



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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POLICE ANNOUNCE DECEMBER TRAFFIC INITIATIVE

The **Woodstock Police Department** will engage in a special traffic enforcement initiative targeting Posted Speed Limit violators during the month of December.

The purpose of the speed enforcement initiative is to reduce the incidence of speeding- related motor vehicle crashes, and the resulting injuries and fatalities, through highly visible increased enforcement of speed related laws. In order to achieve this purpose, the following goals have been defined:

- Reduce the number of speed related traffic crashes.
- Increase enforcement of speed laws.
- Increase compliance with the posted speed limit.

As always, the enforcement effort is intended to educate motorists as well as reduce the number of traffic collisions and incidents of road rage that occur on our city streets. The ultimate goal is to change driving behaviors and encourage motorists to voluntarily comply with traffic laws.

Any questions regarding the initiative may be directed to **Sergeant Dennis Leard** at 815-338-2131 or dleard@woodstockil.gov.

HISTORIC COURTHOUSE BUILDING RECEIVES NEW WATER SERVICE

The City's **Sewer and Water Maintenance Division** is installing a new water service from a main line on Throop Street into the rear of the Old Courthouse building. At the same time, a separate service line will be run to facilitate the future installation of a fire sprinkler system to comply with building code requirement and life-safety/Fire Department regulations. The new service line was considered after the old water service was found to be leaking somewhere underground. Based upon experience, the repair of a service line of this vintage would likely result in another leak somewhere else in the line because it has degraded over time. The other reason for the new line was to conserve water that was leaking from the existing line.

RECRUITMENT NEWS

Interviews have been scheduled next week with 10 candidates to fill 3 posted openings for **FT Maintenance Workers/Public Works**. The mandatory requirement for this recruitment includes possession of a valid CDL license, with plowing experience preferred.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Gift Giving Ideas from the Woodstock Public Library

Shop at the library for gifts for your favorite bibliophile. Gift ideas include canvas book bags from the Friends of Woodstock Public Library for \$10, Gift Certificates to the Friends Used Book Store valued at \$5, or give the gift of a full service library card to a family who lives in the Rural Woodstock Public Library District for \$38.

Free eBooks from the Library

Woodstock Public Library cardholders can 'check out' free eBooks to use on their Kindle, Nook, Android and other eReaders and devices. The library provides eBooks through  www.mymediamall.net, powered by Overdrive. Information on this service is available on the Woodstock Library's

website: <http://www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org/content/download-books-and-audiobooks>

BLUE ROSE FASHIONS & ACCESSORIES OPENS IN WOODSTOCK

Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held last week for Blue Rose Fashions & Accessories located at 665 South Eastwood Drive (Route 47), next door to Quiznos. Mayor Brian Sager attended the grand opening along with representatives and staff of Blue Rose Fashions and members from the Woodstock Chamber. The store features high end women's and men's clothing, shoes, accessories, and more, with an emphasis on serving younger clientele. It will be open Monday through Saturday, as well as on Sunday afternoons.



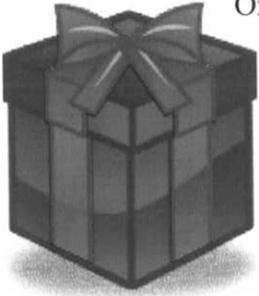
WELLNESS DAY HEALTH ASSESSMENT INFO SHARED

Be sure to open those pay envelopes this week and find contact information to schedule your Wellness Day Health Assessment! Appointments are available on-line or via phone on a first-come, first-served basis, at a rate of 3 every 15 minutes, from 8 AM to 11AM on Thursday, 1/3/13 and Tuesday, 1/8/13.

In addition to the standard CBC fasting blood draw, a panel of optional tests is available to participants. The assessment is completely confidential, and detailed results are mailed to employees' homes and may be shared with personal physicians for complete analysis and follow-up. Many physicians report that this detailed overview of the patient's current health status is extremely beneficial in identifying and avoiding both existing and potential health problems.

Be sure to contact the **HR Department** with questions or concerns about this great benefit!

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY FOR LOCAL CHILDREN



On Sunday, December 2nd, members of the **Woodstock Police Department** volunteered their time to participate in the 18th annual “Shop with a Cop” event. Each volunteer was paired with an underprivileged child to assist them with their Christmas shopping. Every child was given \$150 to spend as they saw fit and also received a brand new winter coat, boots, hat and gloves. It’s always heartwarming to see the children pick out items not only for themselves, but also purchase gifts for their parents, siblings or extended family. Volunteers wrapped the gifts while the children enjoyed eating breakfast with their new found friends.

The program is sponsored by McHenry County Police Charities. Funds are raised at an annual spaghetti dinner and through donations from individuals and local businesses. This year department personnel escorted sixteen children from Woodstock; together they enjoyed shopping at the Wal-Mart store in Crystal Lake and then shared a delicious breakfast donated by D’Andrea Banquets.

