



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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ELECTRIC AGGREGATION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE



The electric aggregation in which the City participates, NIGEAC, is pleased to report that negotiations have been completed for a new term that will continue to provide savings versus the alternative ComEd rates.

Residents and small businesses in the current program have collectively saved over \$6.2 million in the first 18 months of the program that will expire in July 2014.

NIGEAC recently completed an exhaustive bidding process and agreed to renew with the current supplier, Direct Energy, for another 12 months at a fixed rate of 7.2 cents/kWh. Direct Energy will be sending letters in the upcoming weeks to current participants and new eligible residents who receive their supply from ComEd or, in other words, those who have not chosen a supplier on their own. This letter will explain the rates, terms, and conditions. If a resident wishes to remain in the program, they should do nothing. A 21-day opt-out period is available for those who do not wish to participate.

While this 7.2cents/kWh is higher than the rates provided with the first two years of the program, the prolonged and bitter cold winter has driven energy prices higher and capacity costs have soared as a result of the retirement of many coal-fired generating plants across the Midwest. This new rate will still offer significant savings vs. the ComEd rate, which is only known through May 31, 2015.

MEMORIAL DAY IMPACTS CITY'S GARBAGE SERVICE

As a reminder, Memorial Day will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the week of May 26th through May 30th. With Memorial Day falling on a Monday, all residents normal garbage pickup will occur one day later. In addition, those residents who normally have garbage picked up on Friday will need to place their garbage out for collection on Saturday. Any questions should be directed to the City's garbage contractor, MDC Environmental Services at 815-334-0014.



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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK OBSERVED

National Police Week runs from May 11th through May 17th this year. There are a multitude of activities occurring in Washington, D.C. this week to commemorate the occasion, such as a memorial service, candlelight vigil, baseball

and football games, Pipe Band march and a survivors' conference to support the families of fallen Officers. The event seeks to honor those who have fallen and say thank you to those who continue to serve and protect our communities.

By Federal law, May 15th is designated as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and as such both the United States and State of Illinois flags are flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset in honor of all those Officers throughout the country who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

If you have an opportunity this week to do so, please remember to say thank you to your local **Woodstock Police Department** Officers for their dedication and service to our community – your support really does matter.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

**Monday, May 12 – City Council Workshop,
3:00PM, Stage Left Café**

**Tuesday, May 13 – Economic Development
Commission, 8:00AM, City Hall**

CELEBRATE BUILDING SAFETY MONTH!

The month of May is recognized throughout the nation as “Building Safety Month.” This acknowledgment is indicative of public awareness efforts to help individuals, families and businesses understand what it takes to create and sustain safe and structurally-sound structures. This campaign reinforces the need for adopting modern building codes, having a strong and efficient system of code enforcement and administration, and engaging the services of well-trained and professional individuals to maintain Woodstock’s building inspection program.

The campaign is celebrated by the International Code Council and the International Code Council Foundation, by the City’s building inspectors, and by the numerous construction, design and safety companies in the community. Trade associations, corporations, and government agencies have come together to support Building Safety Month and understand the need for safe and sustainable structures where we live, work and play.



Woodstock’s building inspection and code enforcement personnel, **John Bertram, Rob Walkington, Dan Streit, and Donovan Day**, encourage all of you to take part in Building Safety Month by supporting the City’s ongoing efforts to ensure safe and sound housing and business facilities for everyone.

WOODSTOCK OBSERVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

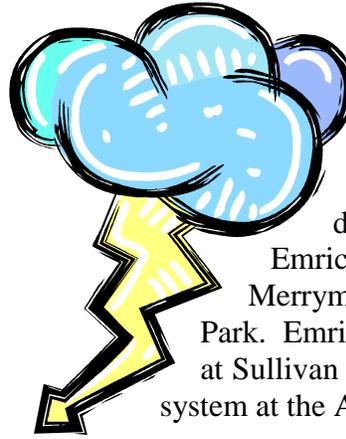
May is local historic preservation month in McHenry County and various events are planned throughout the County. The Woodstock Historic Preservation Commission is hosting a free walking tour of the historic square on Saturday, May 17th. Interested participants should meet in front of the Opera House at 1:00 p.m.

At the May 20th City Council meeting, the Woodstock HPC will recognize the following property owners and business owners who have recently completed projects in the downtown historic district. Chairman Allen Stebbins will present a brief slide program and award certificates of recognition for the following projects:

- **129 E South Street** remodel: former service station now home to One Zero Charlie design services
- **110 Washington Street** restoration: two unit store-front building home to Platform 108 salon and Woodstock Stuttering Specialist
- **106 Cass Street** façade restoration; The Backdrop retail store
- **100-108 N. Benton** 4th floor windows restoration: Murphy Block building
- **101 E Church Street** beer garden/patio: Ortmann's Red Iron Tavern
- **Old Courthouse Video** Afterglow Creative Services

The complete county-wide preservation month calendar of events can be viewed at:

<https://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-j-z/planning-development/planning-development-events/-item-6525>



LIGHTNING DETECTION WARNING SYSTEM

The City of Woodstock currently has lightning detection systems in place at Emricson Park, Davis Road Park, Merryman Fields Park, and Bates Park. Emricson Park has a base system at Sullivan Field that includes a remote system at the Aquatic Center.

