



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 28

November 8, 2013

## CYCLOCROSS 2013

Once again, PSIMET Racing will be hosting PSI-Clocross for Life – Chicago Cyclocross Cup Race #8 in Woodstock. This year's event, being held at Emricson Park, is scheduled for this Sunday, November 10, beginning with the first race around 8:45 a.m. The organizer is expecting approximately 650 participants, ranging in age from 10 years old to 70+.

It is believed that cyclo-cross began in Europe in the early 1900's, and first became popular in the United States in the 1970's. The sport gained popularity in the states during the 1990's, and has continued to attract participants across the country.

“Much of the challenge of cyclo-cross lies in maintaining traction through loose or slippery terrain at speed.” Courses may consist of dirt, mud, water, grass, sand, ditches, stairs, and rocky ground. “Races almost universally consist of many laps over a short course, ending when a time limit is reached rather than after a specific number of laps or certain distance.”

For further information, go to <http://www.psimet.com/about-us.html> to register, go to <http://www.bikereg.com/NET/Events/#3> Registration is also available on race day.



## DON'T FORGET TO BUCKLE UP!



**Woodstock Police Department** has announced that November's Special Traffic Enforcement Initiative targets both Impaired Driving and Occupant Restraint (seat belt) violations with equal emphasis on passengers, including children in child safety seats.

The primary goal is to reduce the incidence of motorists driving while impaired or without properly buckling up themselves, their passengers and their children. Equally important is the continuing education of the motoring public by encouraging mandatory compliance with Occupant Restraint laws.

November 18th will mark the beginning of the nationwide “Click it or Ticket” and “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaigns. There will be mass media efforts at the Local, State and Federal level throughout the month. The Illinois seat belt compliance rate is at an all-time high of 93.6%. It is the State's goal to increase the rate to 94% in 2013 thereby reducing death and injury due to motor vehicle crashes.

For further information regarding these traffic enforcement initiatives, contact **Sergeant Dennis Leard** at 815-338-2131 or at [dleard@woodstockil.gov](mailto:dleard@woodstockil.gov).

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### **LEAF COLLECTION 2013**

The **Department of Public Works** will continue collecting bulk leaves curbside during the weeks of November 11 & November 18, 2013, *weather permitting*. Although we cannot guarantee that each and every leaf will be collected during this time, we do collect the majority of leaves. Residents are asked to rake loose leaves to the parkway for collection but should NOT rake leaves into the street. Leaves that have been raked into the street can plug storm sewer intakes and cause unnecessary flooding during rain events.

Monday, Nov. 11      The final collection from all streets **north** of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 11. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 11.

Monday, Nov. 18      The final collection from all streets **south** of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 18. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 18.

If you'd like the City to collect leaves at your property, it's very important that you have the leaves raked to the parkway on these specific dates. **No vehicles should be parked on the street within twenty (20) feet of any leaf pile.** Residents who prefer to bag their leaves for collection may call the Public Works office to request pickup of bagged leaves. Leaves must be placed in paper bags only. The bulk collection of leaves along state highways can be dangerous for the leaf collection crews, and residents along Route 47 and Route 120 are encouraged to bag their leaves and phone the Public Works Office to arrange for collection. This, however, is only a request and is not mandatory.

If you have any questions, please contact Public Works, 815-338-6118.



**SINGLE FAMILY HOME SALES ON THE RISE**

During the first ten months of the 2013 calendar year, municipalities in McHenry County have noticed a rise in the number of single family detached homes being sold compared for the same time period last year. The following table provides a comparison of McHenry County municipalities and the number of single family home sales during the current year. The average sales price of these homes has also increased while the average number of days on the market has declined.

So far this year in Woodstock, the number of homes for sale has increased by 34 from the beginning of September to the end of October and the average asking price has risen by approximately \$10,000. Home prices still remain attractive to residential buyers.

