



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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October 2, 2015

PEACE PARK & PATHS PHASE TWO: LABYRINTH SET TO OPEN TO PUBLIC

The second phase of Peace Park & Paths, opening the completed Labyrinth walking path to the public, is set for a dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 18, 2015 at 3:00PM at the park. Everyone interested is invited to attend.

Phase One of this unique community partnership project features a global/social awareness garden area with beautifully-landscaped surroundings that was designed and installed with the help of D200 Challenge Corps students and opened exactly one year ago. The Phase Two Labyrinth area now opening has been researched, designed and implemented through the work of Bull Valley Garden Club members, with oversight and assistance from **Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt** and **Park & Facility Superintendent Ernie Nelson**.

Other **Public Works** employees who provided invaluable assistance with this new attraction's complex installation include: **Parks Foreman John Mecklenburg**, **Crew Leader Tad Lester**, **City Arborist Pat O'Leary**, **Split Maintenance Workers Trevor Schacht, Mark Stoll and Judd Chauncey**, **Parks Maintenance Workers Brandon Eddy, Phil Mass and Tim Spring**, and **Water Sewer Crew Leader Keith Wojtecki**.

The chosen Labyrinth design originated in the isle of Crete and has been used as a meditative and recreational walking path concept for over 4,000 years. The new area of the park includes an inscribed seating area, as well as an educational kiosk with information on how to explore the walking path for maximum enjoyment. Bull Valley Garden Club is planning Phase Three of this project for next spring, adding original artworks by area artists representing the themes of peace and harmony.

Peace Park & Paths offers a free and easily-accessible area for relaxation and contemplation for

residents of all ages and abilities. The interactive outdoor attraction, adjacent to Dick Tracy Way Playground, was made possible by a \$10,000 grant from McHenry County Community Foundation's Ruth Frejd Fund, with financial contributions from Bull Valley Garden Club and D200 Challenge Corps.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY RESULTS



Last Saturday, the **Woodstock Police Department**

collected 94.4

lbs. of unwanted and expired medication during the 10th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day event. **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** and **Officer Dan Pauley** were on hand to assist with the collection and were kept busy during the four-hour event.

Since 2010, McHenry County law enforcement agencies combined have collected an average of nearly 2000 lbs. (one ton!) of medications per year during the Drug Take Back Day events. WPD alone has collected 1,124.9 lbs. of medications since the inception of the program.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and dropped off medications for disposal; you are helping to keep your community a safer place!

2. **Chester Gould Movie**
3. **HR News**
4. **Health News**
5. **Street Maintenance Project**
6. **Field A Update**
7. **All Star Camp**

CHESTER GOULD: AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL FREE PUBLIC SHOWING PLANNED AT WOODSTOCK THEATRE



Even 30 years after his passing, Chester Gould, creator of the world's greatest crime fighter, Dick Tracy, remains one of Woodstock's most cherished citizens. An outstanding documentary

highlighting his life and times, *Chester Gould: An American Original* will be shown at Woodstock Theatre, 209 Main Street at 1:00 pm Sunday, November 1, 2015. The screening is being offered at no charge, courtesy of Classic Cinemas and Ahoj Productions, with seating limited to 152 patrons.

The film, created by Woodstock residents Tom, John and Steve Firak (Ahoj Productions) first aired on WTTW-Channel 11 last February and has not been shown since. Its cinematic debut was heralded with an official Proclamation by Woodstock City Council citing February 22, 2015 as Chester Gould Day in Woodstock. Members of the Gould-O'Connell family, and all those who were creatively involved with the Dick Tracy strip, gathered in Woodstock to view the premiere, reminisce and celebrate the documentary's completion.

The documentary was produced with total cooperation and approval of the family members and the Chester Gould-Dick Tracy Museum Board. The Museum occupied space in the Old Courthouse for many years, attracting visitors from all over the world. It remains active in on-line format at: www.dicktracymuseum.com.

Immediately following the show, the public is invited to a "Meet the Filmmakers" discussion and DVD signing at Read Between the Lynes' new location, 111 Van Buren Street on the Woodstock Square.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, October 6 – Economic Development Commission, 8AM, Council Chambers

Tuesday, October 6 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers



Sometimes it's the smallest decisions that can change your life forever.

[Keri Russell](#)

GHOSTBUSTERS FEATURED AT TWEEN NIGHT SATURDAY NIGHT

Grab your friends and head out to the **Recreation Department's** Tween Night on Sat, Oct 3rd from 6:30-8:30PM at the Rec Center. We will be showing the movie Ghostbusters on a big screen in the multi-purpose room; one hour of dodgeball and one hour of kickball in the gym; wallyball; open swimming and use of the hot tub will also be available.

There will also be special prizes from our sponsoring partner for the night- Family Video!

Fee is just \$4 and is payable at the door.



HR NEWS

RECRUITMENT

Interviews for chosen qualified applicants for the **Economic Development Coordinator** role were held on Tuesday, September 29th. Information on the position will be released shortly.

