



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 47

November 20, 2015

## **THANKSGIVING OBSERVANCE**



In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, all non-emergency City offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th.

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**

## **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY IMPACTS GARBAGE PICKUP**

As a reminder, the Thanksgiving holiday will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup> through November 27<sup>th</sup>. With Thanksgiving falling on Thursday, residents with normal garbage pickup on Thursday or Friday will have their garbage picked up one day later. For example, those residents that normally have garbage picked up on Friday will need to place their garbage out for collection on Saturday. Any questions should be directed to the City's garbage contractor, MDC Environmental Services at 815-568-7274

## **D.A.R.E. GRADUATIONS HELD**

Mary Endres, Westwood and St. Mary Elementary Schools celebrated D.A.R.E. Graduations this week. **D.A.R.E. Officer Mike Gustis** proudly presided over the ceremonies with the able assistance of **Police Chief Robert Lowen, Mayor Dr. Brian Sager** and other local dignitaries and District # 200 officials.

Congratulations to all the D.A.R.E. graduates on their wonderful accomplishment!

## **LEAF COLLECTION WRAPS UP**

Bulk Leaf collection has concluded for Woodstock residents. However, the **Department of Public Works** will collect **bagged** leaves until Friday, December 4, 2015 *Leaves must be placed in brown yard-waste bags* (stickers are not needed).

If you have leaves remaining in your yard, please bag them and call Public Works to request a pickup, 815-338-6118.



- |          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b> | <b>Here Comes Winter!</b>             |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Centegra Presents Check</b>        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Welcome Tom Migatz!</b>            |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Lighting of the Square</b>         |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Recruitment News</b>               |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Holiday Rec Dept. Hours</b>        |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Special Holiday Rec Activities</b> |

### **PUBLIC WORKS PREPARES FOR WINTER – RESIDENTS PLAY A VITAL ROLE**

The **Department of Public Works** begins preparing for snow removal operations long before snowflakes begin falling. Each fall Public Works employees are busy performing pre-season service inspections and maintenance repairs to plow trucks. This advance preparation allows crews to respond as soon as snow begins to fall. Snow removal relies on many factors with residents and business owners playing an important role in the success of these efforts:

To help plow drivers do their job:

#### **Avoid shoveling snow into streets –**

Blowing or shoveling snow into streets can cause icy hazards for motorists and creates more work for removal efforts. Residents must store snow on their property at all times. Residents should also clear snow from sidewalks to allow for the safe passage for school children and pedestrians.

#### **Observe Winter Parking Bans –**

Vehicle parking is prohibited on downtown streets after 11:00 p.m. after a 3” snowfall or more. Vehicles will be towed!

Vehicle parking is prohibited on all other City streets *any time* after a 3” of snowfall or more. Vehicles may be ticketed or towed away!

#### **Drive Safely, Especially While Plows are in Action –**

Use common sense and good judgement when driving in the vicinity of plows. Stay back and give the plow drivers room to operate. Avoid traveling beside a snow plow as it could veer sideways when plowing drifts or cutting through deep snow. And, never attempt to pass a snow plow.

If you have any questions about snow removal or winter parking bans, please contact the Department of Public Works, 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)

### **DONATION TO PEACE PARK & THE LABYRINTH**

On Sunday, October 18, the City of Woodstock along with Woodstock School District 200, Bull Valley Garden Club, the Boy Scouts, and many other volunteer groups and individuals celebrated the grand opening of the City’s new Labyrinth and Peace Park site.

Part of the project included constructing kiosks at the entrances to the park site. Earlier this year, Andrew Stripp, a member of Boy Scout Troop 347, presented his plans to the Woodstock Morning Rotary Club who awarded Andrew \$301.44 to cover the cost of the bulletin boards for each kiosk.

The City of Woodstock greatly appreciates the Rotary Club’s interest in moving this project forward and the efforts of the many organizations and volunteers in seeing it through to completion.

Because of their efforts, the information posted at this location will serve the community for many years to come.



### **THANK YOU CENTEGRA SOUTH STREET!**

The personnel at Centegra Health System's South Street campus have developed a unique way to raise funds for charitable causes and community programs – they make a monetary donation in exchange for being able to dress casually every Friday. The **Woodstock Police Department** was honored to be the recipient of their October donations from their “Casual for a Cause! Back the Blue” fundraiser. On Thursday, **Chief Robert Lowen** was presented with a *big check* in more ways than one! (It was the size of those checks presented to lottery winners!) Centegra South Street employees raised \$1,026.00 and chose the WPD as the monthly recipient. The funds will be used to purchase trading cards with a picture of the department's new canine team, **Officer Sharon Freund** and **K-9 Blue**. The remaining funds will be divided equally between the D.A.R.E. and Police Explorer programs.

Thanks to all of the Centegra South Street personnel who donated funds to “Casual for a Cause!”; we appreciate the support and are glad you “Back the Blue.”



### **MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...**

**None**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

The guest speaker for next month's Coffee with the Chief will be Special Agent in Charge David R. Eberhardt from the Chicago Field Office of the United States Department of State Diplomatic Security Service. His topic will be “The Role and Mission of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service.”

The meeting will be held in the training room at the **Woodstock Police Department** on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

### **ADULT FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS CONCLUDED**

The **Recreation Department's Adult Softball Leagues**, which had 12 teams competing in two different leagues, finished its fall season this week with the finals of the Men's “C” League tournament on Thursday night.

