



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 17

April 29, 2016

GOT (UNWANTED) DRUGS?

On Saturday, April 30, 2016, the **Woodstock Police Department** will participate in the 11th Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take Back Day event from 10:00AM to 2:00PM in the public parking lot (east side of the building) located at 656 Lake Avenue.

Any and all prescription or over-the-counter drugs will be accepted if they are in pill form (no liquids or syringes.) You can bring in as few or as many as you have – there is no minimum or maximum. The drugs will be accepted no questions asked and will then be properly destroyed by the DEA in an environmentally-safe fashion.

The service is free and your privacy is protected. You don't even have to get out of your vehicle – **Sergeant Dan Latham** and **Officer Dan Pauley** will be on hand to assist you – you can drive-by, drop off and be on your way.

Last September, Americans turned in 350 tons (over 702,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at more than 5,000 sites operated by the DEA and more than 3,800 of its state and local law enforcement partners. When those are combined with what was collected in its 10 previous Take Back events, the DEA and its partners have taken in over 5.5 million pounds – more than 2,750 tons – of pills.

For further information, please call **Tamara Reed** at 815-338-6787 or visit www.dea.gov.



SERGEANT CIPOLLA SELECTED TO JOIN SWAT TEAM

Woodstock Police Department Sergeant Constantino J. Cipolla has been selected as a Multi-Jurisdictional SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Officer. He will attend a week of training in May which will cover SWAT fundamentals and team movements. After his basic orientation, he will continue to train with the team every month to hone his current skills and learn new ones as they arise.

Seven WPD Sworn Personnel competed for the assignment via a SWAT Selection Test administered by the McHenry County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to Sergeant Cipolla on this most recent accomplishment.



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SERGEANT CIPOLLA RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Woodstock Police Department Sergeant Constantino J. Cipolla has been selected as one of the three “Rising Shields of Law Enforcement” selected by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police from nominations around the State. Nominations were for Officers and future law enforcement executives under the age of 45 who represent the most progressive law enforcement leaders in the State.

Some of the criteria taken into consideration for Sergeant Cipolla’s selection were: Explorer Post creation and continued leadership of the Post; oversees the department’s Training and Field Training programs; oversees the department’s Firearm/Tactical Training program; and participates and organizes various law enforcement charity functions, including the Illinois Special Olympics Torch Run, Polar Plunge and Plane Pull events and the Police Explorers Food Drive to benefit the Woodstock Food Pantry.

Sergeant Cipolla was honored at a gala awards dinner held on Friday, April 22nd during the Illinois Chiefs of Police Training Conference in Schaumburg. **Police Chief Robert Lowen** and Sergeant Cipolla’s fiancé, Heather Davis, were on hand to celebrate his receiving this prestigious award.

HR NEWS

Congratulations to **Luke Dopke** who has been hired as **Water Meter Technician I** in the Sewer and Water Division. Luke is a 2015 graduate of Carthage College, most recently worked in a maintenance position with the Village of Pleasant Prairie’s (WI)

Public Works Department and was previously a Seasonal Public Works employee in our Street



Division during the summers of 2014 and 2015. Luke’s first day as a full time employee was Monday, April 25th. Welcome!

Congratulations to **Jim Lombardo** and **Trevor Schacht**, both of whom were promoted to **Maintenance Worker II** positions in the Streets Division. In order to be promoted from **Maintenance Worker I** to **Maintenance Worker II**, employees must do the following:

- Complete three (3) years of service in the **Maintenance Worker I** role
- Be proficient and certified by the division Superintendent in the operation of all division specific equipment
- Achieve an overall rating of 3.5 on performance reviews and ratings of 3.0 or greater in all review categories for three (3) years
- Have a personnel file free of any written disciplinary action for three (3) years
- Demonstrate that they have not abused sick leave for three (3) years
- Successfully complete two (2) agreed upon courses taken on the employee’s own time

Way to go Jim and Trevor!

Previously, **Phil Mass** in the Parks Division was the very first Woodstock Public Works **Maintenance Worker I** to be promoted following his accomplishments within the Merit Based Promotion program as outlined within the Local 150 and City of Woodstock Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Congratulations to all of our Maintenance Workers who are embracing this program that truly recognizes your efforts to earn your promotion!

SNIPS AND SNAILS AND PUPPY DOGS' TAILS

Woodstock Police Department's newest **Patrol Officer Adam Fischer** and his wife, **Heather**, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, **Wesley Luke**. Wesley was born on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 2:38 p.m. in the afternoon. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 20 in. long.

Everyone is doing well, including big brother, **Wyatt**, who turned 3 years old on the very same day!

