



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 26

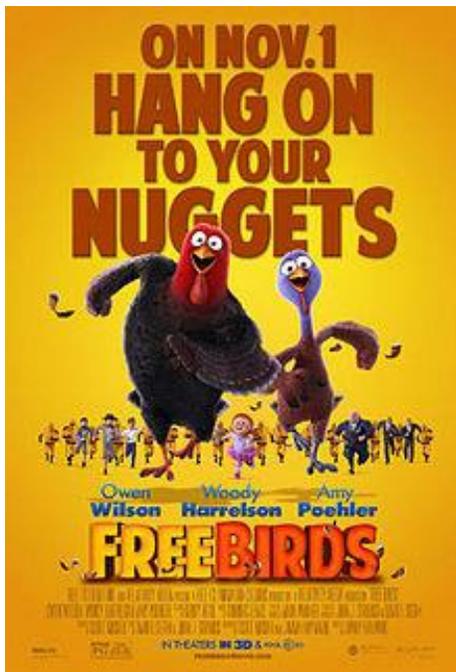
October 25, 2013

## **FREE BIRDS PREMIERS IN WOODSTOCK**

This Sunday Classic Cinemas on Main Street in Woodstock will be featuring the exclusive movie premiere of **Free Birds**, “a fun, family-oriented, animated film.” **Free Birds** is a Thanksgiving-themed comedy about a couple of turkeys that travel back in time in hopes of getting turkeys removed from the Thanksgiving menu.

Red carpet festivities begin at 10:00 a.m. and the movie begins at 10:30. After the movie, enjoy the **Free Birds Frolic** event in the Park in the Square, which will include turkey pardoning by Woodstock’s Mayor Brian Sager; a live auction, including Selena Gomez concert tickets; face painting; pumpkin decorating; and more.

Movie tickets are available through District 200 schools and the Administration offices. All proceeds will help support District 200 schools’ technology initiatives. For further information, contact the D200 office at 815-338-8200.



## **NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY TOMORROW**

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, the **Woodstock Police Department** will again participate in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the public parking lot (east side of the building.)

Any and all prescription or over-the-counter drugs will be accepted if they are in pill form (no liquids or syringes). You can bring in as few or as many as you have – there is no minimum or maximum. The drugs will be accepted with no questions asked and will then be properly destroyed by the DEA in an environmentally safe fashion.

The service is free and your privacy is protected. You don’t even have to get out of your vehicle – **Sergeant Dan Wesolek** and **Officer Dan Pauley** will be on hand to assist you – you can drive-by, drop off and be on your way.

During the first six take-back events, the WPD collected 712 pounds of drugs. The nationwide total is *2.8 million pounds (1,409 tons)!*

For further information, please call **Tamara Reed** at 815-338-6787 or visit [www.nationaltakebackday.com](http://www.nationaltakebackday.com).

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### **LEAF COLLECTION 2013**

The **Department of Public Works** collects bulk leaves curbside during a four-week period in the fall. 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. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 28 and, *weather permitting*, will include the following schedule:

Monday, October 28 Leaves will be collected from all streets north of the railroad tracks during the week of October 28. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 28.

Monday, Nov. 4 Leaves will be collected from all streets south of the railroad tracks during the week of November 4. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, November 4.

Monday, Nov. 11 Weather permitting, 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 Weather permitting, 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 would like the City to collect leaves at your property, it is 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 at 815-338-6118 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.

Once the scheduled bulk collection is completed, there is a possibility that the Department of Public Works will continue to collect bagged leaves the following week. Contact Public Works for more information, 815-338-6118.



## **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**



**Chief Robert Lowen** and the **Woodstock Police Department** want your Halloween to be a treat instead of a trick! Please keep in mind the following safety tips and you'll be sure to enjoy a *boo-tiful* evening of fun!

- Wear a reflective costume or carry a flashlight with you.
- Cross streets at designated crosswalks.
- Trick or treat in a group accompanied by at least one parent or very responsible teenager.
- Always let your parents inspect your candy before you eat it; dispose of any item with a torn wrapper or unusual odor. When in doubt, throw it out!
- Watch out for cars and be careful around jack o' lanterns or other decorations with burning candles inside.
- Visit homes in your own neighborhood that you are familiar with.

Recommended hours for trick-or-treating in the City of Woodstock are from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2013.

