



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 14

April 3, 2015

FLOW TEST

On Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at approximately 8:30 AM a fire flow test will take place in the vicinity of 1530 McConnell Road. During this test, some loss of pressure and discoloration of water may occur.

This condition will not present any health hazard and will only be temporary. Residents in the area are urged to check their water prior to doing laundry due to the possibility of water discoloration or just avoid doing any laundry on that day.

If you have any questions, please call the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118.

TEMPORARY BAN ON OVERWEIGHT LOADS ENDS

Several area local road jurisdictions placed temporary weight restrictions on their local roads and streets during the spring to reduce the amount of damage on the roadways and road base when the subgrade thaws.

The City of Woodstock's temporary ban on overweight loads started on Monday, March 2 and ends on Monday, April 6. The City does not anticipate extending the ban this year, as they've had to do in years past.

Please contact the **Department of Public Works** if you are in need of an Overweight / Oversize Permit, 815 338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



RIGHT-OF-WAY OPENING PERMIT

Prior to beginning any work within the public right of way, a property owner and/or a contractor, is required to obtain a Right-of-Way Opening permit from the City of Woodstock.

Typically, the right of way extends to the back side of the sidewalk on each side of the street and includes the sidewalks, tree bank area or parkway, curbs, and the street pavement. Examples of typical work performed by a property owner within the right of way include, repair of a sewer service, repair of a water service, repair and replacement of the driveway approach, sidewalk replacement, or landscape improvements. The City will inspect the location and review the proposed work both before the work begins and upon completion.

To obtain a Right-of-Way Opening permit application, contact the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



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SPRING CLEANING FOR YOUR PLUMBING SYSTEM

- Check faucets for drops or leaks. Make repairs to save money.
- Check toilets for hidden leaks. Add 6 drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes.
- Ensure all drains have strainers to prevent debris from clogging the drain lines.
- Exercise water supply line valves under sinks and toilets to prevent them from sticking.
- Check the temperature setting on your water heater. Turning it to 120 degrees will reduce energy use.
- Carefully drain several gallons of water from water heaters to remove lime and sediment and increase efficiency.
- Pour a gallon of water down seldom used drains, particularly floor drains, to refill traps and prevent odors from entering your home.
- If your home has a sump pump, make sure to pour several gallons of water into the sump pit to ensure proper operation.
- Check all exposed drains and water pipes under sinks and in the basement for leaks.
- Check gutters and downspouts for debris. Rain water should drain away from house foundations.



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CITY INITIATES LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM

The City of Woodstock owns and operates a water distribution system approximately 125 miles in length providing a service to water users in the Woodstock Community. As water mains and individual service lines age, they become brittle and break, they corrode, the soils in which they are bedded shift, seals fail, valves leak, etc. Not all leaks in the water system surface and therefore, they can go undetected. These leaks in the system result in the need to treat and pump more water than is being used and billed; incurring unnecessary costs for utilities and chemicals and resulting in a waste of this limited natural resource.

In order to identify water loss within the City's system that cannot otherwise be detected, the City Council has authorized a contract with **Water Services Company, Elgin, Illinois** to complete a city-wide leak detection program. This program utilizes ultra sound technology to detect noise within the system that can then be pinpointed to a defined area. Equipment can detect the approximate size and volume of leaks which is helpful in developing a prioritization for repairs. After the results of this survey are available, the City Administration will need to develop recommendations for the repair of leaking city-owned water mains, as well as the appropriate procedures for communicating the requirements to repair leaks in service lines which are the responsibility of individual property owners. The program will be completed on or before the end of the day Friday, April 24. Other than seeing the contractors truck, this preliminary work will not impact service to water customers and all work will take place Monday thru Friday during normal business hours.

If you have any questions or if you want additional information about this program, please contact the Department of Public Works, 815 338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov

Quotation

***Happiness often sneaks in through a door
you didn't know you left open.***

John Barrymore

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, April 7 – City Council, Council, 7PM,
Council Chambers

Thursday, April 9 -Library Board, 7:30PM, Public
Library

RECRUITMENT

The deadline for the City of Woodstock's **2015 Summer Seasonal Positions (American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, WSI Instructors, Swim Aides, Playground Program Counselors, and Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers)** has closed. Interviews for chosen qualified applicants will be scheduled shortly for the above noted positions.

2015 UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN

This month the City is kicking off its' **2015 United**



Community Partner

Way Employee Campaign. Your **April 6th paycheck** will include a flyer and pledge form detailing the campaign.

The community needs your help. United Way of Greater McHenry County is the easiest and most powerful way to help your community. A gift to United Way supports programs all across McHenry County.

Donations are tax-deductible. You can even direct where your donation will be applied! Donations may be made one-time via check or conveniently deducted from paychecks throughout the year.