Chief Bob Lowen and his wife, Debbie; Deputy Chief John Lieb; Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons; Sergeant Dennis Leard; Sergeant Tino Cipolla; Detective George Kopulos and his wife, Brittany; Detective Jason Bernstein; Detective Rob Branum; Officer Jeremy Mortimer and his wife, Holly; Officers Ray Lanz, Brett Muehlfelt and Mike Gustis volunteered a portion of their day to help brighten the holidays for these less fortunate children. **Detective Sergeant Jeff Parsons** expertly coordinated the department’s participation in the event again this year even providing doughnuts and coffee for the volunteers prior to the event!

Seven Woodstock Police Explorers assisted as well – Stephanie Kroll, Courtney Dalton, Brandy Jenkins, Stephen Kroll, Corey Bochat, Jacob

Montagnani and Justin Dolan all volunteered their time to help make the event a big success!

Thanks also to **Finance Director Roscoe Stelford** who made arrangements with **Recreation Director Dave Zinnen** for the use of their bus which was expertly driven by Detective Jason Bernstein.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the organization may do so by mailing their contribution to McHenry County Police Charities P.O. Box 981 Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0981.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join the **Recreation Department** on Saturday, December 15 for the annual *Breakfast with Santa*, where children of all ages can enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast just in time for the holidays. In between bites, children can stop by and see Santa for a photo opportunity or to whisper their holiday wishes in his ear.

There are two sessions for breakfast, 8:30–9:45AM and 10:00–11:15AM. The event is at the Woodstock Moose Lodge, 406 Clay Street. The fee for the event is \$10 per person (2 and under are free). Registration is currently being accepted at the Recreation Department at 820 Lake Avenue. For more information call us at 815-338-4363. Deadline to register is Wednesday, December 12.

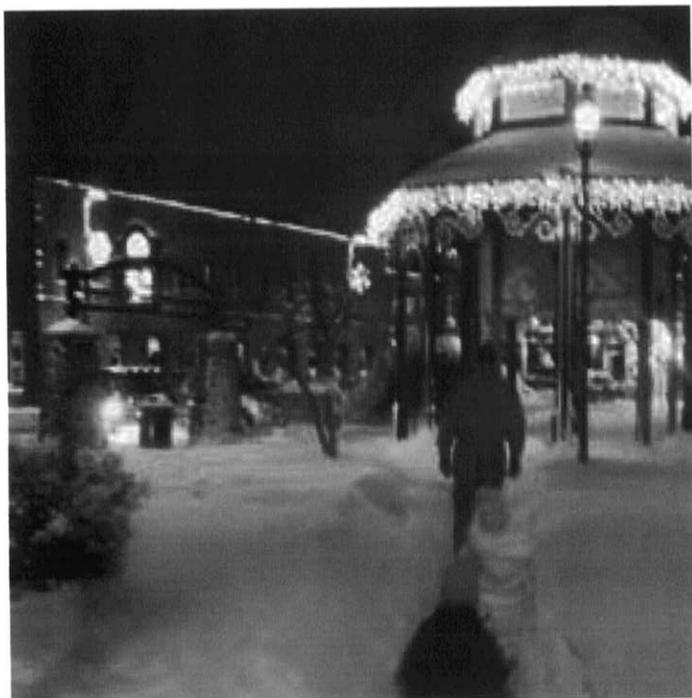


GARDEN CLUBS

The Parks Division and the Department of Public Works wishes to thank both the Woodstock Garden Club and the Kishwaukee Valley Garden Club for their gorgeous holiday decorations at the depot as well as the landscape planters along the sidewalks in the downtown area. Their expertise with winter greens arrangements have added to the festive atmosphere in Woodstock.

The garden clubs have been a big presence in the City of Woodstock over the years; assisting in the creation and beautification of the Park in the Square, Sesquicentennial Park, the area around the train depot, and the Square, to name a few of their many projects.

Take some time to stroll through the Woodstock Square and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us. Thank you, once again, to the garden clubs on their continued efforts to keep our community a place we can be proud of!



DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK SNOW EQUIPMENT READY FOR SNOW

Parks Division employees removed mower decks on five tractors replacing them with heater cabs, front mount brooms, and tire chains for snow removal operations in the downtown. In addition, 8 skids piled with bags of salt have been delivered and will be used to combat sidewalk snow and ice accumulation. Salt purchased and used in the downtown must be safe for landscaping, mild on footwear, non-corrosive to metal, masonry, and concrete, and as trackless as possible to avoid problems for business owners. Although the weather has been particularly nice thus far this year, cold snowy days are surely in our future and the Parks Division is prepared to keep the downtown accessible to consumers.



WATER AEROBICS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH HELD THIS WEEK

The Recreation Center's Group Fitness Water Instructors and over thirty of their participants celebrated the holidays with a Christmas Pot Luck Brunch on Monday at the Recreation Center. Pictured are **Water and Zumba instructor Judy Brown** and her son Jud, who were on hand to lead the ladies in Christmas carols.

