



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 15

April 10, 2015

OLD MCHENRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND SHERIFF'S HOUSE TAP PRESENTATION

The City of Woodstock and the Urban Land Institute invite the public to the presentation to share the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel (TAP) recommendations for the reuse of the Old McHenry County Courthouse and Sheriff's House. The recommendations are based on the intensive Technical Assistance Panel process used to analyze the property in mid-March.

The presentation will be Wednesday, April 22, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. at the Woodstock Opera House.

The presentation is open to the public, but please RSVP to Swasti Shah, Director of Community Engagement ULI Chicago at 773-549-4972 or swasti.shah@uli.org.

To learn more about this project, visit Chicago.uli.org and read about Technical Assistance Services.



FREE WOOD MULCH AVAILABLE



The City offers wood mulch to all residents, free of charge, throughout the year as long as the supply lasts. Residents may pick up the wood mulch at the Department of Public Works facility, 326 Washington Street (next to Dairy Queen) at any time of day or night. Bring your own containers and shovels for loading; there is no limit on the amount you may take.

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WASTEWATER TREATMENT DIVISION RECEIVES GRANT FOR TWO INOVAIR HIGH SPEED TURBO BLOWERS

The City's **Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant** utilizes an aerobic (oxygen rich) digestion process for the breakdown and stabilization of excess biomass. The air utilized in Aerobic Digesters 9 & 10 was supplied by positive displacement blowers that operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The system was designed so that one blower could provide the recommended amount of air needed to properly operate the two aerobic digestion tanks.

Working with the engineering service of HR Green, **Anne George, Wastewater Treatment Division Superintendent**, was able to secure the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Public Sector Energy Efficiency grant for \$110,000. With the value of the grant, two blowers were purchased at a cost of \$99,227 from Gasvoda & Associates, Inc. to replace the existing two blowers. This grant was solely based upon the energy saving calculations provided by the use of 60 HP Inovair High Speed Turbo Blowers in lieu of the existing 100 HP tri-lobe positive displacement blowers. The energy-efficient blowers will reduce electricity costs at the Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant by approximately \$16,000 per year based on average electricity at \$0.05 per KWH as compared to the existing tri-lobe positive displacement blowers. The cost of the equipment is reimbursable, but not the engineering or installation labor costs.

There were funds approved in the FY14/15 Water and Sewer CIP Budget to replace one of the positive displacement blowers in-kind. However, due to this reimbursement grant opportunity and estimated electricity cost savings, the available funds were used for the professional engineering, supplies, and electrical modification costs needed to install two high-speed turbo blowers.

This was a significant project that was completed by the **Wastewater Treatment Division. Operator II, Wayne Baker** and **Operator I, Dan Bolda** spent many man-hours removing the old blowers, piping, concrete pads, and installing the new blowers and piping. These employees were able to focus on this project because, **Operator I, Adam Sheahan** maintained the day-to-day operations at the north side facility and **Operator I, Henry Vidales** maintained the south side facility.

The savings in annual electrical costs and the procurement of two grant-provided blowers demonstrates that City employees are creatively finding funds to replace equipment that is necessary and to help keep expenses down within the wastewater treatment operating budget.



WPD APRIL TRAFFIC INITIATIVE

The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced that April's Traffic Enforcement Initiative will target Distracted Drivers, as it is *National Distracted Driving Awareness* month.

Woodstock Police Officers will conduct highly visible increased enforcement throughout the month on this issue with the primary goal being to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle crashes and the injuries or fatalities that may result from this violation.

Please note that while driving it is unlawful to wear a headset receiver on both ears or to use a phone or electronic communication device in anything but hands-free or voice operated mode.

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.



PROPER MULCHING AROUND TREES



Public Works requests that residents refrain from piling excessive amounts of mulch against the trunks of parkway trees. This practice could be detrimental to the parkway trees for a variety of reasons. Since a tree breathes through its trunk, piling mulch up high on the trunk could actually smother the tree. Also, this practice could cause the trunk to rot from too much moisture from the mulch, and the piled mulch against the trunk could attract rodents and insects who like to feed on soft and moist tree trunks.

To properly mulch around trees, remove any grass within a 3 to 10 foot area, depending on the size of your tree. Pour natural mulch, such as wood chips or bark pieces, 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle. Keep the mulch from touching the trunk of the tree. This allows the root zone to keep its moisture but also allows the trunk to stay dry and free of rot, insect, or rodent damage.