To encourage and recognize City of Woodstock employees who contribute to these worthy organizations, we are pleased to offer the 2015 United Way Pledge Prize Drawing! Winners will be randomly drawn to win:

- 2015 WWW Family Pool Pass
- 2 tickets to a Woodstock Opera House Show
- \$30 Chamber of Commerce Gift Card
- 1 additional Floating Holiday

To be eligible for the drawing, pledge cards, or checks, must be turned in to the HR Department **no later than 5:00pm Monday, May 4, 2015.**

STREET SWEEPING BEGINS

Now that the snow has melted, it's time for some spring cleaning and the street sweepers are back on the road. Street sweeping provides two primary benefits to the City. The more obvious benefit is the collection and removal of paper, leaves, and other visible debris that collect in the gutters. This debris can block storm water facilities, causing localized flooding during heavy rains. An equally important, but less visible benefit is the removal of metal particles and other hazardous waste products left by passing vehicles. Although they are virtually invisible, these particles can be extremely harmful to fish and other wildlife if they reach our creeks, rivers, ponds and waterways. Street sweeping is an effective method of removing both the large and microscopic pollutants that collect on City streets. This sweeping also serves as one of our Best Management Practices (BMP) to control and improve water quality.

The City of Woodstock has two street-sweepers; one is assigned to the north half of the City and the other covers the south half. The area around the Square is swept early in the morning on Monday and Friday. Street sweeping is typically conducted from the spring through the fall; however, Public Works will conduct some sweeping during the winter months if the weather permits.

Residents can also do their part to help prevent storm sewer blockages. Please rake up leaves and yard waste, put the materials into a paper yard waste bag, and have it hauled away by the waste disposal company.



APRIL 2015 IS NATIONAL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH

Each April since 1987, the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD) has sponsored Alcohol Awareness Month to increase public awareness and understanding, reduce stigma and encourage local communities to focus on alcoholism and alcohol-related issues.

With this year's theme, *"For the Health of It: Early Education on Alcoholism and Addiction,"* the month of April 2015 will be filled with local, state, and national events aimed at educating people about the treatment and prevention of alcoholism, particularly among our youth, and the benefits of providing early education to give kids a better understanding of the impact that alcohol can have on their lives.



Local NCADD Affiliates as well as schools, colleges, churches, and countless other community organizations will sponsor a host of activities that create awareness and encourage individuals and families to get help for alcohol-related problems.

Alcohol use by young people is extremely dangerous—both to themselves and to society, and is directly associated with traffic fatalities, violence, suicide, educational failure, alcohol overdose, unsafe sex and other problem behaviors, even for those who may never develop a dependence or addiction.

Adolescence is a time of heightened risk taking and young people may not be fully prepared to anticipate all the consequences of drinking alcohol, such as swigging drinks to “celebrate” a special occasion, or being in a car with a driver who has been drinking.

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for America's youth, and is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined.

Reducing underage drinking is critical to securing a healthy future for America's youth and requires a cooperative effort from parents, schools, community organizations, business leaders, government agencies, the entertainment industry, alcohol manufacturers/retailers and young people themselves.

“Underage drinking is a complex issue,” says Andrew Pucher, President and Chief Executive Officer of NCADD, “one that can only be solved through a sustained and cooperative effort. As a nation, we need to wake up to the reality that for some, alcoholism and addiction develop at a young age and that intervention, treatment, and recovery support are essential for them and their families,” says Pucher. “We can't afford to wait any longer.”

An integral part of Alcohol Awareness Month is Alcohol-Free Weekend (April 3-5, 2015), which is designed to raise public awareness about the use of alcohol and how it may be affecting individuals, families, and the community. During this seventy-two-hour period, NCADD extends an open invitation to all Americans, young and old, to participate in three alcohol-free days and to use this time to contact local NCADD Affiliates and other alcoholism agencies to learn more about alcoholism and its early symptoms.

For more information about NCADD, underage drinking, Alcohol Awareness Month and Alcohol-Free Weekend, visit the NCADD website at: www.ncadd.org.

**Want to Start to Get Healthy with an
Exercise Program?**

City of Woodstock employees receive an employee discount at the **Woodstock Recreation Center**. **The initiation fee is waived! Executive membership is \$35 per month. Full membership is \$25 per month.**

Try a week for free! For more information, contact Mary Lynn Lisk or Renee Torrez at 8138-4363 or visit

www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com

for more information.



You are cordially invited to join Chief Robert Lowen at the Woodstock Police Department for coffee, conversation and an informative program.

Permanent Beat Officer Adam Schraw will conduct an overview of activity in Beat #22 (the northwest quadrant of the city) including recent crime statistics and trends, as well as provide crime prevention safety tips.

Coffee with the Chief



April 13, 2015
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Woodstock Police Department
656 Lake Avenue

For further information, please call
Tamara Reed at 815-338-6787.