



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 9

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POLICE POLAR PLUNGE EARNS COLD HARD CASH

On Sunday, February 23rd, members of the **Woodstock Police Department**, including two Explorer Scouts, participated in a fundraiser benefiting the Special Olympics – the Polar Plunge! A total of \$4,943.69 was raised in support of the Illinois Special Olympics by this hardy band of plungers!

Plungers included: **Sergeant Constantino Cipolla, Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons, Sergeant Josh Fourdyce, Detective Ray Lanz, Detective Rob Branum, K-9 Officer Dave Dempsey, Officer Josh Rapacz, Officer Mike Niedzwiecki, Officer Michael Karnath, Officer Kevin Tietz, Community Service Officer Glen Davis, and WPD Explorers Stephanie Kroll and Brandy Jenkins.**

Many thanks to Sergeant Cipolla for organizing and leading the Woodstock Police Department team. Congratulations to everyone who took the plunge in support of the Illinois Special Olympics – and to those who supported them with their donations and presence!

The slogan says it all – “freezin’ for a reason!”

SAFETY TIPS – ‘CHILDREN AT PLAY’

Children should NEVER play in snow drifts, windrows of snow, or snow piles close to any street or driveway. An accident may be unavoidable if a vehicle can't stop.

If sidewalks are not cleared by the adjoining property owner, school children and pedestrians may occasionally walk along the edge of the street. Motorists are reminded to watch for pedestrians walking in the street, give them the right of way, and slow down when nearing any pedestrian or school children. Pedestrians are reminded to walk in the opposite direction of traffic.

Allow additional space and time when approaching stop signs and crosswalks. Please be aware of the road conditions, and slow down.

Always take the time to completely clear snow and ice from all vehicle windows. Remember to include your headlights and brake / taillights so other drivers are aware when you approach or slow down. By not doing so, you risk not only yourself, but the lives of your passengers, fellow motorists, and unwary pedestrians.

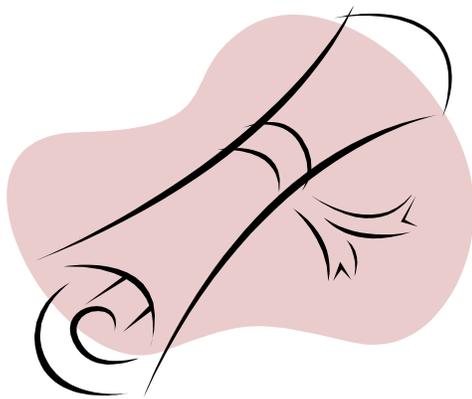
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WASTEWATER TREATMENT EMPLOYEE RECEIVED IEPA CERTIFICATION

Dan Bolda, Plant Operator I for the City's Wastewater Treatment Division, recently obtained Certificate of Competency as a Class 4 Wastewater Treatment Operator from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This is the first certification offered through the EPA. To be qualified for taking this exam, the State of Illinois requires both specific years of actual hands-on experience, as well as passing the difficult exam. **Congratulations to Dan** for this achievement and for his hard work to advance his professional status for the City.



PRAIRIEWOOD ELEMENTARY DARE GRADUATION

On Wednesday, February 26th the final DARE graduation for this semester was held at Prairiewood Elementary School. **DARE Officer Michael Gustis** presided over the ceremony with **Chief Robert Lowen, Mayor Brian Sager, McHenry County Undersheriff Andrew Zinke** from Rotary and **Lynn Mohan** from District #200 joined in the festivities.

Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck in middle school!

POLICE DEPARTMENT GOT GAME



Chief Robert Lowen and fellow members of the **Woodstock Police Department** traveled on Thursday, February 20th to the Misericordia Home in Chicago to

participate in a sporting event with its residents. **Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons, Sergeant Josh Fourdyce, Sergeant Rob Pritchard and Detective Rob Branum** joined Chief Lowen's son, **Matt Lowen**, and Monica Amraen's son, **Steve Amraen**, to volunteer their time to play basketball with residents for a few hours. Ranging in age from their teens to their mid-forties, residents thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with police personnel and volunteers and a good time was had by all. Chief Lowen took t-shirts as gifts for the residents to commemorate the now annual event.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Monday, March 3 – Board of Fire and Police, 5PM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, March 4 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers
Thursday, March 6- Library Board, 7:30PM, Woodstock Library

QUOTE

It takes a great man to be a good listener.

Calvin Coolidge

FROZEN PIPES & FREEZING WEATHER

Winters can be harsh on household plumbing so don't forget to protect the water meter and pipes from freezing temperatures. Those located on outside walls, in basements or in crawl spaces, are particularly vulnerable to the cold. They can easily freeze and break during cold spells and lead to costly repairs.