Congratulations to the Fischer family and Welcome Wesley!



2016 UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN



This month the City is kicking off its' **2016 United Way Employee 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 personal 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 2016 United Way Pledge Prize Drawing! Winners will be randomly drawn to win:

- WWW Family Pool Pass for summer 2016
- 2 tickets to a Woodstock Opera House Show
- 1 additional Floating Holiday
- TBA prize (s)

To be eligible for the drawing, **pledge forms**, with your personal check or payroll deduction included, **must be turned in** to the HR Department **no later than 5:00pm Friday, May 6, 2016.**

Note: If you are currently making payroll contributions for the **2015 campaign**, your last deduction will be with the May 4th payroll. **If you would like to *continue* contributing for the 2016 Campaign, you *must* fill out a new pledge form for the new campaign.**

If you would like to make a pledge via payroll deduction for the 2016 campaign, the first payroll deduction will be on May 18, 2016 and will conclude with the last deduction on May 3, 2017 (26 pay periods).

If you need a pledge form or have any questions, please contact Jill May in the HR Department at ext. 11206 or (815) 338-1172.

In addition, you may also obtain a pledge form from the following locations:

- **Library:** Pam Moorhouse
- **Recreation Department:** Mary Lynn Lisk
- **Opera House:** Daniel Campbell
- **Police Department:** Tamara Reed
- **Public Works:** Heather Keenan

And stay tuned...an announcement will be made shortly regarding a fun event contest that is in the works – 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the United Way of Greater McHenry County.

RECRUITMENT

Front Desk Cashier (Part-Time) – Woodstock Recreation Center: The City of Woodstock is accepting **electronic** submissions for the position of **Front Desk Cashier** with the Woodstock Recreation Center. The position works up to 28 hours per week, with possible scheduling for work periods that may include: Monday – Friday 4:30AM – 9:00AM, 8:00AM – 3:00PM or 3:00PM – 9:00PM; Saturday and Sunday 7:00AM – noon or Saturday and Sunday noon – 5:00PM. Wage is \$8.46 per hour; benefits include prorated vacation, holiday and sick leave and IMRF pension. **Application Deadline: Friday, May 13, 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 opportunity. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

SUMMER CITY SCENE DELIVERED TO AREA RESIDENTS

The Summer 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.

APRIL WAS A HIT AT COFFEE AT THE CAFÉ

City Manager Office Assistant Monica Amraen and Recreation Program Coordinator Becky Vidales plan and coordinate events, speakers, lunch and bingo every Tuesday for seniors that averages 20-30 participants each week. The program is free of charge and offered at Stage Left Cafe.

Baseball was the theme for April! **Chief of Police Robert Lowen** steals the show when he comes for a special Coffee with the Chief. Baseball Bingo prizes, a Hot Dog Bar with many toppings and a drawing for Kane County Cougars tickets were all part of the fun during April.

"IF YOU BUILD IT..." HOT DOG MENU

Chicago Cubs Dog

Mustard, Relish, Onion, Tomato, Pickle and Celery Salt

San Francisco Giants Dog

Chili, Mustard, Ketchup, Relish, Onion, Pickle, Tomato, Cheese, Celery Salt

Atlanta Braves Dog

Coleslaw, Chili, Mustard, Ketchup and Onion

Detroit Tigers Dog

Chili, Yellow Mustard and Onions

Houston Astros Dog

Chili, Onion, Cheese

Philadelphia Phillies Dog

Coleslaw, Onion, Crushed Potato Chips

Chicago White Sox Dog

Barbeque Sauce, Onions and Tomato

Durham Bulls Dog

Mustard, Onion

Georgia Peaches Dog

Anyway You Like It!

**LIFEGUARDING CLASS TO CERTIFY
POTENTIAL SUMMER STAFF FOR WWW**

Woodstock Water Works Pool Manager Leslie Behrns taught a last minute Lifeguard Training Course to increase job applicants for this summer at Woodstock Water Works. The 40 hour course that was held over the past two weeks includes CPR/AED Certification. The class filled with nine great candidates to fill those summer positions.



MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

- Tuesday, May 3 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers
- Thursday, May 5- Environmental Commission, 5PM, Council Chambers
- Thursday, May 5 – Joint Meeting Environmental Commission and Cultural and Social Awareness Commission, 6PM, Council Chambers
- Thursday, May 5 -Library Board, 7:30PM, Library

Quotation

Once we accept our limits we go beyond them.

Albert Einstein

4 MYTHS (AND FACTS) ABOUT NASAL ALLERGIES

If you regularly sniffle, sneeze, and cough, you may be one of the 50 million people in this country, including one in five children, who suffer from allergies.

