



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, the **Woodstock Police Department** will again participate in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the public parking lot (east side of the building) located at 656 Lake Avenue.



Any and all prescription or over-the-counter drugs will be accepted if they are in pill form (no liquids or syringes.) You can bring in as few or as many as you have – there is no minimum or maximum. The drugs will be accepted no questions asked and will then be properly destroyed by the DEA in an environmentally-safe fashion.

The service is free and your privacy is protected. You don't even have to get out of your vehicle – Officers will be on hand to assist you – you can drive-by, drop off and be on your way.

Since 2010, county law enforcement agencies have collected an average of nearly 2000 pounds (one ton) per year of expired/unwanted solid dosage medication during the Drug Take-Back Day program!

For further information, please call **Tamara Reed** at 815-338-6787 or visit www.nationaltakebackday.com after September 1, 2015.

- 2. WWW Open**
- 3. Employees Attend Conference**
- 4. Recruitment News**
- 5.-6. Health News**
- 7. Senior Picnic**

HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS in SEPTEMBER

The fall 2015 hydrant flushing has been scheduled for:

- Monday, September 7 through Tuesday, September 15 – west of Illinois Route 47
- Wednesday, September 16 through Friday, September 25 – east of Illinois Route 47

No scheduled hydrant flushing will take place on Saturdays or Sundays.

During these three weeks, some loss of pressure and discoloration of water may occur. This condition will not present any health hazards and will only be temporary. Due to this discoloration, residents are urged to check their water quality **prior** to doing laundry and to avoid doing any laundry when hydrants will be flushed in your area.

If you have any questions regarding the hydrant flushing, or when flushing will occur in your neighborhood, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118, or via e-mail at pwdept@woodstockil.gov.



AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The Woodstock Police Department will be hosting the *AARP Driver Safety Program* on **Monday, September 21, 2015** and **Tuesday, September 22, 2015**. The classes will be held in the Training Room at the Woodstock Police Department located at 656 Lake Avenue. Classes will be held on each day from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Participants *must* attend both sessions.

The AARP Driver Safety Program is the nation's first and largest classroom course designed especially for drivers age 50 and older. Course completion helps older drivers refine existing skills and develop safe driving strategies in today's challenging driving environment.

Successful completion of the course may entitle the participant to a discount on their auto insurance. Participants are charged a nominal fee of \$15 for AARP members and \$20 for non-members.

There are still places available. For more information or to register for the class, please contact **Tamara Reed** at the Woodstock Police Department at 815-338-6787.

WWW OPEN NEXT TWO WEEKENDS

A reminder that **Woodstock Water Works** will be open the next two weekends and on Labor Day. Operating hours are Saturdays from Noon to 8PM, Sundays from Noon to 7PM, and on Labor Day from 11AM to 6PM.

Lap swim will also be offered on Saturdays and Sundays from 11AM to Noon.

STREET DIVISION PATCH CART GOES DIGITAL

The Department of Public Works' **Fleet Maintenance Division** recently spent some time updating one of the Street Division patch carts used to prepare pothole patch before it's applied to pavement. Age had taken its toll on one of the carts, and it was in need of repairs. Mechanic, **Phil Groh**, worked on the cart, grinding, cutting, welding, painting, and wiring up the new components. Part of the refurbishment included a new digitally-controlled burner system that automatically regulates the asphalt temperature via a welded in temperature sensor and computer. The new burner system maintains the asphalt at a constant temperature without operator input. The installation of this system will reduce the amount of liquid propane used by automatically shutting off the flame when the appropriate temperature is reached. This gives all the benefits of a new unit without incurring the cost of replacement. Phil trained Street Division employees on how to set the new controls and gave an overview of the changes this upgrade made to the overall operation of the cart.



WWT EMPLOYEES ATTEND FVOA CONFERENCE

Superintendent Anne George, Plant Operator I Dan Bolda, and Plant Operator II Wayne Baker attended the 9th Annual FVOA (Fox Valley Operator's Association) Wastewater Conference held at the Village of Carpentersville Public Works Garage on Thursday August 20th. This conference included a choice of nine technical sessions to attend and 50 vendors were in attendance at the exhibition. One of the technical sessions attended was "Getting to know ORP". In this session the discussion was how ORP (Oxidation Reduction Potential) is utilized in the wastewater industry and how to better understand ORP's usefulness in properly maintaining a healthy aerobic and/or anaerobic activated sludge treatment facility. Other topics addressed were the removal of Phosphorous and Nitrogen with use of biological and chemical means.

Attending technical sessions and conferences such as these are beneficial to keep wastewater treatment operators current with IEPA and industry updates and to learn about other ways to successfully operate wastewater treatment facilities.



The excellence of a gift lies in its appropriateness rather than in its value.