When lightning is detected a horn will sound for 15 seconds and a strobe light is activated until an 'all clear' is given. The 'all clear' is denoted by 3 short, 5-second blasts coinciding with the shut-down of the strobe light.

This lightning detection system has been installed as a means of communicating a lightning threat and heighten awareness that the initial stages of the storm have been detected in the immediate area of the park. This advance notification of the storm's arrival should be used to provide additional time to seek safety.

In the event that lightning is evident but the lightning detection system does not alarm, a flash-to-bang (lightning to thunder) count of not less than 30 seconds is strongly recommended as a determinant of when to suspend or postpone athletic or recreational activities. As the flash-to-bang count approaches 30 seconds, all persons should be seeking, or already inside, a safe location. Waiting 30 minutes or longer after the last flash of lightning or sound of thunder is recommended before athletic or recreational activities are resumed.

When lightning is evident, avoid being in or near high places and open fields, isolated trees, flagpoles, or light poles. A safe location would be a fully enclosed vehicle such as cars, trucks, buses, or vans with the windows rolled up.

It is incumbent on all individuals, particularly those who are leaders in athletics and recreation, to heed the lightning hazard and act prudently, wisely, and in a spirit that will encourage safe behavior in others.

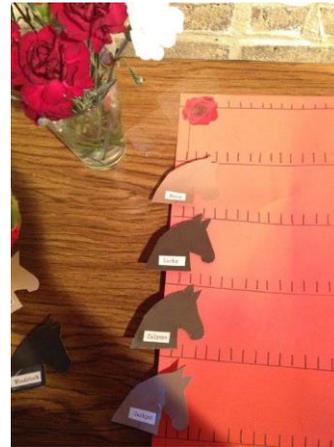
PARK IN THE SQUARE – TREE REMOVAL

Now that spring has arrived, our **Parks Division** employees are busy revitalizing the City's Parks, including the Park in the Square. They have been cleaning out perennial plant beds, adding mulch and making way for new growth, as well as trimming trees & shrubs and removing dead twigs & branches.

For the past few years the City's Arborist has been closely watching one of the Red Maple trees in the Park in the Square, and it's been determined that the tree has rot in its main stem and must be removed. Fortunately, the City anticipated that this tree may become hazardous, and a new tree was planted in the same area a couple of years ago.

At some time during the week of May 12, the **Department of Public Works** will be closing four parking spaces in the inner perimeter of N. Benton Street so that the tree can be removed. This work will take approximately one hour.

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



THE STAKES ARE HIGH AT COFFEE AT THE CAFÉ

The only thing missing at *Coffee at the Café* this past Tuesday was California Chrome! Participants in the Tuesday group that meets at **Stage Left Café** were treated to an afternoon – Kentucky Derby Style! They

participated in their own Run for the Roses and donned beautiful hats, drank from the iced tea bar, snacked on pecan pie and ham biscuits and even had a race of their own.

Coffee at the Café meets every Tuesday at 1PM at Stage Left Café. **City Manager Office Assistant Monica Amraen** and **Program Coordinator Becky Vidales** coordinate weekly programs adding speakers, light lunches, BINGO, games and themed activities to add to the schedule.



RECRUITMENT NEWS

Congratulations to **Benefits Analyst Jill May** who achieved Full-Time status in her valued role with the **HR Department**, beginning this week.

The top two candidates for **Production Manager** at the **Woodstock Opera House** have been invited back for a second interview next Wednesday, 5/14, to tour the facility and meet staff members.

One candidate was invited back for a second interview for the position of **Economic Development Coordinator**, with name to be announced pending final background and reference checks.

A total of 32 individuals expressed interest in the posted **Street Supervisor** opening with **Public Works** by last Friday's deadline, including both internal and external candidates. Following thorough review of information received, 11 external candidates were forwarded formal applications, to be returned to HR no later than Tuesday, May 20th.

The following positions remain open for application by qualified internal and external candidates:

Parks Supervisor—Note: Deadline Extended!

