



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 2

May 10, 2013

NEW COUNCIL TAKES OFFICE

At this week's May 7th City Council Meeting, the Council members elected at April's General Election were administered the Oath of Office by City Attorney Richard Flood and took their seats at the dais. Mayor Brian Sager and Councilmen RB Thompson and Michael Turner were re-elected to four-year terms, as was newcomer Joseph Starzynski. Congratulations to all!



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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK OBSERVED

National Police Week runs from May 12th through May 18th this year. There are a multitude of activities occurring in Washington, D.C. this week to commemorate the occasion, such as a memorial service, candlelight vigil, baseball and football games, Pipe Band march and a survivors' conference to support the families of fallen Officers. The event seeks to honor those who have fallen and say thank you to those who continue to serve and protect our communities.

By Federal law, May 15th is designated as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and as such both the United States and State of Illinois flags are flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset in honor of all those Officers throughout the country who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty.

If you have an opportunity this week to do so, please remember to say thank you to your local **Woodstock Police Department** Officers for their dedication and service to our community – your support really does matter.

LIBRARY NEWS

Summer Reading Program just around the corner:

Registration for the library's summer reading program begins Wednesday, May 22. This year's theme is: Have Book, Will Travel. Registration for summer programs also begins May 22. You can see, and register for, all the great stuff we have lined up for the summer at our website: www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org.

Brief catalog down time:

After closing on Friday, June 7, the library's online catalog will be down for a few hours because of some necessary work by ComEd. The catalog will go down around 10:00PM and should be back up by 6:00 AM the following morning. We apologize for any inconvenience.

PILLAR AT ENTRANCE TO THE PARK-IN-THE-SQUARE GETS RECONSTRUCTED

Beginning Monday, May 13th one of the field stone pillars at the north entrance to the Park in the Square will be disassembled and reconstructed. A complete rebuild will be necessary on this pillar as water is wicking up from the bottom and causing the motor joints to fail from the inside out. Over the past ten years similar work has occurred on seven other pillars around the Square. Completing this work is necessary if the City is to maintain the historic appearance and character of the community. No work will be completed during the Farmers Market on Tuesday, and the contractor has assured the City that his work will be completed before Fair Diddley on May 19. Parks employees will remove the metal arch that rests on top of the pillar first thing Monday morning and reattach before the end of the day Friday when the work is completed.

POLICE INSTALL PERMANENT DRUG COLLECTION UNIT AT WPD

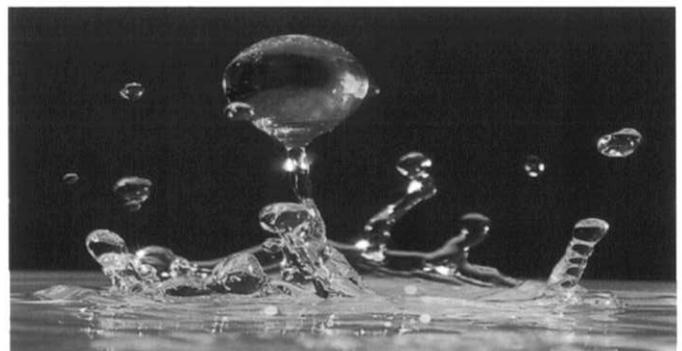
As of May 1st, residents no longer need to wait for the semi-annual Drug Take-Back events to get rid of unwanted drugs! Working jointly with the Community Partnership Coalition, **Woodstock Police Department** has installed a permanent *MedReturn Drug Collection Unit* in the public lobby (east side of the building) of their facility located at 656 Lake Avenue. The unit is accessible 24/7/365 by those who wish to dispose of unwanted, unused or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

Drugs must be in pill or tablet (solid) form. Place drugs in a baggie for disposal in the unit. (Don't forget to recycle the original pill containers where applicable.) No liquids, needles (sharps) or syringes will be accepted.

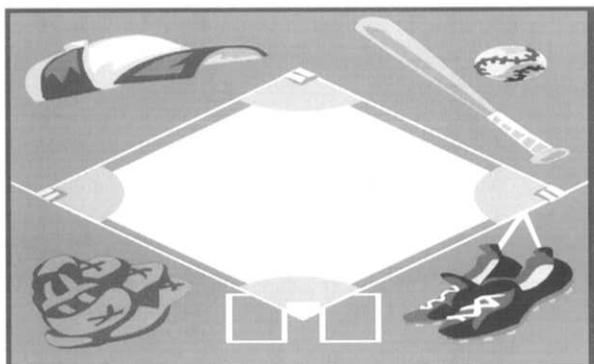
For further information, visit the MedReturn web site at www.medreturn.com.