[Charles Dudley Warner](#)

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, September 1 – City Council, 7PM,
Council Chambers

Thursday, September 3 –Library Board, 7:30PM,
Public Library

PIONEER CENTER COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROJECT

Recreation Program Coordinator Renee Torrez was asked to be part of a panel of community members who have partnered with Pioneer Center's Community Inclusion Project. On Thursday, August 13 Renee represented the **Recreation Department** on the panel to discuss the role of the Rec Center in inclusion and how it has benefitted the entire community.

Several individuals who are participants in the Pioneer Center's Community Inclusion Project have chosen the Woodstock Recreation Center as an outlet to actively participate in the communities they live in. Renee has worked with the Specialists at Pioneer to purchase memberships to the Rec Center based on the needs of each client.

Pioneer Center for Community Mental Health partnered with Temple University and Professor Mark Salzer to help implement the Community Inclusion Project and the forum to follow up with the successes and future of the program.

HR NEWS

RECRUITMENT

Limited Part-Time School Crossing Guard: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for the position of School Crossing Guard with the Woodstock Police Department. The crossing guard staff is responsible for six (6) dedicated school crossings in the City of Woodstock, providing for the safe transit of our community's children to and from school. Guards work Monday through Friday at a designated location during the school year. Most positions are scheduled in two shifts, 1 - 1 ½ hours in the early morning and 1-1 ½ hours mid-afternoon. Salary: \$9.57 per hour; no additional benefits are provided. **Application Deadline: Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Full-Time Economic Development Coordinator: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for a full-time position that serves as a main point of contact on matters relating to the City's economic development activities. Reporting to the Economic Development Director, position plans and coordinates marketing of the City as a business destination. The purpose of the Economic Development Coordinator is to position Woodstock as an economically viable, business-friendly marketplace, with an exceptional quality-of-life environment.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Marketing, Urban Planning, or related field, and two to four years' progressively responsible relevant experience; experience with economic development-related activities and organizations highly desired; CEcD, EDFP or AICP certification a plus; excellent oral and written communication skills; solid marketing and computer skills; valid driver's license with good driving record; equivalent combination of education and experience *may* be considered. Salary Range for the position is \$43,400 - \$67,351.71 based on qualifications and experience, with excellent benefit package **Application Deadline: Friday, September 11, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Part-Time Community Service Officer: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for the position of part-time Community Service Officer with the Woodstock Police Department. Examples of duties include assisting the Patrol Division in various support areas, including patrol of City park areas, vacation house checks, animal control, vehicular lock-outs, processing complaints, ordinance enforcement, and other related duties as assigned. Position will work approximately 28 hours per week, M-F. Three (3) days a week will be a 6 hour shift and two (2) days a week will be a 5 hour shift. \$17.37/hour with prorated benefits based on number of hours worked (includes IMRF pension and benefit time, but no health insurance). **Application Deadline: Friday, September 11, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Limited Part-Time Facility Events Workers: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for limited part-time Facilities & Events Worker with the Woodstock Opera House. Examples of duties, most of which are physically strenuous, include: assisting with the load-in and out plus the running of public events; assisting in building, repairing and maintaining props and/or scenery; assisting in rigging and running of stage lighting and/or sound; assisting patrons with customer service; assisting in the cleaning, maintenance, and repair of the facility; and other related duties as assigned. These limited part-time positions will work approximately 12-16 hours per week, mostly weekdays and weekends, with evening hours possible. Salary Rate: \$9.57 per hour; no additional benefits are provided. **Application Deadline: Friday, September 18, 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.*

BEST PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE: HEALTHY ONLINE SOCIALIZING FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

Unless you live under a rock, you've probably jumped on the social media bandwagon in one form or another. Maybe you use Facebook occasionally to keep in touch with relatives, or perhaps you're on Twitter constantly, posting updates to friends and followers. However (and how often) you use social media, it's important to realize that online connections come with their own set of pitfalls, along with the positive effects. Both adults and their children should be aware of these dangers, and how to avoid them.

For Adults: Fighting FOMO

Researchers have recognized that, for some people, using social media can lead to negative emotions. A German study jointly conducted by Humboldt University of Berlin and Technical University of Darmstadt surveyed people after they'd been on Facebook, and more than a third expressed feelings such as frustration and envy after viewing friends' postings and photos. Particularly vulnerable were Facebook users who didn't post anything of their own but only perused others' postings.

