



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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PLAYGROUND REMOVAL

Parks Division Maintenance Workers Phil Mass and Brandon Eddy completed the removal of the handicap playground structure in Emricson Park during the week of January 29. This structure was showing its age, and replacement parts are no longer available for the equipment. In consideration of the environment and rather than disposing this equipment in a landfill, Parks employees are taking the scrap steel and aluminum to Behr Iron & Steel in Woodstock to recycle the material. We expect to receive over \$400 for this scrap metal.

New playground equipment was delivered last fall and is in storage until an April 2012 installation date (pending favorable weather). The new structure will also be handicap accessible and will be located in the same location in Emricson Park.



WOODSTOCK TREATMENT FACILITIES ACHIEVE 100% COMPLIANCE

In 2011, Woodstock's **Water Treatment** and **Wastewater Treatment** facilities achieved 100% compliance with the terms and conditions of their operating permits. This achievement signifies that these facilities are sized appropriately and that the treatment processes are professionally managed and maintained. Woodstock owns and operates two water treatment plants and two wastewater treatment plants all of which are regulated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and these facilities must meet stringent water quality limits each and every day. These water quality limits are continually changing to keep up with environmental standards which make this achievement even more difficult over time. The analysis of the finished water in addition to water leaving each stage of the treatment process is continually sampled and monitored to assure that it will meet the set standards. Modifications and adjustments to the treatment processes must be performed immediately after a problem is recognized in order to maintain compliance.

Woodstock is fortunate to employ some very qualified individuals who manage and maintain these facilities with such a high degree of success. It is important that the residents of the Woodstock community not take these services for granted and that they recognize this significant achievement. These facilities and its employees play a very important role in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the Woodstock community. Tours of these facilities can be provided to the public upon request.

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LIBRARY NEWS

The Grimke Sisters: Women's Roles During the Civil War Era

Age Group(s): Adult/Teen

Date: 2/12/2012

Start Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Description: The McHenry County Civil War Roundtable invites the public to join them when member Kathy Grey discusses the Grimke sisters of South Carolina and their fight for abolition and women's rights during the mid-19th century.

Drop in Storytime

Age Group(s): Ages 2 and up

Date: Tuesdays through Feb. 21

Start Time: 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Description: Come to one class or join us every week! We'll share great stories, songs, and lots of fun during these drop-in sessions. Drop-In Storytimes are held from January 17-February 21 and again from March 6-April 17.

Location: Storytime Room

Other Information: No registration required.

Contact: [Liz Delzell](#) 815-338-0542 x106

Cuentos en Español—Spanish-Language Storytime

Age Group(s): Ages 2 and up, Children

Date: Tuesdays through Feb. 21

Start Time: 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Presenter: Valeria Cereda

Location: Storytime Room

Other Information: No registration required. No necesita registrarse.

Contact: [Liz Delzell](#) 815-338-0542 x106

Description: ¡Traiga a sus niños a pasar una tarde divertida! Invitamos a las familias que hablan o están aprendiendo español a que se acerquen a la Biblioteca para escuchar el relato de interesantes historias, realizar manualidades y aprender bellas canciones. El programa se realiza enteramente en español. La admisión es gratuita. (Families who speak or are learning to speak Spanish can enjoy stories, crafts, and songs at our Spanish-language storytime. For students in School District 200's Dual Language Program, this is also a great opportunity to practice speaking Spanish outside of the classroom. This program is conducted entirely in Spanish.)

SENIORS TRY THEIR LUCK AT STAGE LEFT CAFÉ

As a joint effort to offer a wide variety of programs to area seniors, The City of Woodstock, Hearthstone Communities and Senior Services are coming together on the 4th Thursday of each month with a program called *The Thursday Thread*, offering fun events and trips. **City Manager Office Assistant Monica Amraen** and **Recreation Program Coordinator Becky Vidales** are the City representatives for the group and also plan and organize weekly events at the **Stage Left Café** on Tuesday afternoons at 1:00PM.

The first event of the year was Thursday, January 26th. Seniors gathered at the Stage Left Café for an afternoon of lunch and to try their luck at Bingo, Roulette and Black Jack. Raffle tickets were exchanged instead of money for a chance to win one of six prize baskets donated by each of the participating sponsors. Special thanks to **Recreation Program Coordinators Alan Dunker** and **Renee Torrez** for helping take tickets and deal Black Jack.