There's a lot of information swirling around about allergies—and some of it isn't correct. Here, we sort the myths from the facts:

Myth #1: Allergies and sinusitis are the same thing. Allergies are a hypersensitivity to certain substances that cause a reaction from the immune system, while sinusitis is an inflammation of the sinus passages. But because both conditions can cause sneezing and sniffing (and allergies are a well-known condition), many people assume they have allergies. But they may not be right: A 2011 online survey conducted by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America found that 51 percent of respondents mistakenly believed they had allergies rather than sinusitis. The correct diagnosis is important, since the treatments for these two conditions are not necessarily the same. Here are some ways to figure out if you're dealing with a true nasal allergy:



But they may not be right: A 2011 online survey conducted by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America found that 51 percent of respondents mistakenly believed they had allergies rather than sinusitis. The correct diagnosis is important, since the treatments for these two conditions are not necessarily the same. Here are some ways to figure out if you're dealing with a true nasal allergy:

- **You have specific triggers.** If you regularly get itchy, watery eyes, and nasal symptoms such as congestion and sneezing after visiting your friend who has a cat, that's a pretty good clue that you're allergic to cat dander (small particles of Fluffy's hair or skin). Similar symptoms after gardening or walking outside may also point to an allergy to some sort of seasonal pollen or mold.
- **You have physical manifestations.** One obvious sign that a patient has a nasal allergy is a *transverse nasal crease*, a horizontal line or a crease on the lower part of the nose. This can develop after prolonged rubbing or touching of the nose, which is what someone with persistent allergies might do, explains Clifford Bassett, MD, an assistant clinical professor of medicine and founder and director of New York City's Allergy and Asthma Care of NY. Puffy eyes and "allergic shiners," or discoloration beneath the lower eyelids are also common in patients with allergies; some people may even have dental irregularities from years of breathing through the mouth due to nasal congestion.
- **You have a parent with allergies.** While children of people with allergies aren't guaranteed to have the same problems, the chance of someone having allergies is 35% if one parent has them, and up to 75% if both parents do, according to Bassett.

There are several other ways to tell if your symptoms indicate allergies rather than sinusitis:

- **Skin testing.** Done under supervision in an allergist's office, these virtually painless tests can quickly pinpoint patients' exact allergy triggers. One version involves a patient's skin being either pricked or punctured with a diluted allergen and watching for a reaction. Another version involves the allergen being injected directly below the skin's surface. If a red, itchy bump develops after either test, that's an indication of allergic sensitization and possible allergy to the substance.
- **Blood tests.** Blood tests may reveal evidence of possible allergy. But in many cases, a patient history and a physical exam are also needed for optimal interpretation and diagnosis, says Bassett. He notes that there is often a lag time between the blood draw and the test results, possibly necessitating a follow-up visit.

It's important to note that no single test or symptom is a definitive indicator of allergies. A skilled clinician will make a diagnosis based on skin or blood testing, the results of a physical exam, and a patient's history. Then a course of treatment will be decided upon. "We really put together a whole individualized regimen," Bassett says, adding that only immunotherapy (allergy shots) or self-administered sublingual (under the tongue) allergy tablets have been shown to reduce and/or eliminate allergy symptoms over time.

Myth #2: Decongestant sprays can treat nasal allergies. Over-the-counter nasal decongestant sprays may offer temporary relief from symptoms, but after a few days of use you'll experience a "rebound effect" and find that your nose is more clogged than before. And these sprays do nothing to treat the allergies themselves. A more effective alternative for short-term relief is an over-the-counter nasal corticosteroid spray, which helps reduce inflammation.

Myth # 3: Local honey can help. Some people believe that consuming locally produced honey will help them fight pollen allergies. The idea is that regular exposure to the pollen in local honey will de-sensitize them. The problem is that honey contains mostly flowering-plant pollen, which doesn't tend to be allergenic, and very little airborne tree pollen, which is highly allergenic. Although it may be tasty, local honey is not an effective allergy cure.

Myth #4: Switching to organic foods can relieve symptoms. If sensitivity to a certain food is causing your nose to run and eyes to water, buying it at the health food store won't provide relief. The allergens are present in the food itself (either in the pulp or skin), not the soil in which its grown, or the pesticides with which it may be sprayed.

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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.

Go Phosphorus-Free When Feeding Your Lawn!