This so-called "FOMO" (fear of missing out) arises because, for the most part, people carefully curate Facebook posts to reflect their best possible reality. Consider the words of William Scheckel, an adjunct professor of social media at New York Institute of Technology in New York: "No one posts their crabgrass on Facebook. So when you can't help but feel envious that so-and-so did this or that, remember there's a big part of their story you'll never see." This is especially true if you use social media as your primary form of communication and don't actually see or talk on the phone with your online friends. Keep this in mind if you feel envious and inadequate after viewing someone's Facebook post about a fabulous family vacation, and remember that the happy family standing on the beach at sunset may have neglected to mention the meltdown their little one had on the plane, or the food poisoning that hit them halfway through the trip.

To combat FOMO, Scheckel suggests posting more on your own social media platforms. That way, "You'll be the person doing the cool things," he points out. "And you'll find your friends will engage with you, and that interacting with them is really what you were missing." But whether you put things out there for all to see or choose to stay private, Scheckel recommends you try to be happy for those whose postings you view: "These are friends we've chosen to connect with. Their successes—their joys—are ours."

For Kids: Staying Safe

Many parents wonder if there's an age below which social media use should be discouraged. Legally, at least, there is: The Federal Trade Commission's Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) is designed to prevent web sites from collecting personal information on children under age 13 without their parents' permission. In fact, most social-media platforms prohibit those under the age of 13 from opening an account at all.

Scheckel agrees with this rule. "I think 13 is a good age to start letting your child act independently digitally," he says, cautioning that parents still need to teach their children how to go online safely. "I would say that's a good minimum age for a smart phone, too." According to Scheckel, texting tends to start earlier—at about age 10 or 11—because parents give kids low-tech phones in order to keep in touch with them during after-school hours and at friends' houses.

But no matter how digitally savvy your child is, navigating online relationships can be tricky. For instance, bullying has been in the news a lot lately, with kids and teens using the Internet to tease, torment, and taunt one another. Basically, what used to take place in the schoolyard is now being played out on screens, and the consequences can be far-reaching and long lasting. Additionally, young social media users sometimes reveal personal information that can come back to haunt them, either by stirring up drama in their peer group or by attracting predators. What can you do to help prevent these pitfalls of online social life? Scheckel offers this advice:

- **Prevent the problem before it starts.** Start talking to your children early and often about their online activities. Be gentle but consistent, without prying or demanding.
- **Stress that the Internet is for connecting with friends and people your child has already met.** "It's not a place to meet new people because you have no way of knowing who they really are," Scheckel warns.
- **Urge your child to never post anything she wouldn't want the whole school to see.** Anyone can forward her posts with the touch of a button.
- **Help them avoid drama.** If your child gets involved in a conversation that's become heated, suggest that he turn off his computer to give the situation a chance to settle.
- **Seek help. If your child is threatened with physical injury or violence, don't hesitate to get the police involved.**

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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 815-338-4363 or visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com for more information.

SENIOR PICNIC IN THE PARK



The City of Woodstock and Hearthstone Communities joined together yesterday to host over 60 seniors at the Picnic in the Park. Special guests **Mayor Brian Sager, City Manager Roscoe Stelford** and Hearthstone CEO Terry Egan dined and talked with the seniors as they were served a picnic lunch and played bingo.

Pictured is the Mayor addressing the participants as they were eagerly awaiting to get in line for hot dogs, hamburgers, potato and fruit salads, baked beans and cookies.



BENCH REPAIRS



The **Department of Public Works' Parks Division** recently performed maintenance on approximately 45 benches throughout the Park in the Square and downtown district. Employees removed graffiti, pressure washed,

and tightened and / or replaced hardware on benches.



Touch a Truck

**Sunday, August 30
10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Emricson Park

Free Event – rain or shine!

Climb aboard a fire truck! Operate a construction truck! Climb in and out of vehicles that travel our streets!

Local Businesses Attending:
City of Woodstock Public Works
City of Woodstock Police Dept &
Police Department Child Safety Seat
Installations

Dist#200 Transportation
Interstate Battery
Mark Mitchell, State Farm
McHenry County Sheriff's Dept
Mecum Auctions Gone Farmin'
Whitey's Towing
Woodstock Fire Rescue District



www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com





September 11, 2015 from 6-9:00pm

Join us at the September Art Walk for our grand finale: Local magician Joe Diamond will drive blindfolded around the square!

You can make this even more exciting by donating to help ensure that Art Walk re-returns in 2016. We've set challenge levels for your donations. Who will travel with Joe is dependent upon the total amount of donations we receive. Make a donation at: <http://artwalkdonations.com/>

Total Donations Of:

\$2,000: Joe will make the drive with Woodstock City Manager Roscoe Stelford.



Roscoe Stelford

\$3,000: Joe will make the drive with Roscoe & Police Chief Robert Lowen.



Robert Lowen

\$4,000: Joe will make the drive with Roscoe, Robert & Fire Chief Ralph Webster.

\$5,000: Joe will make the drive with Roscoe, Robert, Ralph & Mayor Brian Sager!



Brian Sager