If you have any questions regarding parkway trees, feel free to contact the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK

Sunday is the start of *National Public Safety Telecommunications Week* which runs from April 12th through April 18th this year. The **Woodstock Police Department** will join Public Safety agencies across the country in recognizing the tireless efforts of the men and women who work in the E 911 Communications Centers.

This is an opportunity to say “Thank You” to our own dedicated group of nine full-time and four part-time Telecommunicators who act as the “first” first responder in emergency situations that develop in our community.

They are the calm and professional voice that answers all of our citizen’s initial telephone calls for help. Whether the call is related to a life and death situation, or simply someone calling for travel directions or information, they respond promptly and professionally. They are called upon to support others at times of extreme crisis and personal suffering, and each of them possesses a great capacity for patience, persistence and compassion on a daily basis.

At times they are chastened by upset callers or taken for granted by the public, but all the while they respond calmly while seeking to address and meet every caller’s needs.

So take a moment this coming week and join **Chief Robert Lowen, Deputy Chief John Lieb** and **Sergeant Charles Amati** in expressing a big “Thank You” to our very own Public Safety Telecommunicators and unsung heroes: **Robin Karolewicz, Chad Peterson, Kathi Gallagher, Pat Eichinger, Amy McKendry, Yesenia Carreno, Natalie Walker, Tami Soto, Grant Havens, Tony Bittig, Kim Frasier, Kathy Kulik** and **Nancy Shepherd** for all they do for our Community.



Thank



YOU

2015 UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN



This month the City is kicking off its' 2015 United Way Employee Campaign.

The community needs your help. United Way of Greater McHenry

County is the easiest and most powerful way to help your community. A gift to United Way supports programs all across McHenry County.

Donations are tax-deductible. You can even direct where your donation will be applied! Donations may be made one-time via personal check or conveniently deducted from paychecks throughout the year.

To encourage and recognize City of Woodstock employees who contribute to these worthy organizations, we are pleased to offer the 2015 United Way Pledge Prize Drawing! Winners will be randomly drawn to win:

- 2015 WWW Family Pool Pass
- 2 tickets to a Woodstock Opera House Show
- \$30 Chamber of Commerce Gift Card
- 1 additional Floating Holiday

To be eligible for the drawing, pledge forms with your personal check or payroll deduction included, **must be turned in** to the HR Department **no later than 5:00pm Monday, May 4, 2015.**

If you need a pledge form or have any questions, please contact **Jill May** in the **HR Department** at ext. 11206 or (815) 338-1172.

RECRUITMENT

The deadline for the City of Woodstock's **2015 Summer Seasonal Positions (American Red Cross Certified Lifeguards, WSI Instructors, Swim Aides, Playground Program Counselors, and Public Works Seasonal Maintenance Workers)** has closed. Interviews for chosen qualified applicants will be scheduled shortly for the above noted positions.



TWEENS LIKE EGG HUNTS TOO

The tweens that dropped in for the monthly *Recreation Center's Tween Night* this past Saturday got to hunt for eggs filled with candy and prizes. Tween Nights are organized by **Recreation Program Coordinators Al Dunker and Becky Vidales**. The last Tween Night of spring is May 2 from 6:30-8:30PM and then will move to **Woodstock Water Works** every Wednesday beginning June 10.

ADULT 5 ON 5 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES



During the seven-week season, Bench Mob went 6-1 in their quest for a championship in the **Recreation Department's 5 on 5 Men's Basketball League.** The

Championship game of the single elimination tournament saw the #2 seed Woodstock Public House defeated the #1 seed Bench Mob in a thriller. Games were held on Wednesday nights in the Creekside Middle School Gym

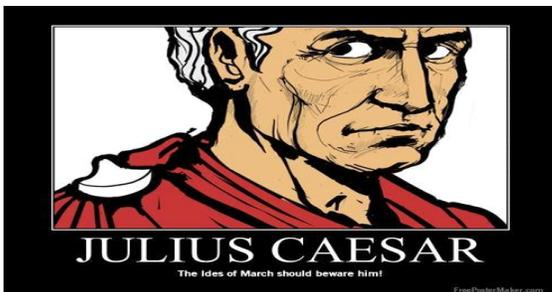
CANVAS CRAZE

The walls will be a little happier with the adorable painting of "Sunflower," created by the participants in the *Woodstock Recreation Department's Canvas Craze* class on Saturday, April 4 where an instructor from *MUSE ART* instructed the group of fifteen, step by step, through this bright painting.