Residents need to be aware when using phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers. While a healthy lawn needs the appropriate nutrients to grow, rainwater running across lawns and roads collects the unused nutrients and ultimately deposits them into local lakes and rivers. Unused phosphorus from lawn fertilizer is especially damaging to streams and lakes by allowing wet weeds and algae to grow at exponential rates. These “algae blooms” create green lakes, and in severe cases depletes oxygen from the water threatening fish and wildlife.



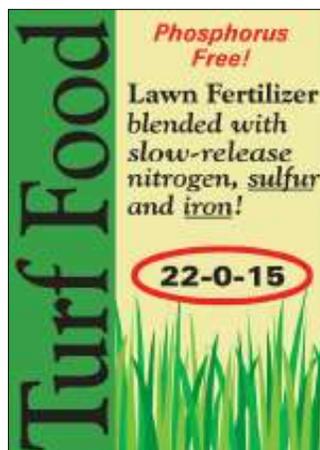
Lower Des Plaines River Algae Bloom
(courtesy of www.prairierivers.org)

When shopping for a lawn fertilizer, there are typically three numbers on the bag. The middle number indicates the phosphorus content of the fertilizer, and should be zero. The City of Woodstock does not currently ban the use of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers, but appreciate residents complying with the request to choose phosphate-free fertilizers to ensure long-term protection of our local streams and lakes.

If residents are looking for a way to go phosphorus-free, suggestions include:

- Having your soil tested to determine if there are any *actual* nutrient deficiencies. Visit the University of Illinois Extension page (<http://extension.illinois.edu/soiltest/>) to find a list of soil testing labs.
- Do not bag your lawn clippings. Lawn clippings contain nitrogen and phosphorus and by leaving them on your lawn, you are essentially recycling their nutrients and reducing your need to fertilize.
- If you do decide to use a fertilizer containing phosphorus do not apply it if your soil compacted or frozen, make sure it stays on your lawn by sweeping back any excess from your driveway or sidewalks, and know the true amount of nutrient your soil needs by having your soil tested before applying.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Department of Public Works at pwdept@woodstockil.gov or (815) 338-6118.



Downtown Bump-Outs Worth a Look



Many events are hosted in and around the Woodstock Square throughout the year. It is a chance for the City to highlight itself and its businesses to thousands. The **Parks & Facilities Division** continues to improve the overall look of the downtown area with its efforts in improving and maintaining the 72 bump-outs. Phase one of these renovations began in August of 2015 and the progress is worth looking at.

Efforts by the Division:

- Removal of wood chips
- Addition of leaf mulch for amendment of soil
- Purchase & installation of 2,444 plants (Prairie Drop Seed, Daffodils, Bearded Iris, Hyacinths, Summer Beauty Allium, Blue Sedge Grass, Hastas, Sumac, Achillea, and Autumn Joy Sedrum)
- Weeding and watering as necessary

Currently blooming in the downtown and the bump-outs:



Pink Tulips



**Muscari-Grape
Hyacinths**



Trumpet Daffodils

The Woodstock Jaycees will return this year to continue their beautification efforts by planting, weeding, watering, and maintaining the large planters Downtown and in Sesquicentennial Park. The group typically begins the project in the middle of June, and maintenance runs for the duration of the summer into early fall.

If you have any questions about these projects, please contact the **Department of Public Works** at pwdept@woodstockil.gov or at (815) 338-6118.



You are cordially invited to join Chief Robert Lowen at the Woodstock Police Department for his final Coffee with the Chief prior to his impending retirement in June.

There will be coffee, refreshments and a much-deserved celebration of Chief Lowen's dedicated service to our community for more than ten years.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, May 9, 2016
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.

CITY HALL EMPLOYEES:

BREAK A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD RIGHT HERE IN CITY HALL!

Stop by the City Manager's office and trace a couple of frames on the ten foot section of the World's Longest Cartoon Strip by a Team. It's tracing, so everyone can do it! Make sure you use black ink and print your name on the Team sheet.

If you'd like your family to join in the fun, sign up at www.friendsoftheoldcourthouse.org for a convenient time and location to trace right here in Woodstock. It's free to register! You can also purchase Dick Tracy fedoras and World Record Breaker t-shirts on our website while you help support the restoration of the Old Courthouse and Sheriff's House.

Then join us on Saturday, July 2nd for Dick Tracy Day 2016 to see the entire strip displayed on the square, plus other exciting activities!





City of Woodstock 2016 Spring Hydrant Flushing Schedule

- West of Route 47 May 2 through May 10
- East of Route 47 May 11 through May 19

Hydrants flushed
Monday through Friday

For more information, please contact the
Department of Public Works at
pwdept@woodstockil.gov or
(815) 338-6118.