Due to impending retirement, Woodstock seeks experienced candidates for Parks Supervisor, responsible for planning, scheduling and implementing a wide range of maintenance and public improvement activities related to parks construction, repair and maintenance, including athletic fields, irrigation systems, playgrounds, open space, landscaping, park amenities, natural areas, recreational areas, right-of-way trees, streetscape elements, buildings and other related tasks. Exempt position reports to the Asst. Public Works Director and oversees 8-15 employees in the Parks Division. Minimum qualifications: Associate degree in parks and recreation administration or related field; five (5) years of parks and recreation experience; three (3) years of supervisory experience; and a valid IL Class B CDL with air brakes endorsement and good record, or ability to obtain within 3 months of hire. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

Starting salary range: \$59,654 - \$76,160 DOQ, with excellent benefit package. Please send current resume and cover letter highlighting qualifications to: humanresources@woodstockil.gov no later than: **Friday, May 30, 2014**. Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates. EOE.

PT Community Service Officer

The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for the position of Part-time Community Service Officer with the Woodstock Police Department. Examples of duties include assisting the Patrol Division with patrol of City park areas, vacation house checks, animal control, vehicular lock-outs, processing complaints, ordinance enforcement, and other related duties as assigned. Position will work an average of 28 hrs/week with primary duties in and around the Woodstock Square and downtown area.

Minimum Qualifications: HS diploma or equivalent; vocational/technical training in police science, criminal justice or related field preferred; excellent oral and written communications and customer service skills, and valid IL driver's license and good record required. Starting Pay Rate: \$17.20/hour with IMRF pension and prorated benefits, excluding health insurance. Required applications may be obtained at: humanresources@woodstockil.gov or in the HR Department at Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun Street, Woodstock IL. Deadline to apply: **Friday, May 16, 2014**. EOE.

QUOTE

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.”

— [Mahatma Gandhi](#)

DONATION RECEIVED FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE OPERA HOUSE



At the May 6, 2014 Council Meeting, the Friends of the **Opera House** generously donated \$10,000 to the City of Woodstock. Mayor Sager thanked the Organization and said the funds will be used to assist in the operations and maintenance of this historic building.

The Friends of the Opera House is a 501(c)3 recognized origination. They were created with the sole purpose of supporting the Woodstock Opera House ensuring the vitality of the Opera House for future generations. The Friends of the Opera House welcomes everyone to become a friend of this unique and historic building. For more information on becoming a Friend, please call the Opera House at 815-338-4212.



2013 – 2014 City of Woodstock United Way Employee Campaign

The 2013-2014 City of Woodstock United Way Employee Campaign has concluded. The Planning Committee had a campaign goal of 20 pledges/\$4,000. Now that the campaign has concluded, the Committee is proud to announce that we successfully met and exceeded the pledge goal by receiving 25 pledges. In addition, the amount pledged for the drive was just shy of the Committee's goal - \$3,069. Thank you to everyone who attended the campaign event and/or made a pledge.

The Pledge Raffle was drawn on May 9th and the Committee is pleased to announce the following winners:

- Woodstock Water Works pool pass for summer 2014: **Carrie Zamorano**
- 2 tickets to a Woodstock Opera House Show: **Jill May**
- \$30 Chamber of Commerce Gift Card: **Chief Robert Lowen**
- 2 Tickets to the Orson Welles Film Festival: **Terry Willcockson**
- \$5 Gift card to Read Between the Lynes: **Chad Peterson**
- 1 Floating Holiday: **Mary Lynn Lisk**
-

Congratulations!

The above prize recipients should call **Jill May** in the **HR Department** at extension 11206 to find out how to collect their prizes.

The Committee looks forward to planning future United Way events, which supports McHenry County tremendously.

BLOCK PARTIES

The **Department of Public Works** is happy to assist residents that wish to host a neighborhood or Block Party. A Block Party application form must be submitted, with required signatures, to Public Works at least seven (7) days prior to the requested date of the Block Party. Applications are reviewed and approved on a first-submitted, first-approved basis (there is no fee involved). Once approved, Public Works will provide barricades to close the public street during the event (if desired, by the resident) along with picnic tables and trash cans for event use. For further information, or to schedule a Block Party, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or via email pwdept@woodstockil.gov



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: PROTECT PRECIOUS EYESIGHT

As we age, there are numerous ways our bodies can betray us unexpectedly. But more and more, scientists are discovering measures that can be taken to effectively delay or even prevent many of these declines, especially when it comes to diet and lifestyle. One such preventable disease is age-related macular degeneration, responsible for 90% of cases of severe vision loss in the aging US population.

Lifestyle choices that promote development of this disease: cigarette smoking, sun exposure, having uncontrolled high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Lifestyle choices that reduce likeliness of this disease: eating anti-oxidant rich foods such as green beans, peas, peppers, broccoli, celery, spinach and kale, and taking supplements of vitamins C, E, beta carotene and zinc.

The choices we make today do absolutely affect the challenges we may face tomorrow.