HPC APPROVES GARAGE FACADE CHANGES

On Tuesday evening, the Historic Preservation Commission approved facade changes to the former Ideal Oil Station at 129 East South Street. Situated at the northwest corner of South and Jefferson Streets, this 1950's era Bauhaus style garage has been acquired by Jolene Stanard and will be remodeled for office use. In addition to site improvements and cosmetic changes, existing overhead metal garage doors will be removed and replaced with architectural wall elements that replicate the garage doors. A new entry door will also be installed and will replace the existing deteriorated wooden door.



Quote

“Not all who wander are lost.”

J.R.R. Tolkien

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, December 11 – Parks and Recreation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

Thursday, December 13 – Adjudication Court, 9:30 AM, Council Chambers

TWO BACK-UP GENERATORS PUT ON-LINE

As was planned for and funded through the City's 5-year Capital Improvement Program, two fixed unit standby emergency generators have been purchased and installed at sanitary sewer liftstations located on Dorham Lane and on Berltsum Lane. The generators will be placed into service after start-up and load bank testing scheduled for the 1st week of December. The addition of these generators will help keep these stations operational even when the utility power supply is interrupted. These locations were chosen based upon experiences resulting in frequent power outages during stormy weather conditions. Although these sites had portable generator connections, the installation of these fixed site generators will provide even better service to existing customers, eliminate the need for around the clock staffing of portable generators, and free up portable generators that were utilized at more than one location. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118.

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: FLU BE GONE!

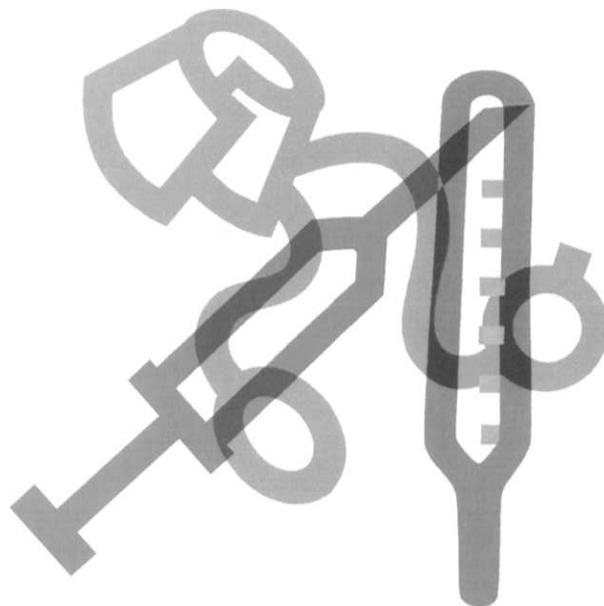
When it comes to avoiding serious illness during the annual flu season, you can always wash hands frequently and stay away from crowds. But the most effective method takes just a few minutes of your time and costs nothing...get shot! Getting a flu shot is easier than ever, as many pharmacies and clinics offer these to the public on a walk-in basis. Plus, such preventive measures are reimbursed 100% by Allied; simply send the receipt to Allied with an Allied Medical Claim Form, a copy of which is available in the **HR Department** or on the City's Shared Drive.

In addition to keeping ourselves well--and our friends and family--there are many positive effects on the community overall when more people get vaccinated. Doctors and scientists say an 80% vaccination rate is the magic number for flu immunizations, and if reached, this could significantly reduce outbreaks – or even wipe out the virus entirely. Studies have shown that when the flu vaccination rate in a community hits or surpasses that threshold, flu cases have dropped off sharply or disappeared altogether. The overall vaccination rate in this country for last season was just over half that goal, at 42.8%.

Health professionals, as a result, are increasingly encouraging people - especially the young and

healthy - to get flu shots not just for the individual benefit of being less likely to get sick, but as a gesture to benefit society as a whole.

While shots often become available in October, the flu season doesn't peak until February, allowing plenty of time to still get vaccinated. For needle-shy consumers who still have not gotten the vaccines, there are new products aiding the flu-shot movement, such as shots that hurt less or nasal spray options that don't involve needles at all. Consider all the positive benefits of this simple act and get vaccinated soon!



**HOW TO BRING HO-HO-HOPE TO OTHERS
THIS SEASON!**

We often struggle at this time of year trying to think of the perfect gift for someone who seems to have “everything.” To relieve the stress of dealing with that enviable scenario, why not consider donating those funds towards providing a small gift for someone who may have “nothing” instead?

The City’s participation in the United Way of Greater McHenry County is the ideal vehicle through which to share your kindness all year through. A quick one-time gift, or a convenient bi-weekly payroll deduction, will go far to help organizations whose mission to serve others has become more challenging than ever before.

Donation forms have been provided to employees, and more can be found in the **HR Department**. Please remember these are due back to **HR** no later than next Thursday, December 13th.

Once again, the City encourages your charitable giving with eligibility to participate in our annual Pledge Prize Drawing for the following great awards: a WWW Pool Pass, tickets to a Woodstock Opera House show, Chamber of Commerce gift cards and an additional floating holiday!

We are currently about half-way to our goal of \$4,100 in donations, so please consider joining your generous co-workers by submitting your United Way donation today



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

Sergeant Steve Laudick of the McHenry County Corrections Department will be speaking on McHenry County Jail operations and specialty units.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, December 10, 2012
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.