Have fun – stay safe!

## **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!**

We want your thoughts on business in Woodstock. Two separate economic development surveys are available on the home page of the City's web site. One survey is for resident input and one for business owners. Log on to [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) to find the electronic surveys. Paper copies of the residential survey are also available at **City Hall** and the **Woodstock Public Library**. All surveys are completely anonymous. This is your opportunity to help guide the economic development direction of the City.

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD**

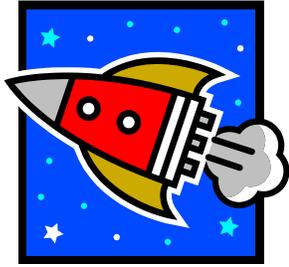


After the City Council's adoption of property maintenance regulations on October 15, 2013, **Community and Economic Development staff** have begun the preparation of forms, checklists, and similar materials for use by both Woodstock's code enforcement personnel and the public. These materials will include a brochure summarizing the new property maintenance requirements and emphasizing that the City's priority is to achieve regulatory compliance. As with many of our local nuisance complaints, code enforcement and inspection personnel will work with individual property owners to explain the regulations and how to achieve compliance in an efficient and painless manner.

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

Monday, October 28, 2013 – Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, 5PM, Council Chambers

## TO INFINITY AND BEYOND.....



**Woodstock Public Library's new Children's Librarian, Mary Ryan,** recently learned that she is one of only 40 librarians in the nation to be accepted to a training program related to NASA's new MAVEN

mission to Mars. Mary will learn how to do space science programs at the library and she will be present to see the MAVEN launch on November 18th.

Mary will travel to Cape Canaveral for the event to be held the weekend of November 15-16, with the launch on Monday, November 18. During her visit, and upon her return, Mary will be updating the library's Facebook page with pictures from the space center and the launch. She'll also use what she learns in the spring and summer offering fun projects and events related to space exploration and science.

Congratulations to Mary--we're all looking forward to seeing the pictures and helping with all the great ideas and fun stuff she'll be getting while visiting NASA.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK...

Friday, October 25 – WHS Homecoming Parade in the Square

Friday, Saturday, October 25 – Haunted Square, Park in the Square

Saturday, October 26- Farmers Market, 8:00AM, Park in the Square

Saturday, October 26 – Haunted Square, Park in the Square

Sunday, October 27 – Free Birds Movie Premier, Classic Cinemas, 10:30AM

Sunday, October 27 – Free Birds Frolic, Noon, Park in the Square

Sunday, October 27 – Haunted Square, Park in the Square

Thursday, October 31 – Halloween Costume Contest, Park in the Square & Trick or Treating in Woodstock

## WORKDAY PLANNED AT THE GERRY STREET PARK

For a number of years, the Gerry Street Park has been used by high school teacher Bill Donato as a living classroom under the supervision and direction from both the City of Woodstock and The Land Conservancy of McHenry County. Because this property is located close to the high school, it is a great educational resource for the City's youth.

Within the park, Mr. Donato and his students have spent time identifying trees along trails and cutting down invasive Buckthorn, Mutliflora Rose, and Honeysuckle. They have laid wood chips after cutting paths and defined the forest site around the wetland.

Mr. Donato has informed the City that assuming favorable weather, he and approximately 25 senior class high school students plan to work at the park site this coming Tuesday morning, October 29; from approximately 8:00 AM – 12 noon. At this time, they plan to clear brush and burn piles of brush that has been previously cleared. Both the Police and Fire Departments have been informed of this planned activity. If you have any questions, need additional information, or if you would like to assist with the work, feel free to contact Mr. Donato at [wdonato@wcusd200.org](mailto:wdonato@wcusd200.org) or the **Department of Public Works** at 815 338-6118.

## Quotation

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

**Ronald Reagan**



### **REC DEPT A CORP SPONSOR OF CARE 4 RACE**

Pictured are **Front Counter Staff Members Matt Rampey, Erin Sarich, Leah Baird, Recreation Director Dave Zinnen**, and former employee Ariel Washawsky and her husband manning the information table at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Care 4 Breast Cancer Walk/Run last Sunday at Woodstock North. Over 2,600 participated in the event that benefits the Family Health Partnership Clinic.

