



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 23

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## **COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY STARTS SINGLE FAMILY OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM**



The McHenry County Housing Authority advised the City earlier this week that it has received funding through the 2012 HOME Investment

Partnership Act for a single family owner-occupied residential rehabilitation program. Funds will be made available to residents in Woodstock and other neighboring communities to upgrade and engage in life-safety rehabilitation for their homes. Through this program no interest, no payment loans of up to \$48,000 are available to address property standards and building code issues and deficiencies.

To be eligible for this program an individual must:

- Own and reside in his/her own home;
- Meet specific income guidelines based on family size;
- Have a mortgage that is no more than 80 percent of the home's fair market cash value as determined by a current tax bill; and
- Have a home value that does not exceed \$163,000 as determined by the fair market cash value as determined by a current tax bill.

This program will be administered on a first-come, first-serve basis until all designated funding has been allotted to qualifying home owners. For more detailed information and a Pre-Application Package, interested parties can contact Michael P. Isituro, Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Coordinator, McHenry County Housing Authority, at 815-338-7752 x133, via e-mail at [misituro@mchenrycountyhousing.org](mailto:misituro@mchenrycountyhousing.org), or in person at 1108 North Seminary Avenue, Woodstock, Illinois 60098.

## **POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM AWARDED GRANT**

The Woodstock Police Department Police Career Explorers program was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the McHenry County Community Foundation for the 2014 – 2015 year.

Explorers must be between the ages of 14 – 21 and have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They must possess a good character, have an expressed interest in law enforcement and maintain a good grade point average. Explorers are required to attend bi-monthly training meetings and (eventually) pass a basic proficiency exam. After meeting all of these requirements, Explorers are then able to participate in ride alongs with Officers and assist them on non-hazardous calls for service.

**Chief Robert Lowen** and **Sergeant Constantino “Tino” Cipolla**, who heads up the Explorers, are extremely grateful to the McHenry County Community Foundation for their continued support of this very successful and worthwhile program.

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## **OLSON PARK SPRAY POOL**

Now that Woodstock schools are dismissed for the summer, Woodstock's children will be looking for different ways to beat the heat and discover free fun! One such park amenity is the Olson Park spray pool, located at the corner of Clay Street & Bagley Street, that is on for children's enjoyment throughout the summer when the air temperature is 80 degrees or hotter.

In keeping with the City's policy of water conservation education and implementation, the spray pool will be turned on daily, when the temperature is 80 degrees or warmer, between the hours of 1:30PM and 3:00PM. One exception to this rule is on Wednesdays when the Recreation Department's Playground Program spends the morning at Olson Park. On Wednesdays, from June 11 through July 23, the spray pool will be turned on at 9:15AM regardless of the temperature. In the event of rain on a Wednesday morning, the spray pool will be turned on Friday morning that week. If the temperature is below 80 degrees at noon on Wednesdays, the spray pool will be turned off for that day. If the temperature is above 80 degrees at noon, the spray pool will remain on until 3:00PM.

For questions regarding the spray pool, Olson Park, or any of the City's parks; please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)



## **LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN ON SUNDAY**

The annual running of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics will take place on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Several members of the **Woodstock Police Department** will participate in the event; as of yesterday, **Chief Robert Lowen, Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons, Sergeant Tino Cipolla, Officer Jason Bernstein, Officer Sharon Freund** and **Telecommunicator Tami Soto** were set to run.

The total run is 17.8 miles, but participants are encouraged to run (or jog) whatever distance is comfortable for them. At the finish line in Knox Park in McHenry, participants can look forward to a barbeque to celebrate their achievement. Congratulations to all runners and volunteers who participate in this worthwhile event to benefit Illinois Special Olympics.

## **MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...**

Tuesday, June 10 – Economic Development Commission, 8:00AM, Council Chambers

Tuesday, June 10 – Parks and Recreation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

## **QUOTE**

What you will do matters. All you need is to do it.

