

Johanns suggests indoor Halloween

By TED TAYLOR
Senior Reporter

Mayor Mike Johanns has some ideas for fun on Halloween weekend in a city where 20 percent of its residents don't have power and 100-year-old trees still block some streets and sidewalks:

Throw a Halloween party Friday and take part in a giant slumber party Saturday.

Instead of taking children trick or treating, Johanns is urging parents to throw Halloween parties instead.

If that doesn't sound fun, the mayor is asking parents with children who absolutely must get their sugar rush Friday night to try to be finished with their tricking and treating before night-fall.

Johanns, unlike former Omaha Mayor P.J. Morgan in 1991, stopped short of canceling Halloween, but want-

ed parents to be aware of the dangers that still exist from Sunday's 13-inch snowstorm.

Tree limbs still block many sidewalks in the city's older areas, and some neighborhoods remain without power.

Lincoln Police Chief Tom Casady outlined an area of Lincoln, which included the majority of the city, that he called unsafe to trick or treat in because of fallen tree limbs and potentially dangerous open power lines.

He is asking parents to maybe hit the newer, and less tree-dense, part of town on the outskirts of the city.

On Saturday night, Johanns is asking that Lincoln visitors, in for the game or any other reason, come join the state's largest slumber party at the Cook Pavilion.

Most of Lincoln's 3,300 hotel rooms are already booked, Johanns said, and more rooms will be needed as electric contractors from the region helping restore power in the city begin looking

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MIKE JOHANNS
Lincoln mayor

for a place to stay for the weekend.

Johanns went as far as asking anyone from out of town who maybe already had weekend hotel reservations to give them up.

"Our greatest concern is for the citizens of the community," he said. "I'm confident that our visitors will understand that."

The Husker football indoor practice facility will be open Saturday night for those who can't find a place to stay in

Lincoln and don't want to make a long drive back home.

The showers will be available and towels will be provided, but there are only 60 sleeping bags for rent at the Campus Recreation Center, director Stan Campbell said.

Those wishing to be a part of Lincoln's largest slumber party must arrive before 10 p.m. and are not allowed to re-enter the facility upon exiting.

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