Annually, the **Rec Center** is an in-kind corporate sponsor for this charity event. **Front Counter Staff Member Arturo Diaz** was a team captain for race set-up and take down and **Dave Zinnen** transported race volunteers to and from Woodstock North and the Merryman Fields parking lot from 6:30AM to 11:00AM. In return, the Rec Center is allowed to set-up a table to market Rec Center memberships and Rec Department programs in the high school gym.

Zinnen also challenged Rec Center members and staff to beat him in the 5K run. Three adult members beat his time of 25:18--Rob McClurg (20:07), Molly O'Connor (21:52), and Katy O'Brien (24:58) and four kids- Ryan Zinnen (21:28), Collin McClurg (22:14), Matt Zinnen (22:31), and Clayton Grisolia (24:15).

### **HELPING TO KEEP EMPLOYEES HEALTHY**

The **Woodstock Recreation Center** has partnered with fifteen different companies in the area to provide Corporate Memberships for employees. Employees receive discounted rates on initiation fees and monthly dues.

In an increased effort to spread the word of this healthy benefit, several companies, including McHenry County Government Center, District 200, SEDOM, and Charter Dura-Bar, have sent out emails or flyers to their employees to remind them of the great services and prices that the **Woodstock Recreation Center** offers.

On Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> **Karina Fuentes, Recreation Center Front Counter employee**, attended the District 200 employee health fair. Prices, fitness class schedules, and passes were handed out to employees and their families. 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](mailto:rtorrez@woodstockil.gov), for more information.



## **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Please note—the deadline for the following recruitment has been **EXTENDED!**

### **Sewer & Water Maintenance Worker**

The City of Woodstock has one (1) full-time entry level opening for an experienced, **CDL-licensed Maintenance Worker**. Position performs manual labor and operates vehicles and equipment in the maintenance and repair of City sewer and water systems. Work is performed under the supervision of the division's Supervisor and Foreman. Work schedule variations may occur due to departmental staffing, seasonal and emergency needs. Minimum Qualifications: **valid IL Class B CDL license** with air brakes and good driving record required; HS grad or equivalent; physical strength, agility and endurance to meet demands of position. Preference given to candidates with public works, construction or related experience and to candidates with CDL snow plowing experience. Starting pay: \$15.64/hr. with full benefit package. Applications may be downloaded at: [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) under Employment Opportunities or requested via email at: [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov) Completed applications – clearly outlining how the CDL requirement has been met – may be emailed as shown or delivered to the **HR Department** at City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun St., Woodstock. Applications must be returned by the due date below. The City reserves the right to select only the most qualified applicants for an interview. **Extended application deadline: Friday, 11/01/13.** EOE.

Interviews were held last week with qualified applicants for temporary seasonal **Leaf Crew** in the **Public Works Department**. Candidates who were offered this opportunity are scheduled to begin work next Monday, 10/28/13, pending results of required drug screens.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: MAKING 100 A REALISTIC GOAL**

More folks are getting there than ever before ... and many of them are hitting 100 years of age, still feeling healthy and happy. What are some of their secrets?

- 1) **Keep moving**—There's a lot to be said for the "move it or lose it" philosophy. As muscles age, be they body or mind, the important thing is to keep them active, which in turn keeps them strong. Gentle forms of exercise such as walks and housework, puzzles and reading, can be as beneficial as gym workouts or continuing stressful careers.
- 2) **Be less neurotic**—Centenarians tend not to internalize things or dwell on their troubles. If you must worry, try some self-effacing humor to lighten the load. Movies, reading, exercise, and sharing with friends also help keep things in perspective emotionally.
- 3) **Stay connected**—It's easy to retreat after a busy day or come up with excuses to avoid family events. But continuing social contacts with friends and relatives not only makes us feel wanted and needed, these relationships also provide safety and security in times of personal distress.
- 4) **Be a creature of habit**—While variety may be the spice of life among the young, the predictable nature of daily physical and dietary routines can be much easier for our bodies to accommodate as we travel down the aging path.
- 5) **Be conscientious**—This factor was found to be the strongest predictor of a long life; that is, displaying the traits of being prudent, persistent and well-organized. Individuals with these characteristics were found to follow doctors' orders, take the right medicines at the right doses, and undergo routine checkups. They also exhibited more satisfaction with their work lives and reported happier marriages.