

Plainville Fire Company 2023 Hot Air Balloon Festival

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please, NO DRONES! They are extremely dangerous to balloons!

1. HOW MUCH IS THE ENTRANCE FEE?

A. There is no entrance fee. The entire event is free. However, there will be craft and art vendors throughout the weekend and they charge for their product. Also, there is a charge for food.

2. HOW MUCH ARE BALLOON RIDES?

A. The Plainville Fire Co. does not provide or arrange for balloon rides. Some balloonists will offer tethered rides on Friday night for a nominal fee. Flights can be obtained by prior arrangement through the individual balloon companies. Balloon companies can be found here: <http://ctlighterthanair.org/2019/06/30/commercial-flights-at-plainville-balloon-festival/>

3. IF IT RAINS, IS THERE A RAINDATE?

A. NO. This event is weather dependent – there is no rain date.

4. ARE PETS ALLOWED?

A. Pets are HIGHLY DISCOURAGED. This is a high energy, crowded event which can be loud at times, and may cause many pets to become agitated and upset.

5. IS THERE HANDICAPPED PARKING?

A. Yes. There is ample handicapped parking. To better allow access and help minimize the traffic impact to the roads and neighborhoods adjacent to Norton Park, this year the only people allowed to park at Norton Park will be identified handicapped, motorcycles and staff.

6. IS THERE PARKING?

A. Well yes and no. All public parking is off-site. There will be no public parking at Norton Park on Friday August 25, 2023 and Saturday August 26, 2023. The off-site parking locations are Robertson Airport on Johnson Avenue and the Plainville High School Parking Lot on Robert Holcomb Way. We are also trying to negotiate additional parking areas. **A change this year is there will be a**

parking fee of \$5.00 per car at the offsite parking areas to help defray the rising costs of busing.

Also, the public is allowed to Park at Norton Park for the 6 am balloon launches on Saturday. We ask that if you attend the 6 am balloon launch on Saturday, to ensure you move your vehicle to an off-site location by 9 am.

7. HOW WILL THE PUBLIC GET TO/FROM THE PARK?

A. The Balloon Fest committee has contracted a bus service to transport the public from the off-site parking areas to Norton Park.

8. WHERE WILL THE BUSES DROP OFF PEOPLE?

A. Currently the plan is to drop off people adjacent to the park.

9. WHERE WILL THE BUSES PICK PEOPLE UP?

A. The buses will pick up at the same location that you were dropped off. Please enter the upper soccer field at Norton Park and loading of buses will be through the gates there.

10. HOW WILL I KNOW WHICH BUS TO GET ON?

A. Queue lines will prompt folks of which bus to get on.

11. CAN I BRING MY DOG/PET ON THE BUS?

A. **Pets are highly discouraged.** This is a high energy, crowded event which can be loud at times, and may cause many pets to become agitated and upset. Service animals are the exception and will be allowed to ride on the bus.

12. ARE THE BULLETINS SPELL CHECKED?

A. Yes, they are. We are aware that we have misspelled buses and busing on several bulletins. We were seeing if you were paying attention. (Darn spellcheck, busses and bussing are actual words that refer to electrical components).

13. ARE YOU SURE WE WON'T GET STUCK IN TRAFFIC?

A. Nope. But what we are sure of is that we looked at this situation very realistically. We have worked with several Town Departments including the Plainville Police Department to develop a traffic plan that should improve travel into and out of Plainville during the Balloon Festival. Buses will have a route to follow that avoids the major highways and intersections.

One of the major reasons to limit parking at Norton Park is to minimize traffic on the roads in and around the park.

14. ARE YOU SURE THIS TRAFFIC PLAN WILL WORK?

A. We believe that it will certainly help alleviate some of the traffic issues we have experienced in the past. But as with any plan, implementation will show where improvements/adjustments can be made. In the last two Balloon Festivals, we have succeeded in reducing the bottle necks throughout the town. We only ask that you continue to support us as we improve this event.

15. WHAT ABOUT THESE FANTASTIC FIREWORKS I KEEP HEARING SO MUCH ABOUT?

A. The fireworks show begins at approximately 9:15ish on Friday night. Should the weather be inclement, the fireworks show will be postponed to Saturday.

16. HOW CAN I GET REAL-TIME INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT?

A. There is a Facebook page for the event which is updated regularly during the weekend with details on weather, cancellations, and other information. We **STRONGLY** encourage you to 'like' our page in order to receive information as opposed to phoning the Plainville Fire Company. Our page is named 'Plainville Fire Company Hot Air Balloon Festival'. You can also follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/PlainvilleFire>. There is a Hot Air Balloon tab on our Plainvillefireco.com web page also.

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