

2014 Tornado Update: Back In Business



Last July, a portion of our community was severely damaged by an EF1 tornado that damaged homes, businesses and razed 98 percent of the trees in Ideal Park.

A year later, I am pleased to report how well our community has recovered by pulling together with incredible spirit.

Although the tornado damage was restricted to a relatively small portion of our community, the response required an enormous amount of resources. Community service and public works employees were diverted from the usual street restoration work that takes place in the summer. They worked all-hands-on-deck for weeks to respond to and mitigate the tornado damage and to secure the safety of our residents.

We are proud of the response and attention our city manager and employees provided to the residents and businesses that were impacted by the tornado.

The individuals and organizations who came together to support our community during this time have my deepest gratitude. While I can't name them all, they included neighboring municipalities, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army,

Team Rubicon, Home Depot, Ideal Park Christian Reformed Church and many others who shared time, money and resources.

NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS

Thankfully, no residents were injured as a result of the tornado. Many organizations came to the aid of residents to provide for their basic needs in the days immediately following the tornado and to provide assistance in returning their homes to livable conditions.

With the help of the Tornado Recovery Assessment Case Team, 17 special family and individual cases were closed.

IDEAL PARK

Despite poor weather and flooding, staff and contractors have been working to perform basic restoration at Ideal Park.

We are very happy to report that the park is again open and available for community use, although it is in a very natural state without any playgrounds. Reservations for the park's lodge and shelter are being accepted as of July 1. To make a reservation, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 530-3164.

LOCAL BUSINESSES

A number of business operations were impacted by the tornado. We are happy to report that most have

successfully rebuilt and are back better than ever.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 5701 S. Division Ave. celebrated a grand "ReOpening" on Tuesday, May 12. The ReStore was able to add a drive-through donation drop off feature during its repairs.

On June 4, Zeeland Lumber held a ribbon cutting for its facility at 5836 Clay Ave. SW. The new facility is nearly double in size to accommodate expanded operations and new offices.

Work continues at The Well Mannered Dog Center, 5949 Clay Ave. SW. During repairs, Owner Kathryn Snyder has continued to provide training classes in partnership with the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department. The center is expected to reopen later this summer. Follow its progress at <https://www.facebook.com/WellManneredDogCenter>

It is a testament to City officials, employees and our community as a whole that we have recovered and grown stronger for the journey. I am proud to be the mayor of this fine city.

As always, I encourage you to be involved and be informed.

Mayor Jack A. Poll

News Briefs

MICHIGAN BLOOD

BLOOD DONORS make a life-saving difference. You may be eligible to give blood if you are a healthy person age 17 or older (or 16 with parent's/guardian's consent) weighing 110 pounds or more. MIBlood summer blood drives at Wyoming City Hall, 1155 28th St. SW, will be held in council chambers on Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday Aug. 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. Donors must sign in and present a photo identification or two forms of non-photo ID. Donors who are 16 will also need to present a parental consent form.

PUBLIC SAFETY

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS will be held Thursday, July 11 and Thursday, Aug. 13 at Wyoming Fire Station #1, 1500 Burton St. SW from 5 to 8 p.m. Pre-register by calling Safe Kids of Greater Grand Rapids at 391-7233, ext. 2.

SAFE CITY is a five-day summer program for children ages 5 - 7 years old. Children learn about bicycle safety, fire safety, pool safety and rules of the road. August sessions will be held Monday through Thursday at Pinery Park Lodge in the afternoon from 1-3 p.m. and in the evening from 6-8 p.m. Friday sessions will be combined and held from 5-7 p.m. for a ceremony and cookout. The cost is \$10 per child for Wyoming residents and \$15 for non-residents. Spaces are limited. Register online at wyomingmi.gov or call 530-3164.

LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY IS CLOSED ON SUNDAYS for summer hours until Sept. 13.

HEALTH INSURANCE ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE will be available for adults on Thursday, July 16 and Thursday Aug. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. Cherry Street Health Services enrollment staff and other community organizations will provide information about the Healthy Michigan Plan and assistance in applying. There will be a question and answer session as well as on-site enrollment assistance. For further information, call (866) 299-1339 or visit www.cherryhealth.org.

SUMMER READING AT KDL includes fun, prizes and programs for all ages. Check out the program guide and event calendar on the Wyoming branch page at www.kdl.org. Summer reading programs run through Aug. 8.

ADULT BOOK CLUB is a friendly, informal discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Upcoming selections include "The Secret Daughter," by Shilpi Somaya Gowda in July and "To Kill a Mockingbird," by Harper Lee in August.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE on Saturday, Aug. 15 will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Find great used books at bargain prices. At 2 p.m., purchase a bag for \$3 and take home all items that fit into it. All proceeds will benefit Wyoming Friends of the Library projects.

SAVE SEEDS FROM YOUR GARDEN to save money. Get the latest hands-on tips and tricks for harvesting, saving and reusing your heirloom seeds year after year. Rachele Boswick of Earthkeeper Farm will lead the workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

For further details on these and the library's many programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out www.kdl.org or call 784-2007.

Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department	530-7250
Public Works	530-7260
Utilities	261-3550
Planning & Community Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	784-2007

Meetings

City Council Meeting | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

City Council Work Sessions | on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Planning Commissions Meetings | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Zoning Board Of Appeals | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers.

Parks & Recreation Commission | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conference Room

Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor
 Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,
 Council Member-at-Large
 Dan Burrill, Council Member-at-Large
 Kent Vanderwood, Council Member-at-Large
 Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Council Member
 Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Council Member
 Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Council Member

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