



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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WPD FEBRUARY TRAFFIC INITIATIVE



The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced that February's Traffic Enforcement Initiative will target Distracted Driving Violations.

Woodstock Police Officers will be conducting highly visible and increased

enforcement regarding distracted drivers who are talking on handheld cell phones or otherwise using a handheld electronic communication device. As always, the primary goal is to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities that result from these violations.

Remember – *one text or call could wreck it all!*

For further information or questions regarding this special traffic enforcement initiative, please contact **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** at 815-338-2131 or at rpritchard@woodstockil.gov.

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ADOPT A STORM DRAIN

Grated storm drains (catch basins, inlets) are located on both public and private property in grassed areas and impervious surfaces. Their purpose is to collect storm water (whether it is in the form of melting snow, ice, and/ or rain) and carry it to an area that is designed to hold it and/or release it in a controlled manner. During the winter season, many storm drains become snow covered and not much thought goes into where the water will pond once the temperatures rise, the snow melts and the rain falls.

Please consider adopting a storm drain during all seasons and help to clear snow, ice, yard waste and trash from those drains that are located near your home. In doing so, you would help protect your own property and assist the **Department of Public Works** in the prevention of flooding, damage to our roads, and hazards to the traveling public. With approximately 10,000 storm drains (catch basins, inlets) on the City's water system, it is nearly impossible for the Department of Public Works to clear debris from every storm drain throughout town. Clearing a 10 – 12" area along the curb around the drain near your home would afford crews an opportunity to focus efforts on other priorities within the community.

Please consider adopting a storm drain this winter / spring!

Report a clogged storm drain or drainage problem to Public Works; 815-338-6118.



WINTER SAFETY TIPS – CHILDREN AT PLAY

Parents, please remind your children of these safety tips when playing outside during the winter months:

- ✓ Only play in safe, approved locations away from driveways & roads, and areas that are free of vehicles, trees, posts and rocks,
- ✓ Stay away from ponds, lakes and rivers that could have thin ice,
- ✓ Dress in multiples layers, including your legs, feet and hands,
- ✓ Wear hats & gloves, as the biggest proportion of body heat are lost through the head and hands,
- ✓ Wear a scarf or neck warmer over their mouth to warm air before it's inhaled,
- ✓ Wear sunscreen on exposed areas, as snow reflects 80% of UV rays,
- ✓ Take periodic warm-up & rest breaks inside,
- ✓ Stay well-hydrated, even a little hot cocoa will do,
- ✓ Remove all wet clothing immediately and change into dry clothes,
- ✓ Wear brightly colored outer clothing that is easily seen from a distance,
- ✓ Avoid playing near snowplow areas; snowbanks, drifts, piles,
- ✓ Teach children never to touch or lick exposed metal during the winter months,
- ✓ Do not eat snow as it may contain contaminants.



TEMPORARY BAN ON OVERWEIGHT LOADS

Several area local road jurisdictions place temporary weight restrictions on their local roads and streets each spring to reduce the amount of damage on the roadways and road base when the subgrade thaws. The City of Woodstock does not expect to place any temporary restrictions for the allowable legal weight limit for any street under our jurisdiction. However, the City will not approve any requests for special permits for overweight vehicles for any City road or street this spring.

Effective Monday, March 2 and continuing at least through Monday, April 6, the City of Woodstock will not approve nor allow any trucks, trailers, or other vehicles that are in excess of the axle loading established by the State of Illinois to use any City street. Depending on weather conditions and the conditions of the roadways, this temporary restriction prohibiting overweight vehicles could be extended.

If you have equipment that would result in an overweight load that needs to be moved to/from your job site this spring, the transportation needs to be completed prior to March 2 or at least after April 6, 2015 or longer.

If you have any questions about this temporary ban, please call the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118.



HR NEWS

Congratulations to **Joe Napolitano** who has been offered and has accepted the position of **Director** for the future Building, Planning & Zoning Department – Joe will continue to serve as Economic Development Coordinator until his replacement is selected. Way to go Joe!

Congratulations to **Allison Steiger** who has been offered and has accepted the position of **Finance / Accounting Intern** – Allison's first day was Tuesday, February 10th. Allison is currently a student at McHenry County College where she is studying Business Finance. Allison also is active in the community by volunteering for her church's Awana Club, as well as volunteering twice a week in the church office.

Congratulations to **Sarah Jane Campbell** who has been offered and has accepted the position of **Library Shelver** – Sarah's first day is Monday, February 16th. In addition to working at the Woodstock Public Library, Sarah also works at Kohl's in Woodstock.

RECRUITMENT

The following active positions are currently posted on the City of Woodstock's website:

CDL-Licensed Maintenance Worker I – Public Works Streets Division (Full-Time): General responsibilities with a Sunday through Thursday work schedule include: performs a wide variety of manual labor and operates vehicles and equipment in the maintenance and repair of City streets, rights-of-way, and other City-owned property. **Application Deadline: Friday, February 20, 2015 at 5:00PM (Deadline Extended).**