- Check the meter periodically to see if there is damage and contact us if you detect a crack.
- If a sink is located against an outside wall, open the cabinet doors overnight to allow warm air to reach water pipes.
- If you have had problems with frozen pipes in the past, keep a trickle of water running from the highest faucet in your house. During extremely cold periods, this trickle should be the size of a pencil point. You will be billed for the water used but this procedure may help prevent more costly plumbing repairs resulting from broken pipes.

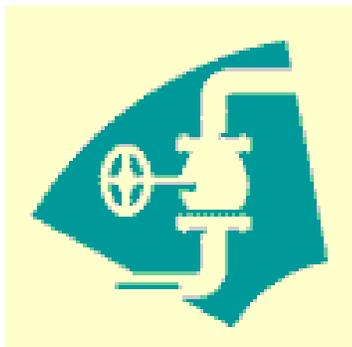
Thawing Frozen Pipes

Partial water service indicates that a pipe is frozen somewhere in the house. A complete lack of water service can be the result of a frozen water meter or a frozen pipe leading from the water main in the street to the house. A meter or water pipe that feels extremely cold is most likely frozen. It's important to clear frozen blockages as soon as possible to minimize the danger of pipes bursting in some inaccessible spot. The resulting leak could cause serious property damage.

Follow the important steps outlined below to help thaw frozen pipes. In some instances, it may be best to call a licensed plumber.

Indoors

- If a water pipe has frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve in the house.
- Open a nearby faucet slightly so the pipe can drain as it thaws
- Thaw pipes and meters by applying hot air from a hair dryer, electric heater or by using a heating pad.
- Do not use electrical appliances in areas of standing water because you could be electrocuted
- Never use hot water or a blowtorch on a frozen pipe or water meter.
 - Frozen underground pipes running into the house may require the application of electric current or other thawing devices. A licensed plumber must address this problem.
- If frozen underground lines outside the house are an annual problem, consider lowering them in the spring to a point below the frost line.



RECRUITMENT NEWS

Welcome to **Grant Havens**, who joins the **Woodstock Police Department** this week in the full-time position of **Telecommunicator**.

Interviews were also conducted this week to establish a substitute call list of experienced candidates to serve as **part-time Telecommunicators**, on an as-needed basis, with interview results to be determined soon.

Recruitment closes next week for 2014 Summer Seasonal Workers for **Recreation Lifeguards** and **Playground Program Counselors**, with a minimum age of 16; and for **Public Works Summer Maintenance**, with a minimum age of 18 and a valid driver's license required. Deadline to apply is next Friday, March 7, 2014, with applications available via email at humanresources@woodstockil.gov, or in the **HR Department** at City Hall.

The following recruitments remain active and posted:

Economic Development Coordinator

Woodstock seeks dynamic, experienced economic development professional to attract and facilitate new and existing business, and market Woodstock as a unique and thriving business destination. This full-time position reports to the Director of Community & Economic Development and serves as the City's main contact to handle all retail, commercial and industrial recruitment and expansion.

Minimum qualifications: BS in Business or Public Admin, Marketing, Urban Planning, or related field; 5 years' progressively responsible work experience; excellent communications, marketing and computer skills; and valid driver's license with good record, required. CECD, EDFP or AICP a plus.

Beginning salary: \$42,127 - \$65,377 depending on qualifications and experience, with excellent benefit package.

Current resume and cover letter— clearly outlining relevant experience and education - should be emailed no later than Tuesday, March 18, 2014 to: humanresources@woodstockil.gov Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates and must be returned by the specified due date in order to receive consideration. The City reserves the right to select only the most qualified applicants for an interview. EOE

Woodstock Opera House Production Manager

Due to retirement, the City of Woodstock is seeking qualified applicants for **Production Manager** with the **Woodstock Opera House**. This full-time exempt position coordinates technical theatrical scenery, lighting and sound for all public performances in the Opera House, Stage Left Café and Square Park Bandstand; organizes and assigns personnel and equipment; supervises personnel training; purchases and maintains production equipment. Work is performed under the direction of the Opera House Managing Director.

Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Theatre Production, Theatre or Fine Arts (MFA degree in Theatre preferred); 5 years' theatre scenery, stage lighting, sound and design production experience, at more than one venue; valid driver's license with good record; ability to obtain CPR and first aid certifications, and to be federally licensed to manufacture, possess and use pyrotechnic materials.

Salary Range: \$58,498 - \$90,833 DOQ, with full benefits package of group health & dental insurance, benefit time and IMRF retirement plan.

