



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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POLICE ANNOUNCE JANUARY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE



The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced the Special Traffic Enforcement Initiative for January will target stop sign violators. Examples of violations they will be paying special attention to include vehicles improperly entering a stop crosswalk; vehicles

improperly entering a stop or yield intersection; and ignoring stop and yield signs. As always, the ultimate goal of the initiative is two-fold, both to prevent traffic crashes that result from dangerous driving behaviors such as failure to come to a full stop or yield the right-of-way, and to encourage motorists to voluntarily comply with traffic laws.

Questions regarding this or any other traffic enforcement issue should be directed to **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** at 815-338-2131 or at rpritchard@woodstockil.gov.

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STAMP-A-STACK FUNDRAISER FOR DARE

Are you creative? Would you like to be? If you enjoy scrapbooking or card making, then we have the event for you! Plus it benefits the **Woodstock Police Department DARE** program – what more could you want!

Telecommunicator Robin Karolewicz, who also happens to be an Independent Stampin'UP! Demonstrator, has put together a fun evening for anyone 16 and older. During the course of the evening, you will assemble three different cards (two of each including envelopes) plus two of an adorable 3-D project. If you're worried that you aren't "crafty" enough – don't! Robin will have friendly helpers available to assist you.

The event will take place on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the WPD located at 656 Lake Avenue. The cost is \$25.00 (\$20.00 will go directly to DARE!)

You will need to bring your own adhesive, scissors and a bone folder with you the night of the event. If you would like to order these items from Robin, please email her at rlk4@comcast.net or call her at the WPD at 815-338-2131.

You must register for this event through the **Woodstock Recreation Department** by Friday, January 22nd. You may do so either online at www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com or in person at the Rec Center located at 820 Lake Avenue



THE CITY OF WOODSTOCK SNOW OPERATIONS; RESIDENTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE

The **Public Works Department** prepares for winter storms long before snow blankets the City. Department employees are busy during the fall months performing pre-season service inspections, maintenance, and repairs. The city's mechanics evaluated, repaired, and calibrated each truck and piece of snow removal equipment so it is ready at the first snowfall. Members of the Public Works staff monitor weather conditions on a daily basis and begin planning for known events well in advance. As inclement weather enters the area, snow removal crews are mobilized and begin to address the storm. Although each storm is different and presents unique challenges, Public Works staff work diligently to keep roadways passable during each event and minimize the effect of winter weather on motorists.

During a storm, up to eleven dump trucks plow each city street keeping the roadway passable for area motorists. When appropriate, crews apply salt mixed with a liquid activator to melt the snow or ice and prevent it from bonding to the road. Through application of best management practices, crews apply an appropriate amount of salt when necessary to melt the snow while minimizing their impact on the environment. Smaller trucks remove snow from cul-de-sacs and alleys when accumulations or weather conditions warrant. A second crew removes snow from public areas within the Square, hauling it out to a remote location to minimize its impact on the downtown business district.

To keep roads clear of snow and provide room for additional accumulations during a long winter, plow drivers must move snow from the center of the road to the curb. Doing so not only provides space for future events but also keeps storm drain inlets clear for melting snow and rain. An unfortunate result of the plowing process is the deposit of snow at the end of each driveway. During long-duration events or those with large accumulations, residents will notice the plow going by several times, often plowing against the curb. As regrettable as this is, plowing to the curb is a necessary component of effective snow removal. Each driver is aware of the impact of this snow to residents as they routinely remove similar amounts of snow from their own driveways.

As effective as city plows are at clearing city streets, residents and business owners play a vital role in the success of their efforts. To help plow drivers remove snow and operate as efficiently as possible please:

Do Not Shovel Snow into the Street

Putting snow into streets can cause a hazard for motorists, additional work for plow drivers, and is a violation of city ordinance. Snow blown or plowed into the street is returned to you or your neighbor's driveway when the plow makes another pass. Residents are required to store snow on their own property or have a contractor haul it away if they prefer. Contractors are prohibited from plowing snow across the road and leaving piles that can interfere with city plowing efforts and create dangerous hazards for motorists.

Observe Winter Parking Bans

Vehicle parking is prohibited on City streets after a snowfall of 3" or more until the streets have been adequately cleared as determined by Public Works.

Consider Garbage Can placement

Place garbage cans at the end of your driveway, not directly in the street. This allows the plow driver to get as close to the curb as possible, as soon as possible.