The next Canvas Craze class will be held this summer and the information will be available in the Summer Scene that will be mailed out on April 14.



Quotation



Men in general are quick to believe that which they wish to be true.

[Julius Caesar](#)

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, April 14 – Economic Development
Commission, 8AM, Council Chambers
Tuesday, April 14 – Parks and Recreation
Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

WHAT ARE YOUR FEET TRYING TO TELL YOU?

If your eyes are the windows to your soul, then your feet might be the window to your health. Whether they're big or small, narrow or wide, the skin, nerves, blood vessels, bones, nails, and even hair on your feet say a lot about how the rest of your body is doing. These signs can tell you what your feet say about your health:



Nails:

- **Discolored, dark, and flaky nails.** If they're yellow, gray, brown, have uneven white marks, are brittle, flaky or the skin around the nail bed is itchy, it might signal a fungal infection. Early infections can often be treated with over-the-counter anti-fungal creams. If that doesn't work, your doctor can prescribe stronger anti-fungal medications.
- **Thick, course, and pitted nails.** If your nails have pockmarks, are discolored, or the skin or joints around them are red, dry and painful, you might have psoriasis. Some people with psoriasis and affected nail beds also have an autoimmune condition called psoriatic arthritis. Don't treat this condition with OTC meds. See your doctor for prescription medications.
- **Sunken nail beds.** Your toenails should be slightly rounded. If they're concave or bowl-shaped, ask your doctor to test you for anemia (iron deficiency in your blood). Over-the-counter supplements that contain iron and vitamin C along with a diet that includes plenty of iron-rich foods can help replace depleted iron stores.

Toes:

- **Painful, swollen big toe.** A big toe that's red, inflamed, hot, and tender is a symptom of gout. Gout is a type of arthritis caused by uric acid buildup. It usually comes on suddenly, though it can take weeks or longer to resolve. See your doctor about diet and nutritional changes that can help prevent gout attacks and help with pain management.
- **Popsicle toes.** Having super cold feet isn't usually confined to just the toes, but they can be a sign of poor circulation or a thyroid disorder. If you have shortness of breath, pain in your feet, difficulty keeping your body warm, fatigue, or any other symptoms, see your doctor.
- **Hairless toes.** Nobody wants Hobbit feet, but having completely bald toes isn't great either. Poor circulation can cause the hair normally located on the top of toes to fall out. Talk to your doctor about your heart health and start exercising to get your blood pumping from head to toe.

Heels and Soles:

- **Unhappy feet.** When every step you take is tender or painful, that can indicate anything from plantar fasciitis (inflammation of a tendon in your heel) to broken bones. Our feet are made up of 26 bones and about a hundred muscles, tendons, and ligaments that take a pounding with every step. Stress fractures, ligament, and tendon damage occur more often when people are active in sports or overweight, but can happen to anyone. Walk those feet to the doctor's office if they're still painful after a few days of rest, ice, compression, and elevation, or if you experience sudden, sharp pain in a bone.

- **Sores that don't heal.** Whenever you get a cut, hangnail, or other type of lesion on your foot (especially the bottom of your feet), clean it, treat it, and protect it. If it doesn't heal quickly, make an appointment with your doctor. Poor wound healing on the feet can be a sign of diabetes, which sometimes leads to severe infections and even amputation.
- **Numbness.** If you can't feel your feet when you touch them or walk, this might indicate cardiac or neurological problems or even diabetes. Numbness can affect your ability to walk, and balance and is a leading cause of falls in older adults. See your doctor immediately.
- **Stinky and dirty.** Even people with impeccable hygiene can have less-than-sweet-smelling feet from active sweat glands and bacteria, but if someone you care about has overwhelming foot odor or visible signs of dirt, this may indicate they're not able to manage basic hygiene and self-care. Pay close attention to other signs that activities of daily living are out of control and consult with a physician.

Make sure your doctor examines your feet when she performs a complete physical exam. Take good care of your feet and they'll take care of you, every step of the way.

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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.

WOODSTOCK FIRE/ RESCUE DRILL MAY HAVE AN IMPACT ON WATER SYSTEM

Next Friday morning, April 17, 2015, the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District will be conducting a water supply drill at Cold Headers Industrial Park off McConnell Road. This training is completed to confirm that the highest possible ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating is applied to insurance premiums benefitting the City, it's residents, and the Fire/ Rescue District. This training requires that the Fire / Rescue District fill tanker trucks with water, move it to a designated area within the Industrial Park, and empty it. The idea is to move a large volume of water in a fixed period of time.

