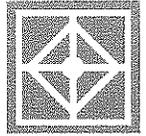


CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

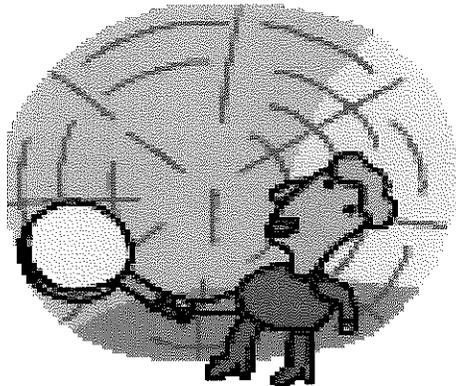


Volume XXII, Issue 18

May 4, 2012

BACKFLOW PROGRAM

During the month of April, **John Bertram**, the City of Woodstock's Plumbing Inspector and Certified Backflow Prevention Device Inspector, visited more than 37 sites and inspected more than 77 devices. The inspections are conducted by the City of Woodstock as part of the State mandated backflow prevention program which the City is required to administer. In accordance with Illinois law, the City must administer this program in order to avoid potential contamination of the public water system. In many cases the inspection activity occurs before a business establishment can be open to the public, and the inspection activity often takes place as early as 5:00AM. Kudos to John for his tireless effort and to **Donna Limbaugh** for scheduling the inspection activity, explaining the program to new businesses in the City, and maintaining required records and paperwork.



WOODSTOCK POLICE ANNOUNCE MAY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

The **Woodstock Police** will engage in a special traffic enforcement initiative targeting Occupant Restraint (Seat Belt and Child Safety Seat) violations during the month of May. The primary focus of this enforcement effort is to reduce the number of personal injuries that occur during the course of a crash because of unrestrained vehicle occupants. As part of this initiative, all Woodstock police officers will be paying special attention to such violations.

Officers that are detailed to perform during this special enforcement initiative are requested to adopt a zero tolerance for restraint violations. Motorists are reminded that current legislation requires both front and back seat passengers are required to be properly restrained with seats belts or proper child safety seats.

May 11th will mark the beginning of the nationwide "Click it or Ticket" campaign. There will be mass media efforts at the State, Federal and Local level during the entire month of May regarding this campaign. The Illinois seat belt compliance rate is at an all time high of 92.9%. It is the State's goal to increase the rate to exceed 93% in 2012.

The Woodstock Police Department will participate in this nationwide effort by establishing Seat Belt Enforcement Zones which will be funded by a grant that was awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Questions regarding this or any other traffic enforcement issue should be directed to **Sergeant Leard** at #815-338-2131 or dleard@woodstockil.gov.

IN THIS ISSUE...

2 Safety on the Square

3 Tobacco Compliance

4 Welcome to New Employees

5 Keeping Employees Healthy

LIBRARY NEWS

Local History Tour: Celebrating Woodstock's History!

Date: 5/8/2012

Start Time: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Description:

This walking tour includes the many beautiful and historic homes and buildings near the Woodstock Square. Participants will enjoy stories about our community's past residents and way of life. Architectural details will be noted along the way. NOTE: The Tour will begin on the Square! Meet the group at the Spring House on the Square just before 5:00 PM. The Spring House is located just inside the park at the corner of East Jackson and Benton Streets.

Starting Location for the Tour: Woodstock Square – Springhouse

Free College Financial Planning Night

Age Group(s): Adult, Teen

Date: 5/14/2012

Start Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Description: Join the College Funding Team for one of three free and educational financial planning workshops. They'll discuss the FAFSA form, what you need to know to maximize your eligible financial aid, and the best strategies for paying for college in a tax efficient way and without straining the rest of your finances. This program is for students and parents of 10th- 12th graders and will be held at the Woodstock Public Library in the large meeting room.

Registration is required. Please contact The College Funding Team at 847-888-3888 or online at www.collegefundingteam.com

SAFETY ON THE SQUARE

The Woodstock Police Department is conducting special enforcement operations in the Square and downtown area of the City. While the Officers are enforcing all laws, particular attention continues to be focused on disruptive behavior that takes away from the public's enjoyment of the Park in the Square and the downtown business district of Woodstock. Special enforcement operations will focus on violators who are in possession of open alcoholic beverages, minors smoking, groups blocking public sidewalks, individuals that are disorderly in their conduct and other violations pertaining to the downtown area.

The goal of the special enforcement effort is to ensure the safety of the public and to re-educate the public on local laws that have been put in place to preserve the Woodstock Square. Recent arrests have been made for public consumption of alcohol, disorderly conduct, minors in possession of tobacco, blocking public sidewalks and a number of traffic violations.

