



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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CITY OFFICES CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF HOLIDAY

In observance of New Year's Day, all non-emergency City offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1, 2014. Have a safe and happy New Year!



ELVES ON THE LOOSE

Santa Claus (**Chief Robert Lowen**) used his sleigh (the **DARE** van) and six of his elves (**Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons, Sergeant Dennis Leard, Detective Rob Branum, Records Clerk Jan DiFrancesca** and her son, **Luke** and **Zoie Lia**, Chief Lowen's granddaughter) to help deliver food baskets, toys, books, and other gifts on behalf of the Woodstock Rotary Club's *Christmas Clearing House* program on Saturday morning, December 21st. They thoroughly enjoyed helping to spread a little Christmas cheer to the folks in our community who could use it the most.

Sergeant Rob Pritchard, with his daughter, **Morgan** and son, **Logan** and **Officer Fred Spitzer** and his wife, **Vickie**, traveled in their own sleighs and delivered gifts as well.

Anyone wishing to make a donation this year to benefit the program next Christmas may do so by sending a check made payable to *Christmas Clearing House* at P.O. Box 53, Woodstock, IL 60098.

NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY IMPACT CITY GARBAGE SERVICE

As a reminder, New Year's Day will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the next week. With New Year's Day falling on

a Wednesday, normal garbage pickup will occur one day later throughout the week. Any questions should be directed to the City's garbage contractor, Marengo Disposal at 815-334-0014.



IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 Snow Removal Damage**
- 3 Christmas Tree Collection**

DAMAGE DURING SNOW REMOVAL

In the process of snow removal each winter, an unavoidable fact of snowplowing is that mailboxes may be hit by a City plow. It is necessary for the City plows to clear the snow all the way to the curb line to allow for normal mail delivery. Many factors explain why damage may occur, such as wet or heavy snow, frequency of snow events, location of the mailbox and post; damage to mailboxes and / or tree banks is sometimes unavoidable. The City will replace and / or restore damaged mailboxes caused by the City's snow plows; however, the City is not responsible for damage caused by private contractors or traffic accidents on snow covered streets.

If a City plow damages your mailbox or tree bank, please contact the **Department of Public Works**. A temporary mailbox will be provided until weather conditions permit the final repair or replacement. If the mailbox cannot be repaired, the City will provide a replacement using a standard post and mailbox. The City is not responsible for the full cost of an exact replacement of custom mailboxes.

If the tree bank has been damaged by a City plow during snow removal, restoration will be completed when weather permits and material is available, usually during the month of June. To report snowplow damage, please call Public Works at 815-338-6118.



CITY EXPERIENCES RECORD NUMBER OF ELECTRICAL TEST APPLICANTS

During the 2013 calendar year, **Building Inspector Dan Streit** of the City's **Department of Community and Economic Development**, administered electrical contractor license tests to over 40 individuals. The written test, which lasts approximately two hours, requires payment of a \$100 testing fee. The test requires an applicant to have an in-depth understanding about both residential and commercial materials and practices, and to be knowledgeable regarding information contained in the 2008 National Electrical Code.



Since offering the test over twenty-five years ago, this is the highest number of individuals taking the test in any single year and of those taking the test, 31 received passing grades.

QUOTE

Things don't have to change the world to be important.

[Steve Jobs](#)

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

No Meetings Scheduled for next week

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, 2014 and run through January 24, 2014. 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.

