



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 50

December 19, 2014

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

In observance of the Christmas holiday, all non-emergency City offices will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th and Thursday, December 25th.

Have a safe and happy holiday!



CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS IMPACT CITY GARBAGE SERVICE

As a reminder, Christmas and New Year's Day will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the weeks of December 22st through December 26th and the week of December 29th through January 1st. With Christmas and New Year's Day both falling on a Thursday, MDC Environmental Services will pick up garbage one day later for residents with normal pick-up days on Thursday and Friday. Any questions should be directed to the City's garbage contractor, MDC Environmental Services at 815-568-7274.

WPD WELCOMES NEW INTERN

Beginning today, the **Woodstock Police Department** welcomes its new Winter Intern, **Matt Smith**. Matt, a Harvard resident, is a student at the University of Dubuque in Iowa and is majoring in Criminal Justice. Matt will be completing an accelerated internship with department during his winter break from college; he will return to school in mid-January.

Any questions regarding the department's Intern Program may be directed to **Sergeant Josh Fourdyce** at 815-338-2131 or at jfourdyce@woodstockil.gov.

welcome!

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| 2 | Christmas Tree Collection |
| 3 | Preparing for Winter |
| 4 | New Recycling Bin |
| 5 | Snow Removal |
| 6 | HR News |
| 7 | Santa |
| 8 | Holiday Health Tips |

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The **City of Woodstock's** Holiday Lights Recycling Program is in full swing. Collection (recycling) bins are available at **City Hall**, 121 W. Calhoun Street; **Woodstock Public Library**, 414 W. Judd Street; and at the **Department of Public Works**, 326 Washington Street. This recycling program goes through the end of February, 2015.

Lights that will be accepted for this program are: Mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. All colors and lengths will be accepted. *Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program*

For further information or questions about this program, go to www.elginrecycling.com



CHRISTMAS-TREE COLLECTION

The **Department of Public Works** will again offer free curbside collection of live Christmas trees for residents as a convenient and environmentally-friendly way to recycle your tree following the holidays. The collection of Christmas trees by Public Works staff will take place on the same day as your normal garbage collection. Discarded live Christmas trees should be placed in the parkway (that area between the street and the sidewalk) **by 7:00 AM on your regularly scheduled garbage day.**

The City's curbside Christmas tree collection will take place beginning January 2, 2015 and run through January 23, 2015. All live Christmas trees will be collected at the curb and processed through a brush chipper. Be sure that all ornaments, tinsel, lights, decorations, nails, buckets, bags, and stands are removed from the tree or it will not be picked up. Wreaths, roping, and other greens with wire cannot be picked up by the City, and they should be discarded with normal household waste for pickup by the refuse disposal company.

When placing your tree at the curb, please be sure that it is secure enough that it does not blow into the street creating a traffic hazard. No other trees or branches will be collected during this pickup program. City employees picking up the Christmas trees also participate in the snow and ice-control activities, and as a result, winter storm events may delay tree collection. Please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov if you have any questions.



PREPARING FOR WINTER ...

Recently, the **Department of Public Works' Parks Division** pulled weeds and cleaned up flower beds around the Woodstock Metra Train Station and parking lots, **Woodstock Public Library**, and **City Hall**. In addition, recycled woodchips were added to the island in the Throop Street parking lot. Preparing the City's Parks and these surrounding areas for winter will help to create a positive appearance and promote better growth this spring.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118.



ALL ABOARD THE FOOD TRAIN!!!



Woodstock Police Explorers and their leader, **Sergeant Tino Cipolla**, recently assisted Westwood Elementary School with their food drive to collect items for the Christmas Clearing House. Students collected over 50 boxes full of non-perishable food items to donate to the organization.

Congratulations on an outstanding effort by all concerned! Good Job!

NEW RECYCLING BIN ADDED TO THE SQUARE

Over the years the City of Woodstock has provided garbage receptacles throughout the downtown. In an effort to go green and reduce the amount of recycling added to the regular garbage receptacles, the **Parks Division** recently installed a recycling receptacle just outside of the Swiss Made Bakery on N. Benton Street. The receptacle is labeled *for recycling only* and has a different cover on it than the trash receptacles. This receptacle will be monitored for proper use which will help to determine if more will be purchased in the future.

In an effort to make sure the correct items are placed in the recycling receptacle, the following information is available from Marengo Disposal's website.

1. What materials are accepted in the recycling receptacle?

The following items may be placed in the new recycling container:

- 1) Plastics Bottles
 - 2) Aluminum cans
 - 3) Glass (brown, clear, green)
-

2. When is the recycling collected?

Recycling is collected on the same day as garbage.

.....

3. Why is your driver throwing both my trash and my recyclables in the same truck?

In certain areas, we utilize trucks that have separate compartments within the truck body. Your trash and recyclables remain separated and are then delivered to the appropriate facility.



If you have any questions about this project, please contact the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118.

SNOW NEEDS TO REMAIN ON YOUR PROPERTY

During the winter season, the City often gets a few complaints about snow that is pushed across the road or deposited into the street from private property. As stated in the City Code “it is unlawful for any person to place or deposit accumulations of snow from private property onto any street, road or public way in the City”.