The next *Thursday Thread* event is February 23 at Hearthstone Communities. At 1:00PM **City Planner Nancy Baker** will discuss the history of the city of Woodstock and a sweet treat will be provided by Hearthstone Communities.



JOHN BURNS AT MARY ENDRES



Last week, **John Burns, IT Tech** for the City of Woodstock had the pleasure of speaking to a group of third grade students at Mary Endres Elementary School about the class' iPad. The iPad, provided by the school district, has great instructional potential and offers an opportunity to give the children hands-on experience with this emerging technology. John's instruction primarily covered iPad care, features and a demonstration of some educational applications. John enjoyed answering some great questions from the children and was delighted to see their excitement.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, February 7 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers

WHO NEEDS HAIR ANYWAY? GIVE IT UP FOR ST. BALDRICK'S!

Many employees are familiar with, or have participated in, the annual St. Baldrick's Day "hair-raising" event, where folks go in shaggy and come out shiny, with proceeds donated to the admirable cause of childhood cancer research efforts.

Following a very successful event last year, our friends at Woodstock High School are setting a high standard this year and inviting the entire community to join them in reaching \$30,000 in donations, through 2 days of activities at WHS.

The first event in the school's 2-parter is open to the public: on Thursday, 3/15, from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm, they invite the community to visit the high school for shaving or shearing. While some folks choose to go totally hair-free for St. Baldrick's, others may elect to donate 8 inches of longer tresses, with those donations sent to Pantene's "Beautiful Lengths" program. The following day will feature the actual WHS event for students.

The school appreciates any and all volunteers, participants or donors, and invites anyone interested in this very worthy cause to sign up via the following process:

- 1) go to <http://www.st.baldricks.org>
- 2) click on the left side button for "find an event near you"
- 3) enter our zip code, 60098, in the zip code bar
- 4) enter Woodstock High School in the "venue name" column
- 5) use the "get involved" link at the top of the page to identify your area of event interest

And, remember, the most important thing...it all grows back (if you had it to begin with!)

GETTING YOUR POINT ACROSS IS EASIER SAID THAN DONE

Whether it's trying to express your own ideas more effectively, or practicing your listening skills to improve relationships at home or work, everyone can benefit from opportunities to increase awareness of how they communicate with others.

One such upcoming opportunity is available at no charge to City of Woodstock employees through our EAP provider, Allied Care Solutions. As outlined on the attached flyer, ACS offers a webinar on "The Art of Listening & Giving Feedback" on 2/21/12 by accessing the website: www.alliedbenefit.com/acs.asp and entering our user name: cityofwoodstock. The seminar is offered at 11am, 1pm or 3pm, Central time.

A wide range of resources and additional help is available from Allied Care Solutions by phone or via the above website link. Don't hesitate to get the information you need...it's only a phone call away, every day of the year, at 1-800-440-1440, as shown on the back of your Allied ID card.

Quotation

"Every artist was first an amateur."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

CITY INSTALLS NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNS

Street Division employees have erected a new type of crosswalk sign (see photo) to replace those that were installed at or near the center line at Tryon & Lincoln, Pleasant & Lincoln, Hercules & Braeburn, and on South Street near the hospital entrance. These signs bring attention to crosswalks in areas where a combination of factors makes them suitable to draw extra attention to vehicular traffic. New signs were considered because those installed in the pavement were getting damaged from being run over. In 2011, damage to this type of sign resulted in their replacement a total of sixteen times. One of these pavement mounted signs will remain at the intersection of Throop & Cass. All others were replaced with signage that can be installed in the right-of-way, out of the path of motorists. An Illinois State Law put into effect in 2010 requires motorists to STOP FOR (not just yield to) pedestrians in the crosswalk.



HELPING TO KEEP EMPLOYEES HEALTHY



The **Woodstock Recreation Center** has partnered with 15 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 Friday, January, 27 staff from the Recreation Center attended the McHenry County 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 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.

SUGAR AND SPICE

Woodstock Police Department Patrol Officer **Charlie Vorderer** and his wife, **Theresa**, are the proud parents of a new baby girl, **Genevieve Louise Vorderer**. Born on Saturday, January 28th, Genevieve weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19.5" long at birth. Charlie, Theresa, and big brother **Brendan**, were all so happy to meet her! Everyone is happy and healthy. Congratulations to the Vorderer family!