The purpose of this article is to make residents aware of this activity, as it could cause discolored water or a change in water pressure, similar to hydrant flushing. If you live in the area of Cold Headers Industrial Park, please refrain from doing laundry on April 17, until you see that your water runs clear. The water will be safe to drink during the water supply drill.

ISO is the principal provider of underwriting, rating, and statistical information to the insurance industry in the United States. An important part of the information ISO provides to insurers is a community's Public Protection Classification (PPC) number. The PPC program evaluates community fire suppression delivery systems, according to a uniform set of criteria, incorporating recognized standards developed by the NFPA.

The community's investment in mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses; insurance companies rely upon ISO's PPC program to help establish fair premium for fire insurance.

As part of the PPC program, ISO conducts evaluations of water supply for fire suppression. This section of the review constitutes 40% of the available PPC score for the community.

If you have any questions about this drill, please contact Woodstock Fire / Rescue District at 815-338-2621. If you have questions about water quality, please call the Department of Public Works, 815-338-6118.



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

Permanent Beat Officer Adam Schraw will conduct an overview of activity in Beat #22 (the northwest quadrant of the city) including recent crime statistics and trends, as well as provide crime prevention safety tips.

Coffee with the Chief



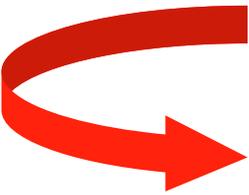
April 13, 2015
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Woodstock Police Department
656 Lake Avenue

For further information, please call
Tamara Reed at 815-338-6787.

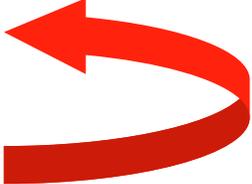


THE CITY OF
WOODSTOCK
Illinois

2015 UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN



Help Build Healthy Families



- *Advancing Education*
- *Promoting Independence*
- *Improving Health*



Make A Change In McHenry County

The community needs your help. United Way of Greater McHenry County is the easiest & most powerful way to help your community. A gift to United Way supports programs all across McHenry County. Donations directly impact **44 human service programs** offered through **24 local partner agencies**, including Big Brothers Big Sisters, Home of the Sparrow, Family Health Partnership Clinic, etc.

Last year, United Way of Greater McHenry County was able to help **99,000 PEOPLE** in the McHenry County area—that's **1 in every 3** residents!

Due to the continued economic limitations our country faces, including state funding cuts, your donation is needed NOW more than ever before.

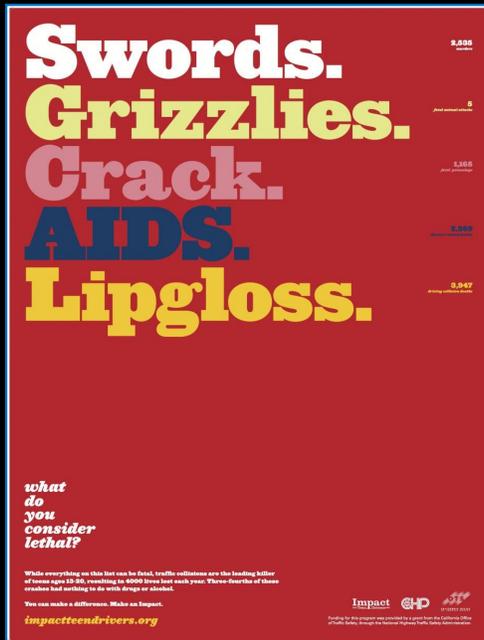
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- **1 additional Floating Holiday**

To be eligible for the drawing, pledge cards, or checks, must be turned in to the HR Department by 5:00pm Monday, May 4, 2015.

what do you consider
LETHAL?



WHAT: The Woodstock Police Department will be hosting a **FREE** informational meeting on Distracted Driving, our newly licensed drivers, and ways to prevent driving fatalities.

WHEN: April 20th, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. (around an hour long)

WHERE: Woodstock Police Dept.
656 Lake Ave. Woodstock, IL

WHO: Parents and Teens

Please contact Sgt. Pritchard to secure a seat(s) at the meeting:
815-338-2131 or rpritchard@woodstockil.gov