SOFTENER FAILURE MAY TEMPORARILY IMPACT DRINKING WATER QUALITY

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Will Smith has reported that he needed to remove one of four softeners from service earlier this week at the Seminary Avenue Water Treatment Plant. He had noticed that a greater amount of water is flowing through the softener than is normal indicating a failure somewhere within the vessel. Samples of treated water at the discharge of the softener revealed a noticeable amount of cation-exchange resin which has the appearance of fine sand. This resin has a charge which causes it to attract to and bond with those particles in drinking water that result in "water hardness." Normally this media cannot escape from the process. The City is actively seeking a contractor that has prior experience with softeners to investigate and repair the unit. With this softener "off line", a minor amount of water will need to bypass the softening process and be blended back with softened water in order to meet daily demand resulting in harder water and a slight increase in chlorine concentrations at the customer's tap. This increase may be noticed by some residents. An estimated time for repairs and a return to normal operating conditions is not yet known but be advised that these repairs will be completed in the most timely fashion possible. Throughout the repair of the softener, the water will meet all drinking water standards and at no time will the health of the community be jeopardized by the completion of this work.



BALL DIAMONDS ARE READY TO ROLL



Although the spring weather of 2013 has been challenging for all user groups, Parks Division employees are reporting that all ball diamonds at Emricson, Bates and Merryman Fields Parks are playable. Recently, windscreens and top rail caps were re-attached to the outfield fences at Bigelow fields "B" and "C" in Emricson Park. Baseball mix was added to Bates Park fields #3, #4, #5 and #6 to remove erosion on the infields after the winter months. Little League scheduled their opening day ceremonies at Merryman Fields Park on April 27 and Woodstock Girls Softball scheduled their opening day ceremonies on Saturday, May 4. All city ball diamonds and soccer fields are now open for scheduled games at all park sites.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Are you or your school, church or team looking for a new service project? The City of Woodstock, in conjunction with the Illinois Adopt-A-Highway Act, provides groups with instructions and safety guidelines to assist in organizing an Adopt-A-Highway event.

Currently, there are seventeen AAH groups that are helping to keep Woodstock's roadways clean. Each group handles from ½ mile up to 2 miles of roadway; and clean-ups occur two to four times a year. We still have many roads in need of adoption.

If you have any interest, please contact the Department of Public Works to request further information; phone 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov





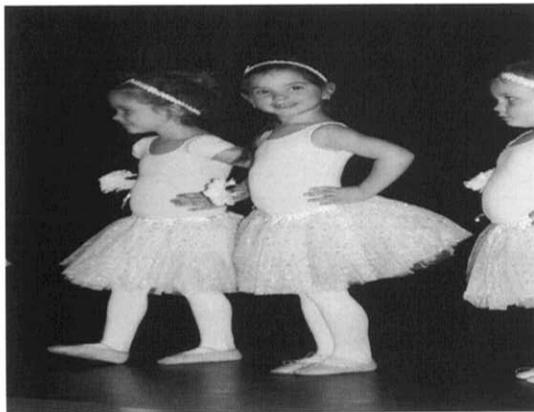
A FULL HOUSE AT THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT DANCE RECITAL

Over 125 dancers, representing fourteen **Recreation Department** dance classes, performed at the annual Spring Dance Recital last Thursday evening. The event was planned and directed by **Program Coordinator Renée Torrez**, and **Dance Instructors Laura Powell, Eden Powell, Jamie Pierce, Bridget Saladin and Robin Sobel**.

The past week was a busy week for the dance program. The dress rehearsal was held on Tuesday, April 30th, where all 125 dancers practiced on stage at WHS. Pictures were handed out for all the classes that were taken earlier this month by DeWane Studio.

The rehearsal and the recital itself could not have happened without the help of several Rec Center staff including **Becky Vidales, Mary Lynn Lisk, Alan Dunker, Arturo Diaz, Karina Fuentes, Nick Fenton, Leah Baird and Jess Bloniarz**. We also had over 14 volunteers, including the City Manager Office Assistant, **Monica Amraen**, several **Playground Program counselors**, and **WHS Drama department students**. This is a major event for the Recreation Department and their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Six Little Dancer classes, three ballet classes, a Poms class and four Hip/Hop classes all performed to a full house of approximately **600 people** at Woodstock High School on Thursday, May 1st and the event was very positively received! Below are a few comments the Rec Dept has received:



**"The audience loved watching the dancers take to the stage in their bright costumes. We certainly appreciate the hard work the dancers and all of the instructors put in to the show. Watching some of the little ones wave frantically to their Moms and Dads while the curtain was closing was priceless. Everyone in attendance brought home a smile that night."-Councilmember Mark Saladin*

**"Thank you to all of the Rec Center employees who organized this event and who helped to watch the kids to make sure they were where they should be. Of course a BIG Thank You to the dance instructors for all of their hard work! The show was great and all of the kids did awesome! It was a fun night!-Facebook Comment*

**The whole dance experience from the Rec Department was organized, the dancers were happy and the staff and volunteers were very compassionate and caring with children during the recital.-Parent Comment*

** Love how things were done this year...pictures during practice, quick and easy rehearsal, great performances! Great job to all the dance instructors this year!-Facebook Comment*

RECRUITMENT NEWS

The following openings at the Woodstock Opera House are now open for application:

LPT Box Office Worker
Box Office Worker compiles ticket order information, operates computerized Box Office equipment, balances cash drawer and provides excellent customer service for events scheduled for the Opera House and Stage Left Café. Limited part-time position works a variable schedule of 10-16 hrs/wk, including evenings and weekends. Starting pay rate: \$9.57/hr. with no additional benefits.

