



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION



Employees of the **Parks Division** have been collecting discarded Christmas trees from residents for the past two weeks, and to date they have collected over 640 trees. These trees are run through the chipper and turned into mulch and then provided for residents' use. Trees are collected by Parks employees for residents on the same day as their regularly scheduled garbage collection day, and the week of January 16 is the last week of Christmas tree collection.

SAVE THE DATE

Chief Robert Lowen has announced that the guest speaker at the next monthly *Coffee with the Chief* program will be Sergeant Heather Poerio, a Criminal Scene Investigator for the Illinois State Police.

So if you're a fan of all those crime solving shows on TV stop by and meet a real CSI and find out what is involved in solving a crime in the real world. Join Chief Lowen and Sergeant Poerio on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00PM in the training room at the **Woodstock Police Department**.



WOODSTOCK STATION PROPOSAL

On Thursday, January 26, 2012, the Plan Commission will conduct a public hearing on a proposed special use permit for property located on the west side of the Woodstock Station site. The applicant will be seeking approval of a special use permit which will allow the subject property, generally located south of First Street and west of Wheeler Street, to be developed with two 6-story multi-family buildings. Each building will contain 60 apartment units and will be used for senior independent living housing. In addition to the apartment units, the buildings will contain dining facilities, library and meeting areas, and recreation amenities. This area was originally approved for a seven story building with 70 luxury condominium dwellings. If the special use is approved, the applicant will then have to re-plat the subject property to accommodate the two buildings and obtain approval of an "amended final plat". As part of the special use request, variations are also being requested for the number of parking spaces, lot area, and required frontage dimensions.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Blue Folder

If you haven't been to the Reference Desk lately, you may not have noticed a mysterious, tattered blue folder that sits at the elbow of the reference librarian along the side of the desk. If you watch, you'll observe a variety of patrons opening said folder, perhaps jotting some notes on a scrap of paper and then walking away. What great secrets are held in this humble folder?

Stop in and see. Oh, ok. I'll tell. But you should still stop in and take a look for yourself.

While it is a very low-tech tool, it has proven to be a very efficient method of disseminating current McHenry County job opportunities to WPL visitors. Reference librarian Trudie Dreyer has forged a dynamic relationship with the good folks of [McHenry County Workforce](#). They send her daily email updates of local jobs which she then prints and places in the BLUE FOLDER. Simple? Yes. Effective? YES!

Library Resolutions!

We're resolving to update *Judd Street Blog* located on the Woodstock Public Library website regularly in 2012! What about you? It may be mid-January, but it's never too late to make some Library New Year's resolutions.

1. Find missing/late library items and pay fines to get back into good standing. The good news is you can clear fines of up to \$5.00 per card by bringing in a non-perishable food donation on Tuesday, February 14. This does not apply to lost or damaged items.

2. [Renew/get library card](#) to check out free movies, music, magazines, books and MORE!

3. [Sign up](#) your child(ren) for at least one Childspace, Babies and Books or other kids' library program. We've got some [awesome programs](#) coming up. You also need to stop in to visit our new(ish) Children's Librarian Liz Delzell!

4. Attend a [book discussion group](#) or [world movie](#)

[night](#) at the library.

5. Learn how to download a [digital book](#). Just ask one of our friendly librarians.

6. Experiment using one of the library's [electronic resources](#) available free through our website (health information, car repair, school research, professional tests, discover family roots, compare consumer products).

7. Join [Friends of the Woodstock Public Library](#). It costs as little as \$2.00 a year, but you'll show your support for WPL and find out about great volunteer opportunities.

8. Plan to attend the [4th Annual Friends Mini Links](#) event on March 17th. Mini-golf in the library; it doesn't get better than that!

9. Like us on [Facebook](#). You'll get all the latest WPL news, updates and fun library trivia right on your Wall.

10. Sign up for [BookNews](#) electronic newsletters to receive customized info on your favorite authors and categories. You can also get staff picks, the WPL newsletter and Friends information delivered right to your inbox. It doesn't get any easier than that.

11. Create a PIN # to access your [library account online](#): www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org (Catalog link). You can renew items, request materials and create reading lists.

12. Give us your email address so we can send you reminders when your library materials are coming due and overdue notices when they are late. Of course, you're not going to be returning materials late because your final resolution is . . .

13. Turn your library materials in on time! :) Aww, c'mon. You knew we had to say it.



RENTAL UNITS DECLINE

In 2000, 61 percent of the occupied housing units in Woodstock were owner-occupied, while 39 percent of the City's dwellings were rented. Data obtained from the 2010 Census indicates that these numbers have changed. The number of rental units has dropped to 34.6 percent while the number of owner-occupied units has increased to 65.4 percent. The increase in owner-occupied dwellings reflects the significant number of single-family residences and townhomes constructed in the Sweetwater, Sonatas, and Apple Creek Estates developments and the lack of multi-family projects in the past 6 years.

KOHL'S IS HERE—AND THEY ARE HIRING!

With local jobs increasingly scarce, it's good news that Woodstock's Kohl's retail store is now hiring for their March opening!