Library Desk Assistant (Part-Time): General responsibilities include: checking in, checking out and renewing library materials, creating and renewing library cards, shelving materials, customer relations and other related duties as assigned. Bilingual ability is highly desirable for this position. **Application Deadline: Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Finance/Accounting Clerk (Limited Part-Time): General responsibilities include: utility billing, cash reconciliations, accounts payable/accounts receivable, payroll, customer service/counter help, and other miscellaneous finance/accounting duties as assigned. **Application Deadline: Friday, February 27, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Economic Development Coordinator (Full-Time): General responsibilities include: plan and coordinate marketing of the City as a business destination and position Woodstock as an economically viable, business-friendly marketplace, with an exceptional quality-of-life environment. **Application Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, WSI Instructors, Swim Aides (2015 Summer Seasonal): These positions provide safety and instruction to swimmers at Woodstock WaterWorks pool and work days, evenings and weekends, dependent on pool attendance and weather. Lifeguards ensure the safety and health of all pool patrons, while WSI Instructors and Aides provide proper instruction/teaching for all City of Woodstock Recreation Department swimming lessons. **Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Playground Program Counselors (2015 Summer Seasonal): Counselors interact with and supervise a group of 8-12 children, ages 4-12 years, in a recreational setting. This position requires planning, implementing, and evaluating daily activities, and communicating with participants' parents on a regular basis. Counselors ensure safety of campers at all times. **Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers (2015 Summer Seasonal): These temporary positions perform various manual unskilled and semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance of City streets, parks and sewer/water utilities. Positions work under the direction of Supervisors and/or Foremen for the respective divisions of the Public Works Department. **Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2015 at 5:00PM**

Please refer to the City's website at www.woodstockil.gov and click on the Employment Opportunities section for further details and the application process on the above opportunities. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Quotation

What we see depends mainly on what we look for.

[John Lubbock](#)

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, February 17 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers

Wednesday, February 18 – Transportation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

7 HABITS OF HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

This Valentine's Day, instead of truffles or champagne, how about introducing some small but valuable changes to help your relationship go from good to great?

A heart-shaped box of chocolates or a dozen red roses are classic romantic gestures that can bring a smile to your loved one's face. But Victoria Fleming, PhD, LCPC, of North Shore Counseling in Northbrook, IL, author of *You Complete Me and Other Myths that Destroy Happily Ever After*, says that for a strong and lasting relationship, cultivating certain habits are much more important than commercial expressions of love. She recommends strengthening your relationship by adopting these seven healthy behaviors:



1. **Balance your needs with those of your spouse.** “Getting along with people is not a mystery, and neither is getting along with your significant other,” Fleming explains. “Considering your partner’s point of view, and really committing to understanding it, rather than fighting it because it’s different than yours, will go a long way towards relationship harmony.”
2. **Check in regularly, even when you are busy.** “It’s not too much to send a quick text with something you found amusing,” Fleming says, “but it’s important this doesn’t become routine or an obligation.” By making small connections during the day, you can maintain that closeness even when you are separated, and will have that shared bond when you do come together again.
3. **Consider your partner before you make any big decisions or plans.** “A weekend away with friends sounds fine, but not if it conflicts with something your partner already had planned,” Fleming says. “Joining a new club or starting a new activity is going to have an impact on your partner, so be sure you’ve thought through any new commitments and thoroughly discussed the impact on the family with your partner.”
4. **Find shared activities you’ll both enjoy.** Fleming says that having some joint interests and activities, such as running, going to a concert, or visiting a museum can provide new experiences and more shared memories. But that doesn’t mean you should drop activities you enjoy if your spouse doesn’t—it’s healthy to have activities that are just for you, as long as they are life-enriching and add value to your sense of self and happiness. A happy you will make you a happier partner.
5. **Reach an agreement about spending habits.** “Make a commitment to stay within the agreement, or talk it through if you want to spend something that goes outside the agreement,” Fleming says. Money can be a source of conflict for many couples, so you will need to find a compromise regarding earning and spending you can both live with.
6. **Respect one another’s differences.** “It’s very likely those differences were part of the attraction that brought you together,” she points out. “Unfortunately, the ‘You Complete Me’ myth often plays out and leaves couples angry and disillusioned with the relationship ... so get in the habit of reminding yourself why you love your spouse and why your life is better because he/she is in it.”

7. **Be self-sufficient.** “The most important quality required for a truly happy union is healthy self-sufficiency,” Fleming says. “This quality means that you are a happy and whole person, ready to love and support your partner while you are willing to be loved and supported.”

Putting it into Perspective

Just remember that you don't have to wait for Valentine's Day to celebrate your relationship: “It's important that you appreciate the value and strengths of your relationship every day,” Fleming says. “A husband who is there when you need him, checks in with you daily, and supports you all year long is way more valuable than a guy who comes and goes but then splashes out once a year.”

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RECORD NUMBERS FOR TWEEN NIGHT

Ninety tweens made an appearance last Saturday night at the monthly **Recreation Center Tween Night**. Supervised games of hockey and dodgeball were in the gym. The pool was packed with swimmers and the racquetball courts were in constant use.

As the numbers continue to grow, the Rec Center will continue the event once a month. The next Tween Night will be April 4 with a Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt as a part of the night's events.

CANVAS CRAZE

The walls will be a little happier with the adorable painting of “Sock Monkey,” created by the participants in the *Woodstock Recreation Department's* Canvas Craze class on Saturday, February 7 where an instructor from **MUSE ART** instructed the group of ten, step-by-step, through this cute painting.

The next Canvas Craze class will be held on March 4 from 10:30AM-12:30PM at the Rec Center. Space is still available-sign up at the Recreation Department today!



**Want to Start to Get Healthy with an
Exercise Program?**

City of Woodstock employees receive an employee discount at the **Woodstock Recreation Center**. **The initiation fee is waived! Executive membership is \$35 per month. Full membership is \$25 per month.** Try a week for free! For more information, contact Mary Lynn

Lisk or Renee Torrez at 8138-4363 or visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com for more information.