Limited Part-Time Facility Events Workers: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for limited part-time Facilities & Events Workers 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, October 9, 2015 at 5:00PM – *Deadline Extended.***

Limited-Part Time Vehicle/Facility Maintenance Worker: The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for Vehicle/Facility Maintenance Worker for the Woodstock Police Station at 656 Lake Avenue. The position is primarily responsible for interior and exterior cleaning and operational maintenance of all police vehicles. Position also provides outdoor lawn maintenance and serves as backup for Police Custodian for the police station facility. This limited part-time position works a schedule of 8:30am – 12:00pm, Monday - Friday. **Application Deadline: Friday, October 2, 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.*

FIVE HOBBIES THAT REDUCE STRESS

The phrase *doing what you love* doesn't have to apply to your career. Whether or not you love your job, you have the freedom to choose how you spend your free time. Make it matter with an activity that you enjoy, and reap the health benefits of less stress—and a more relaxed mind and body.

How Hobbies Help Reduce Stress

"Hobbies help individuals become engaged in present-moment awareness," says Scott Bea, PsyD, a clinical psychologist at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. "Generally, any activity that pulls us outside of self-awareness can produce reductions in tension."

A hobby can definitely make you feel less stressed, agrees Los Angeles-based clinical psychologist Nora Baladerian, PhD. "Engaging in something that interests you stimulates your brain and helps you socially," she says.



What's more, the physical signs of stress, like a racing heart and an increase in blood pressure, can improve if the hobby is a sport that keeps you active, says Simon Rego, PsyD, ABPP, ACT, and director of psychology training at Montefiore Medical School/Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York City. "And since most sports are team-based and have a social component, you will have the opportunity to bond with other people, which can also play an important role in stress reduction," he says.

Five Hobbies to Try

1. **Volunteering.** Whether you work as a docent for your local museum, sign up to deliver meals to homebound elderly, or put in a few hours a week sorting donations to a homeless shelter, volunteering makes you feel good and gets you in touch with other people. Plus, you're doing something great for someone in need. "It's great for the social component of stress reduction," Rego says. "When you volunteer, you see life in a new way and you can learn to appreciate what you've got."
2. **Knitting.** Actually, whether you knit, crochet, or embroider, you'll find yourself automatically relaxing when you pick up the needles, says Baladerian. "It's very helpful for getting rid of stress because it is so calming and repetitive," she explains. "You can do it practically anywhere—in the park, sitting at a lecture, even when out with friends." Bonus: knitting, crocheting, and embroidering are productive, so you'll end up with lots of cool items to wear yourself or give as gifts!
3. **Yoga.** Yoga not only reduces stress, but helps you stay in shape, lowers blood pressure, and quiets an overactive mind. You don't have to be an expert at difficult poses to reap the benefits, since even simple yoga poses can induce feelings of calmness and tranquility. "Yoga teaches mindfulness, which is an essential part of the cognitive route to de-stressing," says Lisa Rene Reynolds, PhD, an adjunct instructor in psychology at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury and the author of *Parenting through Divorce: Helping Your Kids Thrive During and After the Split*. "Regimented, deep breathing is an important step in relaxing, and stretching the body can help relax tight muscles and clenched jaws."
4. **Playing a musical instrument.** "Playing an instrument not only requires you to focus your attention and concentration, but it keeps you grounded in the moment, and the sound produced is often soothing," explains Rego.
5. **Exercising.** An active hobby can be a fabulous stress antidote, Bea says. "When we move and exercise, good things happen in our brains and bodies," he explains. "Our brains begin to generate new neurons and our bodies produce chemicals that improve mood and reduce the circulation of stress hormones." If you don't want to join the company softball league, consider dancing, spinning, or water aerobics, Bea suggests.

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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.

STREET MAINTENANCE AND RESURFACING PROJECT

The annual Street Maintenance and Resurfacing Program is one of the most important projects the City undertakes each year to continue to provide a quality street system for the City's residents. The provision of an adequate system of roadways is a basic function of municipalities as it directly impacts the livability and economic development of the community. A significant amount of time and effort is expended to identify, evaluate, and prioritize all of the roadwork needs throughout the community.

On June 16, 2015 the Woodstock City Council approved the low bid of \$878,334.59 from Geske and Sons, Inc. for the 2015 Street Maintenance and Resurfacing Program. The revenue for this year's program is derived from a combination of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds and General Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds.

The concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk removal and replacement work began in early September. This is to be followed by pavement patching, milling and repairs to the road base and resurfacing with bituminous hot mix asphalt. When completed, a total of approximately 4.06 miles of roadway will be resurfaced. Approximately 90% of the street restriping has already been completed. The remainder of the striping will be completed in late October after the remaining resurfacing work is finished.