Drive Safely when Approaching or Following a Plow Truck

Use common sense and good judgement when driving in the vicinity of plows. Stay back and give plow drivers room to operate. Avoid traveling beside a snow plow – it can veer sideways when hitting drifts or cutting through deep snow. Never try to pass a snow plow that is clearing snow.

Be Mindful of School Children and Pedestrians

Residents should also clear sidewalks of snow to allow for the safety of schoolchildren and other pedestrians.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Discarded Christmas trees represent particular disposal challenges following the Christmas holiday. To meet the needs of its residents the city of Woodstock collects trees for the first three weeks of January and processes them into mulch. Only Christmas trees placed in the parkway, the area between the street and the sidewalk, by 7:00 AM on the resident's regularly scheduled garbage day are collected.

Tree collection began January 4th, and runs through January 22nd. This schedule gives residents three separate opportunities to dispose of their live Christmas trees in a convenient and environmentally friendly manner. Residents must remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, decorations, nails, buckets, bags, and stands prior to pick up. It is important to note that the City will not collect Christmas trees left on property managed by a homeowners association. Residents living in these communities must make sure their tree is in the public right-of-way. Additionally, non-Christmas trees, branches, wreaths, roping, and other greens with wire are not eligible for pick up. Residents can discard these items with their normal household waste. When placing your tree in the parkway, be sure it is secure and will not blow into the street thereby creating a traffic hazard. Please note that City employees picking up Christmas trees also participate in the snow and ice-control activities which may delay collection of your tree. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov if you have any questions.



HR NEWS

RECRUITMENT

Summer Seasonal Positions: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for Summer Seasonal Positions with the Woodstock Recreation Department and Public Works Department as outlined below:

- **American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, WSI Instructors, Swim Aides:** These positions provide safety and instruction to swimmers at Woodstock WaterWorks pool and work days, evenings and weekends, dependent on pool attendance and weather. Lifeguards ensure the safety and health of all pool patrons, while WSI Instructors and Aides provide proper instruction/teaching for all City of Woodstock Recreation Department swimming lessons. Minimum age is 16. **Candidates must attach copies of certification to application, or must show proof of certification by program orientation date in late Spring.** Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.46/hour (Certified Lifeguards); \$8.67/hour (Certified Instructors); \$8.25/hour (Aides)
- **Playground Program Counselors:** Counselors interact with and supervise a group of 8-12 children, ages 4-12 years, in a recreational setting. This position requires planning, implementing, and evaluating daily activities, and communicating with participants' parents on a regular basis. Counselors ensure safety of campers at all times. Minimum age is 16. Experience working with elementary school aged children is preferred. **This position requires attendance at the training session the first week of June and the ability to work during the entire 7-week session that runs thereafter. Tentative Dates: May 31st – June 3rd (Training Week) and June 6th – July 22nd (Program).** Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.25/hour.
- **Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers:** These temporary positions perform various manual unskilled and semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance of City streets, parks and sewer/water utilities. Positions work under the direction of Superintendents and/or Foremen for the respective divisions of the Public Works Department. These positions work 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday during the specified time period. Parks positions generally begin in late April/early May and run through August, while other divisions generally begin in June. **Must be age 18 or over with a valid IL driver's license and good driving record.** Previous construction, landscaping or maintenance experience is preferred. Pay rate to be determined but will be at least: \$8.46/hour.

Application Deadline for Summer Seasonal Positions: Friday, March 4, 2016 at 5:00pm.

Full-Time Office Manager – Public Works Department: The City of Woodstock is accepting electronic submissions (as outlined below) for the position of Office Manager with our Public Works Department. Examples of duties include assisting the Director, Assistant Director, City Engineer, Department Superintendents, and staff with daily operations of the Public Works Department, managing office functions, providing solid customer service in a liaison role between the public and the department; and many other related duties. This is a full time position working M-F, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. Starting salary for this role is \$20.87/hour with eligibility for the full benefits package for group insurance, benefit time, IMRF retirement benefits, and more. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 8, 2016 at 5:00pm.**

Please refer to the City's website at www.woodstockil.gov and click on the Jobs section for further details and the application process on the above opportunities. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

FIRST TWEEN NIGHT OF THE NEW YEAR

The Recreation Center was filled with over 80 tweens last Saturday night during the first tween event of 2016. Tweens, in grades 5th-8th, are invited on the first Saturday of the month for open gym, walleyball, swimming and other activities from 6:30-8:30PM for a \$4 drop-in fee.