	<b>Average List Price of SF Homes</b>	<b>SF Homes Sold from January to October 2013</b>	<b>Average Sold Price of SF Homes</b>	<b>Average Number of Days on the Market</b>
<b>Algonquin</b>	273,190	<b>291</b>	<b>235,623</b>	<b>120</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>245</i>	<i>220,590</i>	<i>174</i>
<b>Crystal Lake</b>	379,302	<b>644</b>	<b>222,003</b>	<b>139</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>483</i>	<i>205,182</i>	<i>153</i>
<b>Harvard</b>	329,747	<b>106</b>	<b>127,728</b>	<b>138</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>83</i>	<i>116,722</i>	<i>249</i>
<b>Huntley</b>	277,850	<b>427</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>131</b>
<i>Same time period 2011</i>		<i>303</i>	<i>216,410</i>	<i>169</i>
<b>Lake in the Hills</b>	280,363	<b>322</b>	<b>200,715</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>245</i>	<i>177,345</i>	<i>130</i>
<b>McHenry/Johnsburg</b>	266,446	<b>638</b>	<b>161,503</b>	<b>166</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>486</i>	<i>141,6358</i>	<i>170</i>
<b>Marengo</b>	281,537	<b>114</b>	<b>153,280</b>	<b>147</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>96</i>	<i>145,347</i>	<i>191</i>
<b>Wonder Lake</b>	168,996	<b>171</b>	<b>92,951</b>	<b>127</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>139</i>	<i>90,879</i>	<i>136</i>
<b>Woodstock*</b>	356,320	<b>284</b>	<b>167,969</b>	<b>150</b>
<i>Same time period 2012</i>		<i>229</i>	<i>165,001</i>	<i>154</i>

\*Woodstock data may not include new construction data.

### **EMPLOYEES ATTEND SNOW & ICE WORKSHOP**

Before long, snow will be falling and **Public Works Employees** will be clearing snow from city streets, cul-de-sacs, and public parking lots. Educating those “behind the wheel” employees about snow & ice best management practices goes a long way in protecting McHenry County’s surface water and groundwater resources from contamination due to excessive salt use. Recently, nine Public Works employees attended a Snow & Ice Workshop at the McHenry County Division of Transportation facility to learn more about salt and de-icer application rates, material storage, levels of service, environmental effects, and state & local laws. Woodstock is fortunate to have professionals at the county level that can lead this type of training and be a source of information that Woodstock Public Works utilizes to keep city streets safe for vehicular travel, while minimizing the impact on the environment.

### **DARE GRADUATIONS HELD THIS WEEK**

As the school year marches on, DARE graduations were held earlier this week at both Westwood and Mary Endres Elementary Schools. **DARE Officer Michael Gustis** and **Chief Robert Lowen** were on hand to represent the **Woodstock Police Department** at each ceremony, as well as other community officials and dignitaries.

Congratulations to all of the students who have successfully completed this outstanding program this semester and to Officer Gustis for leading them so ably through it!

### **HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM**

The **City of Woodstock** will be participating in Elgin Recycling’s ‘Holiday Lights Recycling Program’ this year. Collection (recycling) bins will be available at City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun Street, and at the Department of Public Works, 326 Washington Street.

Lights that will be accepted for this program are: Mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. All colors and lengths will be accepted. *Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program.* The City’s ‘Holiday Lights Recycling Program’ begins today and goes through February 14, 2014.

For further information or questions about this program, go to [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com)



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

Tuesday, November 12 – Economic Development Commission, 8AM, Council Chambers

Tuesday, November 12 –Parks and Recreation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

Thursday, November 14-Adjudication Court, 9:30AM, Council Chambers

### 1, 2, 3 – LIFT!

On Friday, Nov. 1, Woodstock Fire Rescue District personnel responded to a call from **Opera House Building Manager Mark Greenleaf** to work with **Opera House staff** in the placement of two large exterior doors on the Van Buren St. side of the Opera House. Faithful replicas of the building's original 1890 fire engine house doors and weighing an estimated 470 lbs each, they would have proven very difficult to install without the many able hands provided by the District. Chief Ralph Webster noted that it was an especially appropriate effort now, since 2013 marks ten years since the introduction of career firefighter/paramedics and 20 years since the creation of WFRD. (And 140 years since the purchase of the City's 1873 fire bell which our firefighters placed in the Opera House tower in 2007 using their 100' ladder truck). Kudos to the Opera House staff and the WFRD, and Happy Anniversary!



### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK...

Woodstock Farmer's Market-Saturday, November 9 at the Farm Bureau

### POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Woodstock Police Department Chief of Police **Robert Lowen** is pleased to announce that **Detective Robby L. Branum** has been named Police Officer of the Year by the Woodstock Moose Lodge.

Detective Branum was honored along with other Community Hero Award recipients at a dinner on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at the Moose Lodge. **Chief Robert Lowen** was on hand to present the award to Detective Branum on behalf of the Moose Lodge.

Detective Branum has been a member of the WPD since June 2003 and has been assigned to the Investigations Division since May 2012. He has special skills as a Field Training Officer, Crisis Intervention Officer, Lead Homicide Investigator Certification, Gang Officer and Juvenile Officer. Prior to moving to Investigations, Detective Branum spent five years as a Permanent Beat Officer.

Detective Branum has been the recipient of eighteen departmental commendations for exceptional service for incidents ranging from Criminal Sexual Assault and Reckless Homicide Arrests to delivering gifts and food baskets for the Rotary Club of Woodstock's Christmas Clearing House.

Congratulations to Detective Branum on this well-deserved honor!



## RECRUITMENT NEWS

The following recruitment is open for application:

### Opera House Facilities & Events Workers

Assist with staging events at renowned Woodstock Opera House; build/repair props and scenery; run lights/sound; help maintain facility. Requires physical strength and flexibility, and excellent customer service skills. HS grad or equiv., 18 or older.

Work schedules average 16 hrs./week, typically 8AM – noon or noon – 4PM, with some weekends and evenings possible. \$9.57/hr. To obtain required application materials, email: [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov), or call or visit the City of Woodstock HR Department, Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun St., 815-338-1172. Deadline to apply: Friday, 11/15/13.

A total of 18 applications were submitted for the **S&W Maintenance Worker** position open in Public Works. Initial phone interviews were conducted with 9 of these applicants and a selected number will be invited for in-person interviews within the next couple weeks.

The next available candidate on the current **Patrol Officer** Eligibility List has been sent a conditional offer of employment by the BOFPC and directed to undergo final testing next week. Pending results of psychological, polygraph and physical exam evaluations, the candidate will be notified of his employment start date.

## CITYENTERS INTO INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH SPRING GROVE

The City of Woodstock recently entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Spring Grove to provide building inspection services. This is similar to the agreement the City has had for several years with the Village of



Richmond. Under the agreement, City building inspectors will perform inspection services as needed to Spring Grove. The Village will pay Woodstock a fee of \$70/hour for each inspector scheduled.

Builders, contractors, residents and business owners can schedule needed inspections directly with Woodstock personnel who will notify Spring Grove staff of upcoming inspections in their community. However, the Village of Spring Grove will always be the first point of contact for anyone needing inspection services in that community. The City of Woodstock has two building inspectors on staff and a State licensed plumbing inspector.

## Quotation

There cannot be a crisis next week. My schedule is already full.

*Henry Kissinger*

### **WOODSTOCK'S PHOENIX WOODWORKING RECEIVES BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARD**



Congratulations to Sandra Pierce and the team of Phoenix Woodworking for receiving the Division 1- 2013 Business Champion Award from the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation. In spite of recent difficult economic times, Phoenix Woodworking

maintained its staff and was able to come out of the recession stronger than ever.