Streets that are scheduled for resurfacing and maintenance as part of the 2015 Street Resurfacing Program are as follows:

<u>STREET</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Halma Lane	Boulder Lane extension	Cul-de-sac
Calhoun Street	Jefferson Street	Madison Street
Clay Street	Grove Street	First Street
Clay Street	Greenwood Avenue	Todd Avenue
Madison Street	Greenwood Avenue	Donovan Avenue
Madison Street	South Street	Calhoun Street
Todd Avenue	Tappan Street	Madison Street
Wheeler Street	Greenwood Avenue	Todd Avenue
Bloomfield Drive		
Jonathon Lane		
Braeburn Court		
Braeburn Way		
Fieldstone Drive		
Woodworth Avenue		
Meadowsedge Drive		
Springwood Drive		
Courtland Street		
Wildmeadow Lane		
Shenandoah Lane		
MacIntosh Avenue		

EMRICSON PARK FIELD 'A' RENOVATION UPDATE

Recently, the **Department of Public Works** staff, along with **City Grant Writer, Terry Willcockson**, applied for a grant through Major League Baseball's "Baseball Tomorrow Fund" (BTF). Staff, then, contacted several companies to request quotes for the replacement of field lights and field fencing for Field 'A' in Emricson Park.

After a site visit and meetings with BTF representatives, it was determined that in addition to the replacement of field lights and fencing, field tile, an arched backstop, covered dugouts, and concrete pads to the dugouts must be added to the scope of work should the City be awarded this grant.

Months later, BTF awarded a grant of \$80,000 to the City of Woodstock to be used for renovations on Field 'A'. In addition to this grant money, Woodstock Girls Softball League generously donated \$1,125.

The following renovations have been completed on Field 'A' at this time:

- 1) Removal of old field lights and installation of new field lighting.
- 2) Removal of old fencing and installation of new fencing.
- 3) Removal of old back stop and installation of a new arched back stop.
- 4) Infield elevation and grading work was completed.
- 5) Installation of infield drainage tile.
- 6) Installation of concrete slabs and new covered dugouts.
- 7) Installation of new dugout benches.

Rebuilding of the warning tracks is currently taking place.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the Department of Public Works, 815-338-6118.

Before:



After:



ALL-STAR BASKETBALL DRIBBLING ALONG

The first session of the *All-Star Basketball* camp is underway with 18 kids participating in classes that meet on Monday afternoon/evening at the **Rec Center**. The camps, under the direction of **Recreation Department Director Dave Zinnen**, are designed to prepare young basketball players for the upcoming season by teaching fundamentals such as dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding and defense, along with an introduction to the rules and scrimmaging.

The second session of camps will run from October 20 – November 10. The fee is \$25 for residents and \$38 for non-residents for the K-2 grade class and \$35 for residents and \$45 for non-residents for the 3 – 6 grade class.

The K-2nd grade program runs from 4:00 – 5:00PM followed by the 3rd – 6th grade program from 5:00 – 6:30PM at the Rec Center gym.

Registration is also available for the upcoming *Developmental Basketball Program* for boys and

girls in grades first through sixth. The 4th-6th grade boys begin skills nights prior to the regular season and the 1st-3rd grade boys and 1st-6th grade girls start skills development sessions during holiday break prior to their regular season.

For more information regarding session 2 of the *All-Star Basketball Camp* or the *Developmental Basketball Program*, visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com.





and
Ahoj Productions

Invite you to a FREE screening

Chester Gould: An American Original

the life and times of one of Woodstock's most cherished citizens,
creator of that world-famous crime-fighting detective

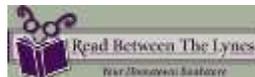
Dick Tracy



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015
1:00PM

Immediately followed by

“Meet the Filmmakers”
Discussion and DVD signing



111 Van Buren Street

*With deep gratitude to Classic Cinemas/Woodstock Theatre for their generous support
And to the City of Woodstock and Read Between the Lines for their assistance*



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

K-9 Unit Sergeant Daniel Patenaude of the McHenry County Sheriff's Office will bring his K-9 partner, Bo, and present a demonstration of his capabilities.

Coffee with the Chief



October 12, 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.

7TH ANNUAL CITY OF WOODSTOCK



**WHETHER YOU WANT TO COMPETE...OR
JUST WANT TO EAT, YOU ARE BOUND TO
HAVE A WHOLE LOT OF FUN!**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND * 4:00PM-7:00PM
WOODSTOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY * 414 W. JUDD STREET
LOWER LEVEL * MEETING & TRAINING ROOMS**

- ★ **CHILI COOK-OFF (MULTIPLE DEPARTMENT ENTRIES ENCOURAGED)**
- ★ **A TRAVELING TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED TO THE WINNING CHILI**
- ★ **PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: \$1.00/VOTE - NO LIMIT ON HOW MANY VOTES YOU CAN CAST. 100% OF PROCEEDS GOES TO UNITED WAY OF GREATER MCHENRY COUNTY**
- ★ **DRINKS PROVIDED**
- ★ **DESSERTS WELCOMED**
- ★ **RAFFLE WITH GREAT PRIZES**
- ★ **DROP-OFF HEATED CHILI IN A CROCK-POT BETWEEN 2:00PM - 3:30PM AT THE LIBRARY**
- ★ **BOWLS, SPOONS & TOPPINGS PROVIDED**
- ★ **QUESTIONS? CONTACT MONICA AMRAEN AT EXT. 1112**

CAN YOU HANDLE THE HEAT?