LPT House Manager
House Manager supervises ushers, ticket-takers, reception caterers, and other front of house personnel, ensuring adherence to all safety regulations, fire laws and Opera House policies. Coordinates and manages audience crowd control during entrance/exit and provides excellent customer service to patrons, producers, performers and the general public. Requires flexible work schedule up to 12 hours per week, Monday – Sunday, mornings, afternoons or evenings, as needed. Starting pay rate: \$10.30/hr. with no additional benefits.

To request application materials for either position, please contact: humanresources@woodstockil.gov or visit the HR Department at Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098, 815/338-1172. **Deadline to apply is Wednesday, May 22, 2013.** EOE.

Welcome to **Bailey Rewoldt**, who began work this week as **LPT Library Desk Assistant** at the **Woodstock Public Library**.

Also welcome to new **seasonal workers** in **Public Works**, **Ryan Baltes/Streets** and **Chris Behler/Parks**, who join returning summer **Parks** employee **Kevin Kucharski** back at work on Monday, May 13th. They join summer workers **Alex Stelford** in **Parks** and **David Zoellick** in **Streets**, who returned May 1st, and **Parks** worker **Luke Kunzie**, who returns home from college in mid-June.

A select number of qualified candidates who submitted interest for **Telecommunicator** and **Maintenance Worker** positions have been asked to complete formal applications and those are under review. The process for review of submissions for **Public Works Director** and **Finance Director** continues as well.

Quote

Man is born to live, not to prepare for life.

-Boris Pasternak

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, May 14-Parks and Recreation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: IMPULSE CONTROL TIPS

When it comes to coping with stress and anxiety, nothing seems more soothing than overindulging in food and drink. To help identify those actions that can truly help us “just say no,” a scientist at Cornell University offers these findings from recent studies:

- 1) **Portion Control Works**—grabbing an entire bag, box or plate of treats is a surefire way to make the whole thing disappear. Having a large portion encourages “mindless munching” until something’s all gone...whereas, after finishing a small portion, the action of having to get up to get more often serves as a deterrent.
- 2) **Ignore “Healthy” Marketing Strategies**—low-fat does not mean low-cal and artificial sweeteners can be more harmful than real sugar. The only way to truly assess a product’s beneficial components is to read the label and make educated food choices. Focusing on fresh, raw and non-prepackaged foods is the healthiest possible way to eat.
- 3) **A Clean Plate Wins No Awards**—although our parents may have guilted us into leaving no leftovers, as adults we can decide when we’re truly full, hopefully way before we end up being overstuffed instead. Had enough? Compliment the chef and move away from the table!
- 4) **Out of Sight, Out of Stomach**—it may come as no surprise, but one study showed that office workers who had glass candy dishes on their desks ate twice as much candy every day as those who used opaque dishes and weren’t staring at treats all day long. Better yet, keep the treats at home and get flavored water or tea when hunger hits at work.
- 5) **Size Matters**—the bigger the plate, the more food gets piled on it, and short wide glasses will be filled up more readily than tall thin ones. If you want to convince yourself that you’ve had plenty to eat, use smaller dishes and eat more slowly, giving your mind time to tell your stomach there’s actually no fear you’ll starve today.

- 6) **And Variety is the Spice of Life**—unfortunately, that means that the more kinds of interesting and delicious snacks you have in front of you, the more likely you’ll want to try them all. Keep the naughty stuff limited to one or two favorites and instead load up on lots and lots of colorful fruits and veggies to encourage worthwhile taste adventures.

Healthy eating is a matter of behavior modification...it doesn’t happen unless you really want it to. The trick is to make this change a positive planned activity, and avoid waiting until it becomes a forced one.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, May 11- Plant, Bake Sale benefitting Turning Point
Woodstock Harley- Davidson Store 9AM-5PM

Saturday, May 11 – Bull Valley Garden Club Annual Plant Sale
Old Courthouse Lawn 8AM

Saturday, May 11 – Music Booster Flower Sale
Golden Eagle Community Bank 9AM-2PM

Saturday, May 11– McHenry County Home and Garden Expo
Sunday, May 12 County Fairgrounds, 10AM-5PM Free



**Join members of the Woodstock
Police Department for a free**

Bike Safety Rodeo

**May 13th from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the
Emricson Park Main Pavilion**

Officers will educate young bicyclists about:

- **Safe riding skills**
- **The “rules of the road”**
- **The importance of safety equipment**
- **Assuring proper fit for helmets**

**This event is sponsored by the
Woodstock Police Department**

**WPD Bicycle Officers will provide demos and tips
while kids have fun!**

**For more information, contact
Officer Fink or Officer Dolan at 815-338-2131**



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

Permanent Beat Officer Adam Schraw from Beat # 22 (northwest quadrant of the City) will give a presentation on "Crimes Against the Elderly." Cindy Bock from Senior Services will also speak.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, May 13, 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.