Founded in 1996 by company President Sandra Pierce, Phoenix Woodworking has a long history of quality workmanship and client satisfaction. This is in no small way the result of the unique efforts by their dedicated team of professional wood-workers and cabinet-makers. In 1996 the company, then under previous ownership, burned to the ground.

From those ashes Sandra Pierce saw opportunity. When she met with employees she instantly knew that the company could - and should - rise again. As Ms. Pierce moved forward in purchasing the company's remaining assets, the name *Phoenix* was appropriately chosen by the employees. Within days the operation returned to production in a new location and it's been full steam ahead ever since.

### **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE SOLICITS EMPLOYEE INPUT**

As we read every day lately, the implications of ACA-mandated changes in health insurance offerings are now affecting nearly everyone in the US, and the City of Woodstock is no exception. As the City looks at multiple ways to respond to the increasing costs resulting from this program, ideas and opinions are being solicited from employees through the Employee Health Insurance Committee.

Representatives from each City Department met this week to review the past history and benefits of the City's self-insured health plan, and consider potential changes to the plan design that comply with ACA mandates, best meet our employees' needs, and respect rapidly-changing financial realities. Employees are encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns with their committee members: **Dave Zinnen, Mary Lynn Lisk/Recreation; Nick Weber, Mary Ryan/Library; Jane Howie, John Mecklenburg/Public Works; Sgt. Jeff Parsons, Fred Spitzer/Police; Daniel Campbell, Scott Creighton/Opera House; Donna Limbaugh, Donovan Day/Community & Economic Development; Ruth Ann Lieb, Dan McElmeel/Finance&IT; and Deb Schober, Jill May/HR.**

We thank these employee committee members for their considerable time and efforts in evaluating and communicating the forthcoming changes that must necessarily be made in order to provide the best possible benefit program to our valued City of Woodstock employees within the current state of health insurance in the US. The date for our forthcoming Open Enrollment Benefits Fair is just now being finalized and more detailed information about 2014 offerings will be shared very soon.



**REC DEPT HOSTS COACH'S CLINIC; STILL ACCEPTING BBALL REGISTRATION**

Pictured is Alex Baker, WHS Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, discussing coaching tips at a clinic last Saturday hosted by the **Recreation Department** and offered to its 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade coaches in the Developmental Basketball Program.

Registration for the Recreation Department's 1st-6th Grade Boys & Girls Developmental Basketball Program is still being accepted at [www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com](http://www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com) or at the Rec Center, 820 Lake Ave.

The 4th-6th Grade Boys Program will begin Skills Nights next week as follows:

Tuesday, November 12 at Olson School

4th grade 6:15-7:30    5th grade 7:30-8:45

Wednesday, November 13 at Olson School

5th grade 6:15-7:30    6th grade 7:30-8:45

Thursday, November 14 at Creekside School

4th grade 6:30-7:30    6th grade 7:30-8:45

Times and locations of Skills Nights the weeks of November 18 and 25 will be forwarded next Tuesday.

Participants are encouraged but not required to attend Skills Nights. Players do not have to be registered for the Developmental Program to participate.

Participants should wear shorts, a T-shirt, and gym shoes and if available, a reversible jersey and bring a basketball.

Parents interested in coaching this season are encouraged to assist with Skills Nights.

The draft for the 4th-6th grade boys program is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 26. Team practices will begin the week of December 2; first game scheduled for Saturday, December 14.

Skills Nights for the 1st-3rd grade boys and 1st-6th grade girls will be held the weeks of December 9 and 16. Specific dates, times, and locations will be forwarded later in November. Team practices will begin the week of January 6.