Judy Grahn

## **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

The City of Woodstock has just posted the notice to establish a new **Patrol Officer Eligibility List**, a process that occurs every two years. The current list expires in October of 2014. The following notice appears on the City's website as follows:

### **City of Woodstock PATROL OFFICER**

Woodstock, NW Chicago suburban community of 24,770, on Metra rail and McHenry County seat, seeks dedicated public servants to establish a Patrol Officer Eligibility List. Min qual: 21-34 yrs old (age waiver for experienced officers); US citizen; HS grad or equiv., with preference points awarded for bachelor's degree any major; for associate's degree in criminal justice, law enforcement, fire service or emergency medical services; or, for prior military service with honorable discharge; valid driver's license and good driving record; no felony convictions. FY14/15 starting salary: \$52,025 with comprehensive benefits package. Application packet can be saved to your computer and/or printed from [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) under Employment Opportunities, or emailed by contacting: [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov) Completed applications must include \$35 processing fee (cash, check, or money order) and be submitted to City of Woodstock HR Dept., 121 W. Calhoun St., by 5:00 pm Tuesday, 7-15-14. Mandatory Orientation and Testing to be held Saturday, 7-26-14. Current valid POWER card will be accepted in lieu of physical testing at Orientation. EOE.

The following position is posted and open for application:

### **PT Young Adult Library Assistant**

The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for the part-time position of Young Adult Library Assistant with the Woodstock Public Library. Examples of duties include: assisting with development and conducting programming efforts aimed at middle school and high school aged library patrons; providing assistance with library resources; promoting teen programming through webpage and publicity development; enforcing policies for library behavior; and other related duties as assigned. Bilingual ability is desirable. Position works 20-28 hours per week with the following as minimally scheduled hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 2 – 7 pm and Tues. 4 – 9 pm, plus occasional daytime meetings and weekend work.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education or similar field; experience working with students, especially teens, in school setting or public library youth services department; excellent communication skills, including proficiency using computers, research databases, social media and Internet; Spanish language fluency is highly desirable. Pay rate: \$17.20/hr. with prorated time off benefits, IMRF membership and non-City subsidized health insurance. Contact City of Woodstock HR Department at [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov) for required application. Deadline to apply: Friday, June 13, 2014. EOE.

### **LEAD & COPPER TAP WATER TESTING**

On June 7, 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation, known as the Lead and Copper Rule requires drinking water systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps through the collection of a water sample every three years.

Lead and copper does not originate from the City's raw water supply but rather it is concentrated into the water as it lays dormant in lead and copper service lines and fixtures within the home plumbing systems. Like many other water systems, Woodstock adds polyphosphate to its water supply which serves to place a coating on the inside of service lines, pipes, fixtures, etc. This coating creates a barrier that slows down or eliminates the absorption of lead and/ or copper into tap water. Based upon the size of the Woodstock community, thirty (30) tap water samples from approved residences will be collected during the month of June. Empty water bottles will be delivered to residences on Friday, June 6 for water collection. Water samples must be returned to the Department of Public Works by Tuesday, July 1. If you receive one of these bottles, please follow the instructions attached to the bottle. Your cooperation is necessary for the City of Woodstock to remain in compliance with the IEPA.

If you have any questions about this testing, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)



### **SEASON POOL PASS PERKS**

**Woodstock Water Works Season Pool Pass Holders** were treated to donuts and coffee and a special swimming time this past Sunday from 9:30 – 11:00AM. Woodstock Water Works gave out 100 blue frosted donuts and served juice and coffee to all who entered.

Another special perk for pool pass holders continued through the past week with an 11:00AM am opening time one hour prior to the normal noon opening.



### **HEALTH & SAFETY: SIMPLE WAYS TO STAY IN SHAPE**

Following a healthy eating plan may feel overwhelming, but starting with small changes can make it a more realistic goal.