Qualified candidates may submit a current resume and cover letter—clearly outlining relevant experience and education—to: humanresources@woodstockil.gov no later than **Friday, March 14, 2014**. Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates and must be returned by the specified due date in order to receive consideration. The City reserves the right to select only the most qualified applicants for an interview. EOE

**YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE
DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE BRINGS SOME
“SUN” TO THE REC CENTER**



Pictured are Jeremy and Adelaide Leitzen, who were one of over 75 couples who danced the night away at the **Recreation Department’s** “*You are My Sunshine*” Daddy/Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 22nd at the Rec Center gym and multi-purpose room.

The night included a variety of snacks, pizza generously donated by Papa Murphy’s, and everyone’s favorite, a “sun-day” bar. Dads and daughters alike danced to fantastic music by Music in Motion DJs. Each couple will receive a photo taken by DeWane’s Studio.

This was the 10th year the **Recreation Department** hosted the dance and participation was as popular as previous years.

After the event a parent posted on the Woodstock Recreation Department’s Facebook page the following statement, “*Heard that tonight was awesome...some really happy excited girls came home after a super fun night! Great job planning, good food (so I hear!) And they really loved the dance instructions! Thanks for a super fun night! They are already talking about next year!*”

This event was coordinated by **Program Coordinator Renée Torrez** and was a success due to the help of several Recreation Department staff and volunteers. Many thanks to **Program Coordinators Becky Vidales and Alan Dunker, Recreation Center Manager Mary Lynn Lisk, Recreation Center Front Counter Staff Ron Schmitt, Karina Fuentes, Jorie Karafa, Arturo Diaz, Erin Sarich, Jessi Bloniarz and Leah Baird** and volunteers, **Ruth Schmitt, Ruby Santana, Michael Butler and Kellen and Kiara Carey** all of whom volunteered their time to help set-up, serve food and clean up after the dance. The dance is a success due to all of their time and talents!!



COOKING WITH KIDS

The popular “no-cook,” *Cooking Class* for kids ages four to eight offered through the **Recreation Department** wrapped up this past Tuesday.

Participants were able to enjoy the fruits of their labor including breakfast, snacks, lunch, and of course, dessert, that was cooked up during this four-week class.

This interactive class taught participants the basic cooking skills for even the smallest of chefs while also learning about kitchen safety, healthy eating habits, and culinary delights with instructor Jen Bigler.

There are still spots available for the spring session that runs Tuesdays, April 8-29 from 4:30-5:30PM the Recreation Center. The Resident fee is \$46 and \$66 for Non-Residents.



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: SHOPPING TIPS FOR HEALTHY HEARTS

When it comes to your heart, what you eat matters. Follow these tips for heart healthy eating: Eat **less saturated and trans fat**. Stay away from fatty meats, fried foods, cakes, and cookies. Cut down on **sodium (salt)**. Look for the low-sodium or “no salt added” types of canned soups, vegetables, snack foods, and lunch meats. Get **more fiber**. Fiber is in vegetables, fruits, and whole grains. **Avoid impulse shopping by taking this list with you when you go to the market:**
Vegetables and Fruits

Eat a variety of vegetables and fruits. To save money, buy vegetables and fruits that are in season, frozen, or canned.

- Fresh vegetables such as tomatoes, cabbage, broccoli, and spinach
- Leafy greens for salads
- Canned vegetables low in sodium (salt)
- Frozen vegetables without added butter or sauces
- Fresh fruits such as apples, oranges, bananas, pears, and peaches
- Canned fruit in 100% juice, **not** syrup
- Frozen or dried fruit (unsweetened)

Milk and Milk Products

Look for fat-free or low-fat milk products. Or choose soy products with added calcium.

- Fat-free or low-fat (1%) milk
- Fat-free or low-fat yogurt
- Cheese (3 grams of fat or less per serving)
- Soy-based drinks with added calcium (soymilk)

Breads, Cereals, and Grains

If there’s more than one ingredient, make sure whole wheat or another whole grain is listed first.

- 100% whole-wheat bread
- Whole-grain breakfast cereals like oatmeal
- Whole grains such as brown or wild rice, barley, and bulgur
- Whole-wheat or whole-grain pasta

Meat, Beans, Eggs, and Nuts

Choose lean cuts of meat and other foods with protein.

- Seafood, including fish and shellfish
- Chicken and turkey breast without skin
- Pork: leg, shoulder, tenderloin
- Beef: round, sirloin, tenderloin, extra lean ground beef
- Beans, lentils, and peas
- Eggs and egg substitutes
- Nuts and seeds

Fats and Oils

Cut back on saturated fat and look for products with no trans fats.

- Margarine and spreads (soft, tub, or liquid) with no trans fats
- Vegetable oil (canola, olive, peanut, or sesame)
- Non-stick cooking spray
- Light or fat-free salad dressing and mayonnaise



MORE PICTURES FROM THE DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE





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

Director Paul Ruscko will discuss the various divisions and duties of Public Works and also explain how the severe winter weather has impacted both the City and his department.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, March 10, 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.