spot children from greater distances.
- Take extra time to actively look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Remember that costumes can limit children's visibility and they may not be able to see your vehicle.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Remember that children are excited on this night and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are during the typical rush-hour period, between 5:30 - 9:30PM.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and pedestrians.

The City of Merriam wishes you a safe and happy Halloween!

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Is Your Home Safe?

On November 2nd Change Your Clock -- Change Your Battery



A home fire impacts the life of an American family every 85 seconds. By providing an early warning and critical extra seconds to escape, smoke alarms cut in half your family's risk of dying in a home fire — but only if they work.

So, when you turn your clocks back on November 2, also make a lifesaving change in your household — change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. This simple habit takes just a moment, but is the best defense your family has against the devastating effects of a home fire.

Remember to Vote!

Merriam residents are encouraged to get out and vote in Tuesday's general election. Polls in Kansas are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on November 4th. For your convenience, area voting locations are listed below:

- Ward 1, Pct 1 - Irene B French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Dr
- Ward 1, Pct 2 - Irene B French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Dr
- Ward 2, Pct 1 - Merriam Christian Church, 9401 Johnson Dr
- Ward 2, Pct 2 - Merriam Park Elementary, 6100 Mastin
- Ward 3, Pct 1 - Merriam City Hall, 9000 W 62 Ter
- Ward 3, Pct 2 - Merriam City Hall, 9000 W 62 Ter
- Ward 4, Pct 1 - Rosedale Masonic Lodge #333, 6161 Slater St
- Ward 4, Pct 2 - Merriam Christian Church, 9401 Johnson Dr



To view your voter registration record, find your polling place and review your sample ballot, visit the Johnson County Elections Office website (www.jocoelection.org).

Auction of City Owned Property - November 7th



The City of Merriam, in conjunction with Bill Fair and Company, will be selling two commercial lots located along Antioch Road (at the I-35 Exit 230) by public auction on Friday, November 7, 2008.

These are highly visible lots with a special I-1 zoning district granted by the City of Merriam, suitable for many different types of industrial, commercial and retail uses.

Auction will be held on site at 11:00 a.m. For additional information including property descriptions, answers to common questions, terms of sale, acceptable use and zoning regulations, visit http://www.billfair.com/auction_detail.php?ID=393226.

Your name is on the e-Merriam Updates mailing list because of your interest in local government. We hope you will enjoy keeping current on Merriam City government happenings through the e-Merriam Updates. If for any reason you would no longer like to receive this e-mail, simply reply to this e-mail and place "UNSUBSCRIBE" in the subject line.

All this and more can be found on our website, www.merriam.org.