Any citizen that has noted any problems in the Square area is urged to call the Woodstock Police Department at 815-338-2131.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

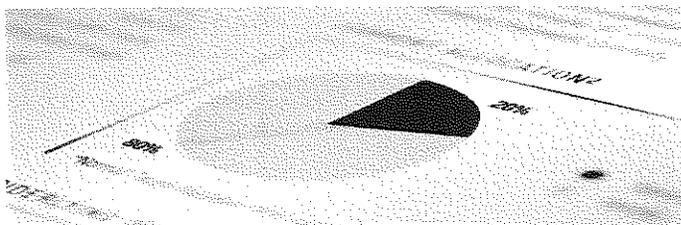
Tuesday, May 8 – Parks & Rec Commission, 7PM,
Council Chambers

Thursday, May 10 – Adjudication Court, 9:30AM,
Council Chambers

Quote

“Often the search seems more profitable than the goal.”

- E.L. Konigsburg



TOBACCO COMPLIANCE



On May 1, 2012, tobacco retailers were inspected for the second of three planned rounds of compliance checks to be conducted on all tobacco retailers within the city limits of Woodstock during the 2012 year. A total of twenty-two (22) retailers were inspected and zero (0) were found to be in violation of the law by selling tobacco to a minor.

Compliance checks are performed by the **Woodstock Police Department** with assistance from the **McHenry County Health Department** to determine if local tobacco retailers are complying with state and local minimum-age tobacco laws which prohibit the sale of tobacco to persons under the age of 18. With the help from a grant awarded by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's "*Kids Can't Buy 'Em Here*" Tobacco Enforcement Program, the City of Woodstock educates local tobacco retailers on minimum-age tobacco laws and the importance of verifying the age of customers before selling age-restrictive products such as tobacco.

The Woodstock Police Department is encouraged by no infractions committed by the tobacco retailers during this compliance check. This is the first time no violations were discovered.

MAY 1ST OFFERS FISCAL YEAR CHANGES

Employees are reminded that paychecks next week will reflect May 1st changes; however, as the start of the fiscal year falls in the middle of the pay period, these checks do not yet reflect the actual amounts that will be received later in the month.

In addition to any applicable salary changes, the required premium deductions for those participating in the City's health insurance program have increased this month. Please review your paystubs carefully and contact **Finance** or **HR** with questions or concerns.

RECRUITMENT NEWS

Following a formal application process and in-depth interviews with members of the **Public Works** and **HR Departments**, congratulations are offered to the following **Public Works** employees who have earned promotions to fill vacancies as shown below:

S&W Maintenance Worker Steve Major moves to **S&W Foreman**, effective 5/7/12.

S&W Maintenance Worker Adam Mass moves to **S&W Utility Inspector**, date TBD.

Parks Maintenance Worker Tim Whiston moves to **Water Treatment Plant Operator I**, effective 6/4/12.

In addition, **Streets/Parks Maintenance Worker Tony Polizzi** will begin training as substitute **Water Treatment Plant Operator I** beginning in the fall.

The recruitment process to fill the resulting **Maintenance Worker** vacancies will be posted on the City's website in the coming days. The **HR Department** is not accepting applications, resumes or interest cards until this recruitment process is posted.

FIRST PRIORITY REC REGISTRATION CLOSED TUESDAY

The deadline for first priority registration for the **Recreation Department's** summer programs closed this past Tuesday. For the remainder of the week, Rec Department staff processed the registration forms received during first priority registration.

Registration reopens on Monday, May 7 for programs that still have space on a first-come, first-served basis.

The department will be offering over 75 programs during the summer session for everyone from twelve month-olds through seniors, so if you're looking for something fun to do this summer, check out the Summer City Scene or visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com for a list of activities.

CITY HALL ROLLS OUT THE WELCOME MAT!

Cort Carlson takes over this week as **Director of Community & Economic Development**, reporting to **City Manager Tim Clifton**. **Cort** is well-known in this area as the face of the McHenry County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) for the past 7 years. Prior to that role, **Cort** held similar marketing and tourism positions with Chicago Premium and Gurnee Mills Outlet Malls, as well as sales positions with Lake County and Elgin CVBs. **Cort** holds a BA in Journalism/Public Relations from Northern Illinois University and lives in Crystal Lake with his wife and three daughters.