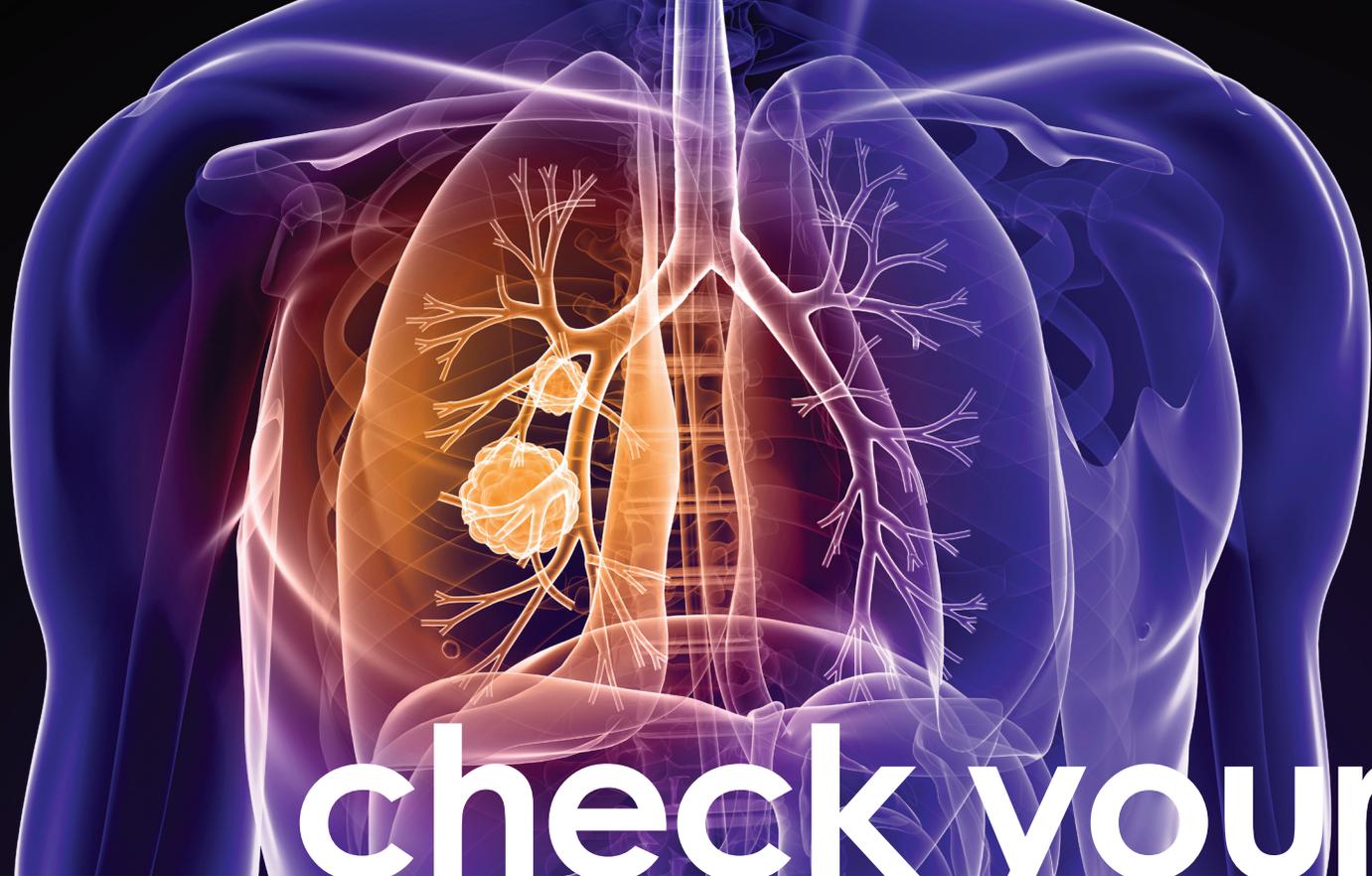
**HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: SMOKING IS SO YESTERDAY**

The negative effects of smoking have become so well-documented that total smoking bans are increasing in many areas across this country. Certain campuses, parks and outdoor businesses have enacted bans, as well as at least 6 states that have even passed laws to ban mobile smoking in cars with minor children present. Michigan is the latest state to consider this far-reaching but beneficial legal limitation. Proponents say that even if these laws are not stringently enforced, they still have a positive effect on behavioral changes to decrease smoking.

