

Volume
2
Issue
6
June
2018

Willard Watch

56TH ANNUAL
FREEDOM FEST
CELEBRATION



AT
JACKSON STREET PARK



A message from the Clerk....

We have an exciting month coming up for the City of Willard! Don't miss the Big BAM Bicycle Ride coming through town June 18th. Live bands, good food, an attempt at breaking a Guinness World Record, and much more! You won't want to miss it!

June 30th is our annual Freedom Fest, which is set to be bigger and better than ever. Fun for all ages, great food, shopping with local vendors, live band, fireworks and more! You won't want to miss the biggest event of the year!

Thank you all for making our City the best place to be in Southwest Missouri!

Jennifer Rowe

City Clerk / Director of
Emergency Management



Fireworks Safety

The month of June is designated as Fireworks Safety Month. This will prepare us for the month of July when more people are injured by fireworks than any time of the year and when more fires are reported than any day of the year.

The National Safety Council has published some information we will share with you to hopefully keep you safe. They suggest leaving the fireworks to the experts and below are some of the reasons why:

1. **Sparklers** – sparklers are the main source of entertainment for children but most parents do not realize they burn at about 2,000 degrees which is hot enough to burn most metals. They can quickly ignite clothing and many children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet.
2. **Bottle Rockets** – they are named for the small rockets attached to sticks that are typically lit by a fuse and fired from a bottle. Bottle rocket wars, as they have been named, are created by individuals firing them at one another and have caused chest, head, and eye injuries.
3. **Firecrackers** – they are designed to explode on the ground and can be linked together to explode in a series. Although they are very loud and can cause hearing damage when they explode by the ears, they also cause burns and other serious injuries.
4. **Roman Candles** – there have been reports of children losing fingers, severe burns and other injuries which are sometimes caused when the device jams leaving the multiple shells to explode in the tube.



5. **M-Class Fireworks** – **DO NOT USE THEM** – they are produced illegally and without quality control. They have short fuses and cause hundreds of extremely severe injuries.
6. **Legal Fireworks** – If you choose to use fireworks, follow these safety tips:

- ◆ **Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol**
- ◆ **Never allow young children to handle fireworks**
- ◆ **Older children should use them only under close adult supervision**
- ◆ **Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear**
- ◆ **Never light them indoors**
- ◆ **Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material**
- ◆ **Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting**
- ◆ **Never ignite devices in a container**
- ◆ **Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks**
- ◆ **Soak unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding**
- ◆ **Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire**

If you have questions or would like further information on ways Willard Fire can serve you, please contact us at 417-685-3114 or info@willardfire.com. You can visit our website www.willardfire.com or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

Park News

The Parks Department is running full steam with activities and fun. This month we have the Big BAM on Monday June 18th and Willards 56th Freedom Fest on June 30th. Also, come beat the heat with our large pool, fun water slides, and great concessions, or keep those kids busy with summer camp and activities! Check out our website at www.willardparks.com for more information!

Big BAM

Don't miss the fun on June 18th when Bicycle across Missouri joins the City for a night of fun, entertainment, and an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most bikes in a line on the trail! To make it official with Guinness we do need a list of participants. Please fill out this form so we record this properly:



<https://goo.gl/forms/MvihKmUZyWDMgfmt1>

Also there will be food, entertainment, and fun for all who come. Please check out www.bigbamride.com for more details!



Swimming Fees

Resident

Ages 2 and Under - FREE

Ages 3 + - \$4

Ages 55 + - \$3

Non-Resident

Ages 2 and Under - FREE

Ages 3 + - \$5

Ages 55 - \$5

Groups of 10 or more may be eligible for a group rate of \$3 each!

Season Passes

Resident

Family Season Pass (Up to 3) - \$75

Each Additional Family - \$10

Individual Season Pass - \$50

Non-Resident

Family Season Pass (Up to 3) - \$85

Each Additional Family - \$10

Individual Season Pass - \$60

Visit www.willardparks.com for more information.

Freedom Fest



Freedom Fest 2018 is coming up on June 30th. This will have the Little Miss Firecracker pageant, parade, live music, fireworks, food and much more. Come be a part of the biggest celebration each year in the City of Willard! The fun begins at 8:30 a.m. with events all day at Jackson Street Park. Make sure and come hungry as you won't want to miss the Freedom Feast BBQ cookoff put on by the Willard Chamber! The vendors are stacking up and this year is sure to be the best year yet! Be sure and visit <http://www.willardfreedomfest.com/> for more details.

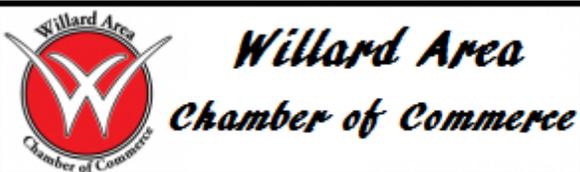


Willard Freedom Fest is proud to offer free parking and shuttle service!