Each resident should have a designated area to store snow on their private property. This regulation has been put into place mainly as a matter of safety. Snow on the road can form into hard-packed piles which can push a vehicle across the centerline into on-coming traffic.

In addition, please,

- Remove snow and ice from the entire width of the public sidewalk surrounding your property to allow for safe passage of pedestrians.
- Remove empty refuse containers from the curb following garbage pickup.
- Help us keep the fire hydrant on your property ready for use by clearing it of snow and ice.

If you have any questions about snow removal, please contact the **Department of Public Works** at (815) 338-6118.



**2015 WELLNESS SCREENING PROGRAM:
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**



The City of Woodstock is pleased to once again offer employees **The Wellness Screening Program**. The event will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2015 and Thursday, January 22, 2015**. Participation in the program dramatically

improved the health of many participants last year.

This program is available at NO COST to all employees, spouses, dependents age 18+ and retirees **ON** Woodstock's health plan. Employees, spouses, dependents age 18+ and retirees **NOT** on the plan may self-pay for \$91 (paid via check); additional tests will be available on a self-pay basis (paid via check) on the day of the event.

We encourage all employees to consider the multiple benefits of this program once again.

As an additional incentive, those who participate will be rewarded with a reduction on their monthly health insurance premium contribution.

To register for the event, please visit <https://register.wellness-inc.com/pre-registration/find-self>

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

No Meetings Scheduled

RECRUITMENT

The following active positions are currently posted on the City of Woodstock's website:

Limited Part-Time Playroom Attendant: General responsibilities include: supervise members' children in the playroom to ensure appropriate play, safety and security of the children; perform light cleaning tasks such as washing and folding towels, cleaning equipment, etc. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Limited Part-Time Library Shelver: General responsibilities include: shelves books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, and other library materials; reads, straightens and cleans shelves; performs other related tasks, customer service activities and/or provides assistance to Library staff as assigned. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 9, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Finance / Accounting Intern: General responsibilities include: perform technical, professional and administrative work that includes, but is not limited to: utility billing; cash reconciliations; accounts payable/accounts receivable; payroll; customer service / counter help; other miscellaneous finance / accounting duties as assigned. **Application Deadline: Friday, January 16, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

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

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

On Sunday, December 14, over 100 participants attended the **Recreation Department's Breakfast with Santa**. This year's event was held from 9AM-11AM at the Woodstock Moose Family Center. The children and their families were treated to a breakfast buffet, Christmas crafts, and a visit from Santa.



December 2014

Greetings from the chilly North Pole!

In November, the **Recreation Department** placed a mailbox at the Rec Center for children to write letters to yours truly. The elves and I were extra busy this season making iPads, Elsa, Anna and Olaf dolls, and Legos, so I had to call on my helpers **Program Coordinators Renee Torrez and Becky Vidales** to help me reply to over 100 children who submitted letters and get their replies back to them before Christmas. Although I read each and every one of them, I truly appreciate their help.

I understand that **Ms. Monica Amraen and Ms. Karen Forst** volunteered to help, too! A holiday HoHoHo to them!

I hope the City of Woodstock employees are able to find the magic of the holiday season. Happy Holidays to all!!

Love,
SANTA

Quotation

Punctuality is the virtue of the bored.

[Evelyn Waugh](#)

7 HOLIDAY HEALTH TIPS

Move every day! Our busy holiday schedules can bump us off of our regular exercise routines. Physical activity can help relieve stress, regulate appetite, and burn up extra calories. Participate in local Jingle Bell Runs, or try winter sport activities such as hiking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.



- **Enjoy a pre-party snack.** Arriving hungry to a party makes us more likely to overeat. Plan and prepare to combat this by eating before a party.
- **Set the one plate rule.** At parties and holiday dinners we tend to eat beyond our body's physical hunger simply because food is there and eating is a "social thing." To avoid recreational eating, consciously make one plate of the foods you really want. Eat it slowly – enjoying and savoring every tasty bite.
- **Give yourself options.** If you're staying where there is no gym, bring an exercise band or DVD so you can get your physical activity in. If you're invited to a holiday function, bring a contribution of low-calorie foods, such as fruits and vegetable trays so there are healthy options available.
- **Modify your recipes.** Holiday cooks can reduce the sugar and fat content of food in most holiday recipes without a noticeable difference in taste. Aim to use half the amounts of high-calorie baking products such as butter, shortening, and sugar or use a low-calorie substitute. Cooking with skim milk can save up to 70 calories when compared to whole or 2% milk!
- **Be brainy about beverages.** Alcohol is high in calories and some mixed drinks contain up to 450 calories per glass. By contrast, water and diet sodas are calorie-free. Watch out for hidden calories in soda, fruit punch, and eggnog.
- **Enjoy friends and family.** Although food can be a big part of the season, it doesn't have to be the focus. Holidays are a time to reunite with good friends and family, to share laughter and cheer, to celebrate, and to give thanks.

© 2014 Wellness Corporate Solutions (www.wellnesscorporatesolutions.com)

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 for more information.