Dan McElmeel also joins the City Hall staffers this week in the role of **Information Technician**, reporting to **Deputy City Manager Roscoe Stelford**. **Dan's** name is one that long-time City employees may find familiar. Many moons ago, **Dan** spent his youth working part-time as **Facility/Events Worker** at the **Woodstock Opera House**, and eventually fell into working with computers; the rest is techno history. Following several years in IT contractor and support positions, **Dan** found himself at Follett Library Resources, where he advanced quickly to Technical Support Manager. After being impacted by position cuts at Follett, he served as Field Sales Manager for AER Worldwide, designing and installing internal communications systems. A graduate of Marian Central HS, **Dan** attended McHenry County College, and lives in Wonder Lake with his wife, daughter and son.

In other news, congratulations also go out to **Code Enforcement Officer/Asst. Building Inspector Donovan Day** who didn't have enough long titles to throw around, and is now awarded the designation of **Assistant to the Community & Economic Development Director**, with expanded responsibilities effective 5/1/12.

Meanwhile, over at the **Woodstock Police Department**, **Officer Robby Branum** dons Sherlock-style pipe and deerstalker cap as the newest member of the **Detective** squad, effective 5/1/12.



A FULL HOUSE AT THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT DANCE RECITAL

Over 125 dancers, representing fifteen **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, Estée Forst and Robin Sobel**.

Several Little Dancer classes, four ballet classes and four Hip/Hop classes all performed to a full house of approximately 600 people at Woodstock High School.

The recital was held at Woodstock High School as the program continues to be very popular. Many thanks to over twenty staff and volunteers who helped make this a successful night!

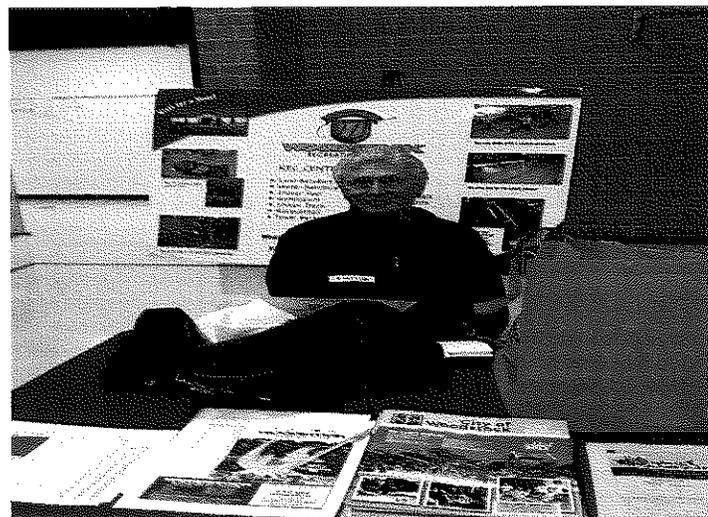
HELPING TO KEEP EMPLOYEES HEALTHY

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 District 200, SEDOM, and Wells 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 Wednesday, April 25th, staff from the Recreation Center attended the SEDOM employee health fair. Prices, fitness class schedules, and passes were handed out to employees and their families. Throughout the year, Recreation staff attends several Health and Benefits Fairs, including those at the McHenry County Government Center, District 200 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, for more information.



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: WHEN SUGAR IS NOT YOUR FRIEND

If it's springtime in Woodstock that means DQ is open and the temptation of ice cream treats beckons daily.

The problem is, sugar is a highly addictive biochemical exciter that temporarily increases energy and offers pleasurable feelings. However, those "empty calories" wreak havoc with mental and physical stamina, causing drops in attention and in productivity. Decreasing sugar intake over time will definitely reduce cravings, while providing greater incentive to add healthy fruits and veggies to your diet instead.

Here then are just a few ways to get control of your sugar monkey:

- Throw away the sugar bowl and the candy dish. Out of sight, out of mind.
- Replace sugary cereals with quality whole grain selections; add fresh fruit if sweetening is desired.
- Use sugar substitutes, especially natural ones such as honey or molasses.
- Think of soda as a special treat only; for daily hydration, drink tea or water with a little fruit juice.
- Try experimenting with dishes using savory or hot spices for dietary variety instead of relying on the sweet stuff.
- Reduce reliance on processed foods. When they can't be avoided, read labels and choose brands that limit hidden sugars such as high fructose corn syrup.
- Show your kids you love them with family activities instead of desserts—see a movie, play a game or go for a walk together.



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

Officer David Dempsey will be conducting an "Interview with a Police Officer", answering questions that the average citizen might want to know about the professional and personal life of an Officer.

Coffee with the Chief



May 14, 2012
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Woodstock Police Department
656 Lake Avenue

For further information, please call
#815-338-6787.