Freedom Fest 2018

Welcomes Back Road Story

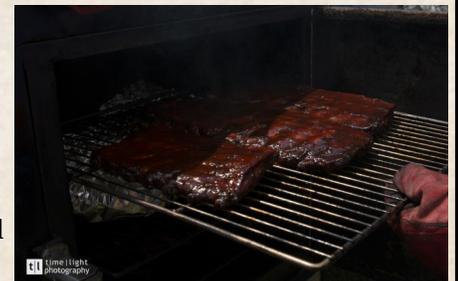
Back Road Story is rapidly becoming one of the Midwest's favorite new country bands. The band consists of lead singer, Chelsey Seboldt, bassist/guitarist, Jacob Watson, guitarist, Chris Beasley, and drummer, Dakota Watson. With over 100 shows played around the Midwest in the last year, nine award nominations, sharing the stage with multiple nationally touring artists, and their debut single climbing the Music Row charts, the Springfield, Missouri based band has hit the ground running and shows no signs of slowing down in the music industry.



Freedom Feast Cook Off

Preparations are under way! We're getting a lot of applications daily and we're adding a **Steak Competition** Friday night (June 29th) to the mix.

Our Kids-Q competition will be Friday night as well. We would LOVE to have our local kids get in on this. No kids are disqualified! Call us for questions: 417-742-2442





Meet Firefighter Chris Presley

Chris Presley joined Willard Fire as a volunteer and moved to career in 2015. Chris is always willing to help and jump in wherever needed. His outgoing spirit is contagious and Chris is fun to work with.

How long have you been in the fire service? I have been in the fire service for 6 years, starting at Logan-Rogersville Fire and now with Willard (career) and Bois D'Arc (volunteer).

What was your reason for joining the fire service? I joined the fire service because I love to help people and serve my community. Both my father and step-mother were police officers in my community growing up and my mom is a nurse. I always knew I wanted to be a first responder. One of my parent's friends was a fire chief so when I was 17, I did a ride-along with his department. Ever since that day I knew I

wanted to be a firefighter. **What are your hobbies away from work?** Some of the things I do away from work are spending time with my wife Brittanie and two kids, Jaxon (6) and Harper (2). I coach my son's soccer team. I also love riding my motorcycle and golfing. I also work for Mercy on the ambulance and serve in the United States Army Reserves. **What is your favorite thing to do in the summer?** In the summer time my family and I love to go to the beach.



MDA Boot Drive Update

Crews were at the corners of Miller and Hwy 160 for two hours on Saturday, May 26 and were able to raise \$1,308.16 for the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). What a generous heart Willard and surrounding communities displayed on Saturday. Watch for more MDA Boot Drive events. We will try to post upcoming event dates on our Facebook page and website.



Meeting Dates

Board of Aldermen

June.....11th & 25th

Planning and Zoning

June.....26th

Park Board

June.....28th

Economic Development

July16th



Willard School News

Wow! What a tremendous school year 2017-18 was! Another year of learning has come to a close and we are already looking ahead to the 2018-19 school year beginning August 16th! This school year came with many accomplishments and highlights, but a few to note include:

Drafting a community vision for a Willard Schools 5 year [strategic plan](#) that will guide our District through 2023! To take a look at the strategic plan overview, visit www.willardschools.net.



- The groundbreaking of our additional intermediate school, Willard Intermediate School-South, in February. Construction is on schedule and on budget to open this new school in fall of 2019!

- 649 one on one meetings with our new superintendent Dr. Matt Teeter and every single District employee as he got to know Willard Schools, one person at a time. Get to know our Willard Tiger staff by following #WillardShines on Twitter to see Dr. Teeter's journey.



Summer School June 4th—29th

Summer school will be in session June 4th-29th at Willard Orchard Hills Elementary, Willard East Elementary, and Willard High School. We love the opportunity for this summer learning!

At summer school, all students will enjoy a free breakfast AND lunch provided by our awesome Food Service staff!

Additionally, any child under 18 years old may eat breakfast and lunch at our summer school sites for free. Please visit www.willardschools.net for more information about our Food Service program.

August 16th First Day of School

The first day of school this fall is Thursday, August 16th!

To keep up with Willard Schools, sign up to receive The Pride Monthly E-News in your inbox www.willardschools.net.

We are looking forward to another great year and truly appreciate the support of our fantastic Willard community!

Contacts

Mayor
Corey Hendrickson.....417-234-4713

Board of Aldermen
Brandon Bond.....417-872-9530
Donna Stewart.....417-493-9894
Sam Baird.....417-844-0636
Samuel Snider.....417-839-9444
Jon Jones.....417-224-2805
Larry Whitman.....417-343-0994

City Administrator
Bradley Gray.....417-742-5304

City Clerk
Jennifer Rowe.....417-742-5302

Chief of Police
Tom McClain417-742-5341