



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR – CLEAR SNOW & ICE FROM SIDEWALKS

The City of Woodstock encourages all residents to remove snow & ice from sidewalks along the frontage of their homes and private property. The clearing of snow provides a path for school children and other pedestrians to safely maneuver throughout the City. This time of year snow and ice thaws during the day, flows across the sidewalk, and freezes again at night. For the safety of others, spread some ice melt in those areas where 're-freeze' occurs to aide in the prevention of slips and falls.

By not clearing the snow from your public sidewalk, school children and pedestrians may be forced to walk along the edge of streets, which can be dangerous for both pedestrians and motorists.

Please be a good neighbor and remove the snow and ice from your sidewalks as soon after a winter storm event as possible to help to keep the City of Woodstock a safe place for pedestrians to travel during the winter months.



FEBRUARY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced



that February's Special Traffic Enforcement Initiative will target Cell Phone and Handheld

Electronic Communications Equipment violations.

The primary goal is to reduce the incidence of distracted driving related motor vehicle crashes, and the resulting injuries and fatalities, through highly-visible increased enforcement of the hands free communication laws. Equally important is the continuing education of the motoring public by encouraging mandatory compliance with the distracted driving laws.

For further information or questions regarding this special traffic enforcement initiative, please contact **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** by phone at 815-338-2131 or by email at rpritchard@woodstockil.gov.

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TEMPORARY BAN ON OVERWEIGHT LOADS

Several area local road jurisdictions place temporary weight restrictions on their local roads and streets each spring to reduce the amount of damage on the roadways and road base when the subgrade thaws. The City of Woodstock does not expect to place any temporary restrictions for the allowable legal weight limit for any street under our jurisdiction. However, the City will not approve any requests for special permits for overweight vehicles for any City road or street this spring.

Effective Monday, March 3 and continuing at least through Monday, April 7, the City of Woodstock will not approve nor allow any trucks, trailers, or other vehicles that are in excess of the axle loading established by the State of Illinois to use any City street. Depending on weather conditions and the conditions of the roadways, this temporary restriction prohibiting overweight vehicles could be extended.

If you have equipment that would result in an overweight load that needs to be moved to/from your job site this spring, the transportation needs to be completed prior to March 3 or after April 7, 2014.



WPD CSO ATTENDS TRAINING

Woodstock Police Department Community Service Officer Glen Davis attended an intensive three day training class last week. It was held at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn and presented by the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (SLEA).

CSO Davis was fortunate to be able to see first-hand their 65,000 square foot state-of-the-art Homeland Security Education Center (HEC) opened in 2011. The facility is the first of its kind in the Midwest.

The daily drive back and forth in the bitter cold and snow was not pleasant, but CSO Davis felt the effort was well worth it for the excellent training he received.

RECRUITMENT NEWS

The following recruitments remain active at this time: **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 Friday, March 7, 2014.

A total of 22 individuals expressed interest in the posting for experienced **part-time Telecommunicators** for the **Woodstock Police Department**. Of these, a total of 5 candidates, all with direct police dispatching experience, were sent formal applications. These responses will be reviewed and a select number invited to interview for "on call" substitute dispatching duties at the **Woodstock Police Department**.

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR NUMBERS!

Participants who took advantage of the recent Wellness Days health assessment opportunities are now receiving their comprehensive medical analyses at home, or will do so shortly. Be sure to let the **HR Department** know should reports not be received within the next two weeks.

These reports clearly outline the areas where employees can make simple lifestyle changes to proactively prevent a significant number of common medical maladies. Similar to all other aspects of life, the sooner these medical deficits or imbalances are recognized and dealt with, the easier it is to avoid further physical problems, follow-up time in doctors' offices and greater expense for prescribed medicines or even surgeries.

One of the most common illnesses in today's world is diabetes, and Type 2 diabetes is also one of the most treatable conditions. If your glucose numbers are high, confirm the recommended treatment with your doctor. You may have pre-diabetes, when your blood sugar is high, but not too high to be considered diabetic. If this is the case, you may be able to avoid developing the full-blown disease by following the lifestyle changes recommended by The American Council on Exercise:

- Commit to eating healthier, avoiding fad diets or products that guarantee quick and easy weight loss.
- Set aside at least 150 minutes per week for exercise (that's only about 20 minutes per day).
- Set realistic, achievable weight-loss goals.
- Eliminate barriers to your healthy lifestyle goals, and build a support system to help you stay on track.
- Get regular medical checkups.
- Stay positive!