Future Tween Nights are February 6, March 5, April 2 and May 7.

Other Tween Programs this winter/spring include Snow Tubing on January 18; Late Night Ski Trip on Feb 26-27; and a Tween Dodgeball Tournament on January 30! These programs require pre-registration that can be done at the Rec Center or online at www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com.



WINTER/SPRING CITY SCENE DELIVERED TO AREA RESIDENTS

The Winter/Spring City Scene was direct mailed this week to over 15,000 residents in the 60098 zip code and the west side of Wonder Lake (District 200 boundaries).

The City Scene is compiled by the Recreation Department with submittals from various City

departments. In addition to the general information about City services that are published in each edition, there is also program information for the Challenger Learning Center, Opera House, NISRA, the Recreation Center, and the Recreation Department.

In addition to the City Scene brochure, all information regarding Rec Department programs, Woodstock Water Works, the Rec Center, and NISRA is also available at www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com.



REC DEPT DELIVERS FOR CHRISTMAS CLEARINGHOUSE

As in past years, a number of City employees and departments were involved in Christmas Clearinghouse, a project spearheaded by the Rotary Club. Each year, Christmas Clearing House provides gifts to hundreds of seniors; food to over 1,200 families; and gifts and gloves to nearly 2,000 children in our community!

Pictured are **Rec Center staff members Trey Grover and Karina Fuentes** along with her cousin who assisted **Recreation Director Dave Zinnen** as they delivered food and toys back on December 19.

TURNING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS INTO QUESTIONS HELPS THEM STICK

If you normally have trouble sticking to your New Year's resolutions, a new study may help: Psychologists have found that asking questions and then answering them, instead of making statements, is one key to sticking with your promises.

For example, you are more likely to actually exercise more if you ask yourself "Will I exercise more?" and then say, "Yes," instead of just telling yourself "I will exercise more." The researchers found that people tend to be more successful in changing their behaviors when they pose their goals as questions instead of statements, according to the study.



In the study, the researchers analyzed the results of 104 previous studies done over about eight years. The studies were looking into this effect of asking questions in a variety of contexts, such as eating healthier or going out to vote. Most of the analyzed studies found that questions, particularly questions with a yes or no answer, tended to be stronger behavior influencers than statements were.

In most of the studies, the participants were questioned by another person, and only had to answer the question, said Eric Spangenberg, co-author on the paper and professor of marketing and psychology at the University of California, Irvine. However, there were also studies that looked at people who used self-questioning, and the researchers determine that this technique was also effective.

"One of the things people suggest is that maybe you could team up with a friend," when setting New Year's resolutions, he said. "It has the added benefit of making the commitment somewhat public." Committing to something in public makes people more likely to engage in the behavior, he told Live Science.

Although psychologists don't know exactly why questions are better at influencing behavior change than statements, Spangenberg speculated that questioning creates a type of pressure to follow through, or a sense of obligation, discomfort or guilt, and that helps motivates behavior change.

The researchers said they suspect that the reason yes or no questions tended to be more effective was because they were more definitive — you either are or are not going to exercise more in the future. However, Spangenberg said, that questions designed to influence behavior didn't have to be yes or no questions to affect a change in behavior. Spangenberg and his colleagues also noted that while questions are generally more effective at changing behaviors, the effect is strongest when the questions encourage behaviors that are considered "social norms," such as recycling or working out regularly.

Other research has suggested that making just a few resolutions, instead of a whole slew, keeping a diary about your progress and making up your mind to persevere even if you slip up can also help.

The study suggests that if you're trying to change for the better this coming year, grab a friend and ask each other some yes or no questions, which will help you both to stick to your guns.

The findings were published in the *Journal of Consumer Psychology* on Dec 28.

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**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 815-338-4363 or visit
www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com
for more information.

MEETINGS

Tuesday, January 12 -Economic Development
Commission, 8:00AM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, January 12 - Police Pension Board,
6:00PM, Police Department
Tuesday, January 12 – Parks and Recreation
Commission, 7:00PM, Council Chambers

Quotation

Write it on your heart that every
day is the best day in the year.

[Ralph Waldo Emerson](#)