In addition to the incredible expense involved today, consider these ominous concerns:

- ◆ Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer and is also the most preventable
- ◆ 30% of all cancer deaths are due to lung cancer and 87% of lung cancer cases are due to smoking
- ◆ While smoking has decreased dramatically in recent years, 25% of men and 20% of women still take part in this practice
- ◆ In addition to cancer, smoking directly causes emphysema and heart disease, lowers immunity and hormone levels, causes cavities, and contributes to an unpleasant physical appearance and odors
- ◆ 1 out of 3 smokers dies from direct smoking causes
- ◆ If putting oneself at considerable medical risk is not a compelling reason to quit, consider the documented effects of secondhand smoke
- ◆ Secondhand smoke is responsible for 53,000 deaths and 1,000,000 episodes of childhood illness per year
- ◆ It is a known cause of sudden infant death syndrome, respiratory problems, ear infections and asthma attacks in infants and children

The City of Woodstock encourages all employees to strive for healthy and active lifestyles. Respect for individual health simply makes people not only better employees, but better friends, better co-workers, better neighbors, and better parents of the children growing up in our community. **In an effort to remain ever-vigilant about our own personal health, whether smokers or non-smokers, employees are encouraged to take advantage of the FREE low-dose CT Lung Screening offered by Centegra Health System during the month of November, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, as shown on the attached flyer.**



# check your lung health

## EARLY DETECTION CAN SAVE LIVES

Lung cancer is the primary cause of death in McHenry County. Centegra Health System is leading the way in early detection of lung cancer by offering a state-of-the-art CT Lung Screening. This low-dose screening detects small abnormalities in the lungs often missed by basic chest X-rays.

Throughout November 2013, during Lung Cancer Awareness Month, take advantage of a **FREE low-dose CT Lung Screening, a savings of \$299!**

Of the 150,000 people who die of lung cancer each year, at least 40,000 can be saved through this low-dose screening. Early detection saves lives.

*The free screening is made possible in part by a gift from the Gavers Community Cancer Foundation.*

## FREE CT LUNG SCREENING

To schedule your appointment

**815-334-5566**

For more information

**[centegra.org/lungscreening](http://centegra.org/lungscreening)**



Gavers  
Community  
Cancer Foundation



Centegra  
HealthSystem

WELL BEYOND EXPECTATION<sup>SM</sup>



Centegra includes hospitals in McHenry and Woodstock, Immediate and Physician Care centers, Health Bridge Fitness Centers and more.

It's health care so good you don't have to leave McHenry County to stay well.

**877-CENTEGRA | [centegra.org](http://centegra.org)**

2 3 6 - 8 3 4 7

## **We need Heroes!**

Please schedule an appointment to donate at our blood drive at:

### **City of Woodstock Recreation Department**

Tuesday, 11/12/2013 (3:00 pm - 7:00 pm)

The Battle of the Badges  
820 Lake Avenue  
Woodstock, IL 60098

Click on **drive name above** to get to the sign up link.

(**New:** You will need to create an account in order to register your appointment in our new online system.)

**Come and donate for your favorite: Fire or Police**

**Every donor will receive a Guns and Hoses T-Shirt.**

**Sign up online and receive 100 EXTRA points in our Warm Hearts Club. Or call the Rec Center at 815-338-4363.**

**Appointments appreciated ~ Walk-ins welcome.**

**PHOTO ID REQUIRED**

**Bring family, friends and your whole neighborhood!**

Thank you for being a Hero!

Roxie Kaminski  
Marketing Rep



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

Captain Brendan Parker and Firefighter/Paramedic Scott Wessel from the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District will discuss Emergency Medical Services in our community.

# Coffee with the Chief



Monday, November 11, 2013  
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.