OLD MCHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

A new video about the history, restoration and preservation of the Old McHenry County Courthouse and Sheriff's House already has more than 2,100 views on YouTube. The video was made possible by a grant from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Afterglow Creative Services in Woodstock was selected to produce the video. Videographer Harold Rail, and narrator and renown storyteller Jim May created a wonderful video that takes the viewer from Woodstock's earliest days to the present.

The video includes interviews with local residents Alice Nulle and Sid Edinger who talk about the life of the county sheriff and his family in the first half of the 20th century. **Mayor Sager, City Manager Roscoe Stelford**, and Project Architect Gary Anderson were also interviewed.

Thanks to **Martha Hansen** for uploading the video to the Woodstock Public Library's YouTube account: <http://youtu.be/XBkRhmVmFrs>.

A link to the video can also be found on the old courthouse website: www.woodstockcourthouse.org.

QUOTE

The secret of getting ahead is getting started.

Mark Twain

WINTER SWIM LESSONS BEGIN

Over forty participants are enrolled in the winter session of the **Recreation Department's Swim Lessons** all began this past week. *Parent-Tot* and *Intro to Swim* are offered on Friday mornings while *Levels I-IV* are available on Saturday morning and Tuesday evening. The current classes will run through March.

The lessons are taught by certified American Red Cross Instructors **Krista Baloun, Leslie Behrns** and **Kevin Berger**. A new session will begin again in the Spring and lead right into the Woodstock Water Works outdoor lessons.

BABYSITTING TRAINING CLASS

Woodstock gained eleven new babysitters last Saturday at the **Recreation Department's Babysitting Training** program.

This popular program, taught by **American Red Cross Certified Instructor Jen Elliott**, teaches participants first-aid techniques, how to handle emergencies, baby-sitter responsibilities, and ways to entertain children. Students were issued handbooks and certificates of completion.

A few spots are still open for the next class to be held during Spring Break. The fee is \$50 for residents and \$70 for nonresidents.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, February 11 – Economic Development Commission, 8:00AM, Council Chambers, 7PM
Tuesday, February 11 – Parks and Recreation Commission, 7:00PM, Council Chambers

HELPING TO KEEP FAMILIES HEALTHY

In an increased effort to spread the word of fun and healthy activities, the **Woodstock Recreation Center** participated in the Hebron Family Health Fair organized by the Hebron PTO.

On Friday, January 31st **Karina Fuentes**, *Recreation Center Front Counter employee*, and *volunteers*, **Ruby Santana** and **Elisa Diaz** attended the Hebron Family Health Fair. Fitness class schedules, membership information and passes were handed out to families, as well as information on Mercy Friday Family Fun Nights and Tween Nights at the Rec Center.

Throughout the year, the Recreation staff attends several Health and Benefits Fairs, including McHenry County Government Center, SEDOM and Pioneer Center.

Don't forget City of Woodstock employees and their families also get a discounted corporate rate at the Recreation Center! Contact **Program Coordinator Renee Torrez**, rtorrez@woodstockil.gov, for more information.



HELP WANTED...FUN INCLUDED!

Recently the City Council approved a community celebration to be put on by the City of Woodstock. While the event is still in the planning stages, the organizers of one of Woodstock's annual marquee events, the Gavers Barndance, have graciously offered the City the use of their "big tent" and other amenities for use at this new, and hopefully also annual, community event. The Barndance will still be held on Saturday evening, July 19th, with the City's community event beginning on Friday, July 18th and culminating on Sunday, July 20th. It is planned that the event will include music and entertainment for all ages, a movie under the big tent, and plenty of food...including a community picnic.

Of course, an event such as this doesn't just happen. Volunteers are needed for many areas...to serve on the organizing committee, to assist with fundraising, to recruit and organize volunteers, and, especially, to help at the event itself.

More information will be shared as plans develop. In the meantime, if you have any ideas or would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact **Cindy Smiley** at 815-338-4301 or csmiley@woodstockil.gov.

Calendar of Events

The following events are at the Woodstock Library:

Tuesdays and Fridays in February and March,
9AM-5PM –AARP Senior Tax Appointments

Monday, February 17 –2PM-4PM - Mardi Gras
with Jaci's Cookies

Tuesday, February 18 – 7PM-8:30PM-Quilter's
Discussion Forum

Thursday, February 20 and 27 -6:30PM-8:45PM,
Academy Awards Preview Nights





You are cordially invited to join Chief Robert Lowen at the Woodstock Police Department for the 100th consecutive Coffee with the Chief program.

Sergeant Larry Drish from the Cook County Sheriff's Bomb Unit will discuss his 25 year career in Explosives Detection. He will also bring his K-9 partner, Ali, with him.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, February 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.