Kohl's is holding a Job Fair for this store, at the Holiday Inn in Crystal Lake, with appointments available beginning this Sunday, 1/15 and continuing through Thursday 1/19.

Applicants should call 1-877-639-5645, or go online to www.kohlscareers.com, to schedule these interviews in advance.



NEW PROMOTION FOR 2012 AT REC CENTER

As part of the **Recreation Department's** Strategic Plan, one of the Recreation Center's 2012 promotions is **Fitness Bucks**. The Bucks can be earned by members, daily visitors or punch card holders by participating in designated Rec Center programs and special events throughout the year.



Promotions in January...
*Sign up for a membership for a full year anytime in January, and receive 10 fitness bucks.
*January 14 & 28 are special land and water classes. 2 bucks if you attend class.

There is NO cash value. Not responsible for lost or stolen bucks. The bucks MUST be collected on the day of the promotion. The Bucks expire on 12-31-12.

The following is a list of prizes that can be "purchased" with Fitness Bucks.

Rec Center Lip Balm	2	Fitness Bucks
Guest Pass -	5	Fitness Bucks
Water Bottle	10	Fitness Bucks
Bag	15	Fitness Bucks
T-Shirts	20	Fitness Bucks
1 Month Dues -Value of Member's Monthly Dues		

**NOW APPEARING IN YOUR LOCAL
MAILBOX: NEW FLEX CARDS!**

Most employees on the City's health plan who participate in the annual Flex Spending Account program currently have 3-year FSA Debit Cards that are set to expire at the end of this month, 1/31/12.

This week new FSA cards are being sent by Allied's provider directly to employees' homes. Be sure to check your mail, open these envelopes, and replace your existing card with these new 3-year cards that expire 1/31/15.

Both card numbers are attached to employees' flex accounts and the old cards may be used until 1/31 if necessary. However, once the new cards are swiped, the current cards are automatically deactivated and can no longer be used. It's a good idea to destroy these cards right away to avoid confusion.

Anyone whose Flex card indicates a 1/12 expiration date and who does not receive a new card prior to 1/31/12 should call Allied's Customer Service number at 866-455-8727 to request their new Flex card.

The Allied Customer Service number may also be called to request duplicate Allied ID cards as needed.

Quotation

"A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water."

[Carl Reiner](#)

PUMP UP THE JAM

Check out the new sound system in the Rec Center Gym during the FREE class of *Pump Up the Jam* on Saturday, January 14 from 8:00-10:00AM. Earn 2 Fitness Bucks for participating at anytime during the 2 hour class.

8:00AM	Zumba
8:30AM	Turbo Kick
9:00-10:00AM	Body Shock

WELLNESS DAYS GROWING IN POPULARITY

The annual Wellness Day health assessments were held at City Hall on 1/5/12 and 1/10/12 with great participation by employees and dependents. Over 115 individuals took advantage of this convenient screening opportunity and results from the first event are already being received by participants. Those who participated will also receive the City's reduced health insurance premium to reward their efforts.

Congratulations to all those who used this no-charge health activity to obtain insights into their diet, lifestyle and medical situations. Please take some time to thoroughly review the provided test results, share them with your regular physician and consider options available to you to improve health and fitness for the coming year.

Anyone who does not receive their wellness assessment within the next week or two may contact the **HR Department** for assistance.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday, January 17 – City Council,
7PM, Council Chambers
Wednesday, January 18 – Transportation
Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

LAST WEEK FOR SUMMER SEASONAL APPS COMING UP

Applications for a limited number of Summer **Recreational** and **Public Works** positions are available in the **HR Department**, or by emailing humanresources@woodstockil.gov. Applications will be accepted only through next Friday, 1/20/12.

MILEAGE CLUB AND CHALLENGE SERIES AT REC CENTER

Mileage Club

Step ahead with fitness for the whole family. Kids will be rewarded with charms as they complete the scheduled activities and runs. Membership includes: Friday Family Fun Night Activities and foot charms and discounts for the Challenge Series Runs.

2012 Family Membership Fee: \$10

Challenge Series - Penguin Plunge

The first run in the Challenge Series of montly ONE mile walk/run.

Wrap yourself in down and feathers and join us for a run through ice and snow and frozen tundra.

January 28

8:00AM

Raintree Park

\$ 5 Mileage Club Member (\$10 after Jan 22)

\$ 8 Non-Member (\$16 after Jan 22)

Registration accepted at the Recreation Center

Registration is accepted at the **Woodstock Recreation Center**. For more information, refer to www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com.

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Over 150 adults and children attended the FREE Kickoff to *Friday Family Fun Nights* at the **Recreation Center**. The evening was sponsored by Mercy Health Systems along with the Recreation Center. A bounce house, an obstacle course, a laser tunnel, a mini-health fair, tot-gym, open swim and light refreshments were a part of the night.

Friday Family Fun Nights will continue through March 30 with open gym, open swim, tot-gym, and Mileage Club activities. The fee is \$10 per non-member family and FREE for Rec Center Members and their immediate families.