The Weight-Loss Information Network offers this advice:

- Eat breakfast each day.
- Each time you fill your plate, make sure half contains vegetables and fruit.
- Opt for fat-free or low-fat dairy products.
- Choose whole grains more often than refined grains. Examples of whole grains include oatmeal, whole-wheat pasta and brown rice.
- Limit consumption of candy, cookies and drinks high in sugar.

## **MOSQUITO PREVENTION**

Eliminate their breeding sites:

- **Eliminate standing water in containers** around the home, including water in cans, plastic containers, potted plant saucers, buckets, garbage cans, barrels, wheelbarrows, and any other container that holds water for more than a few days. Empty the water and then either: invert, cover, punch drainage holes in, or dispose of these containers.
- **Change water in birdbaths** and pet water dishes at least once a week, preferably every 2 to 3 days.
- **Fix leaky outdoor faucets and sprinklers**, and don't over water your yard. Any standing water can produce mosquitoes.
- **Recycle tires or store them so they do not collect water.** Tires are extremely hard to drain, and each one can produce thousands of mosquitoes.
- **Keep roof gutters clean** so water drains; otherwise mosquitoes can breed in the leaf and water mixture.
- **Don't dump yard waste into street gutters, storm drains, or creeks.** It can impede the flow of water, allowing mosquitoes to breed. The decaying organic matter then provides food for dense numbers of growing mosquito larvae.
- **Drain plastic wading pools or fountains when not in use**, or cover tightly to deny access to mosquitoes.
- **Keep swimming pools and hot tubs chlorinated and filtered.** When not in use for extended periods, cover pools or tubs tightly. One unattended pool or hot tub can breed enough mosquitoes to affect a whole neighborhood.

Protect yourself:

- **Install screens on windows and doors** and keep them in good repair.
- **Certain species of mosquitoes are attracted to light, so keep outside lighting to a minimum near entry doors;** keep those doors screened or close them at sunset.
- **Wear long sleeves and long pants** when mosquitoes are biting. Learn the times of day when mosquitoes are most active in your area and avoid outdoor activity at those times.
- **Use insect repellents.** Studies show that DEET-based repellents are the most effective.\* (DEET has been in use for 40 years. After nearly 8 billion human applications, fewer than 50 cases of serious toxic effects have been documented in the medical literature.)



## **PLAYGROUND PROGRAM COUNSELORS PREPARE FOR A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER**

Monday, June 2 was the kick off training for the **Recreation Department's Playground Program** staff at the Rec Center. All twenty-four staff members met with **Human Resources Director Deb Schober** to fill out tax forms, information sheets, and discuss personnel policies. Staff were re-certified in First Aid and CPR and trained in disability awareness by NISRA staff.

The rest of the week was filled with team building, learning new games, songs and crafts for the counselors led by the **Playground Program Supervisors Emily Draffkorn and Elissa Limbaugh**.

At the end of the week, everyone headed out to the new location of the program, Olson Elementary School, to set up supplies and prepare for the program.

On Tuesday our *Counselors in Training* met the counselors and toured the school facility. This year, the program has a record number of CITs, with 25 enrolled. The CITs are an important part of the program and serve as an extra safety measure for the little ones in the morning. The CITs met with supervisor **Emily Draffkorn**, to go over expectations and daily responsibilities, to prepare them to start volunteering next week!

The Playground Program Counselor Meet and Greet is tonight at Olson Elementary School. This is an open house that will run from 5-7PM. During this program, participants and their parents will be able to meet their counselor, pick up an information packet, find their meeting point for camp days and ask any questions they may have about the program.

The 57th year of the Playground Program starts Monday, June 10 with over **250 kids** registered. Children ages 4-7 attend from 9AM-Noon and ages 7-12 attend from 1-4PM. Registration is still available for this fun and safe summer program. Please contact the Recreation Department for more information.





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

Officer Sharon Freund will discuss the process of police recruiting and hiring and also present an overview of activity in Beat 23 (the southwest quadrant of the city.)

# Coffee with the Chief



Monday, June 9, 2014  
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.