Monday's Co-ed Tournament was won by the number four seeded Screwballs. Number two seeded Foulmouth SOB's beat the number one seeded Louisville Chuggers/Offsides team to win the Thursday Men's “D” league.

This marks the end of Adult Softball for the year. The Spring/Summer deadlines to register for next season's leagues will be in April with the leagues starting in May.

## HOLIDAY GREENS



During the month of November the **Department of Public Works** is busy with holiday preparations in the downtown district. Many tasks are completed in preparation for the Lighting of the Square event scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving. Parks staff has been busy installing holiday banners, street light snowflakes, garland, and holiday lights throughout the area. They installed additional holiday lights at Sesquicentennial Park and the Park in the Square, along with garland along the railings around the Square.

A total of 15 decorative planter boxes are in place along the sidewalks throughout the Square & Sesquicentennial Park. Colorful annuals are planted in the spring to add additional beauty to both areas. Staff removes the withering annuals in the fall and installs ‘winter greens’ to the planters in advance of the Lighting of the Square event.

As in previous years, members of the Woodstock Garden Club were instrumental in providing guidance and designs for the installation of winter greens. With club member Susan Gullotto acting as liaison, garden club members along with city staff spent Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> planting all the winter material prior on what may have been the last nice weekend of the season.

The City appreciates the continued assistance provided by the Woodstock Garden Club in preparing winter decorations for the holiday season. Their efforts helped the city provide an attractive and fun park for the enjoyment of the many residents and guests who visit each year.

If you have any questions, contact Public Works at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)

## WELCOME TO MIGATZ!

We are pleased to announce the arrival of **Tom Migatz**, who started this week as the City’s new **Assistant Public Works Director**.

Tom comes to Woodstock from the role of Public Works Supervisor with the City of Elgin, where responsibilities included contract and capital project management (turf maintenance and facility renovation), coordinate, manage and supervise employees, budgeting, as well as other responsibilities. Tom was with the City of Elgin 23 years.

Tom is also co-founder of the Elgin Special Youth Foundation, which was organized to raise funds for families of special needs children. The organization “raised over \$250,000 over its ten year existence aiding in the mobility and improving quality of life for the recipients and their families.”

Welcome Tom!



## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR



Come out to the beautiful, historic Woodstock Square on the Friday after Thanksgiving as a wonderful Woodstock tradition – The Lighting of the Square – continues. With a flip of the switch tens of thousands of lights will illuminate the trees and Square buildings

officially welcoming the holidays to Woodstock. While the lighting itself takes place at 7PM, there are many wonderful holiday activities planned, including holiday carolers, holiday sweets and favors, and special goodies and displays in the Square shops and restaurants. Plus, Santa and Ms. Claus will be available in their Square home that evening to greet children and even pose for pictures. A special treat is the opening of the annual Opera House Christmas Tree Walk featuring dozens of trees beautifully decorated by area organizations.

Then on Saturday, come out to the Square for free carriage rides sponsored by the City of Woodstock. Rides will continue around Woodstock's winter wonderland on Ladies Night Out and each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through December 20<sup>th</sup>. While you are on the Square, be sure to take in one of the many special holiday performances at the Opera House and more holiday fun at the shops and restaurants.

And...if you love parades (and who doesn't) be sure to join in welcoming Santa and Mrs. Claus as they join our Christmas parade around the Square on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. After the Parade, come over to the old fire station behind City Hall and enjoy Cookies and Milk with Santa (and tell him what you want for Christmas) hosted by the City of Woodstock.

Visit the City's Calendar of Events at [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) for specific times and more information on our many wonderful holiday events.

## HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The City of Woodstock will be participating in Elgin Recycling's 'Holiday Lights Recycling Program' again this year. Collection (recycling) bins will be available at City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun Street; Public Library, 414 W. Judd Street; Police Department, 656 Lake Avenue; Recreation Department, 820 Lake Avenue; and at the Department of Public Works, 326 Washington Street.

“Lights that will be accepted for this program are: Mini-lights (or Italian lights), C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords, etc. All colors and lengths will be accepted. *Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted in this program.*”

The City's 'Holiday Lights Recycling Program' begins today and goes through February 2016.

For further information or questions about this program, go to [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com)

## 2016 Open Enrollment Benefits Fair Recap

A big thank you to everyone who came out to the **2016 Open Enrollment Benefits Fair** held on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and three (103) attendees came to the program.



**Human Resources Director Deb Schober** and Representatives from UMR and HUB International presented on benefit changes and new programs such as the City's new wellness program

through Health as We Age (HAWA). Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from AFLAC.

Please note that **all** completed Benefit Forms are due in the HR Office **NO LATER** than **Tuesday, December 8, 2015**. If you have any questions regarding your elections, please contact **Jill May, HR Coordinator**, at extension 11206 or **Deb, HR Director**, at extension 11203.

## RECRUITMENT

### Limited Part-Time Records Clerks (3 Positions)

– **Woodstock Police Department:** The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for three (3) limited part-time Records Clerks with the Woodstock Police Department. Examples of duties include processing, copying, maintaining and filing police records/reports, preparing routine police reports and other correspondence, assisting in receptionist duties, processing criminal and driving check information requests, compiling data, and other clerical related duties as required. Position works no more than 20 hours per week, Monday – Friday variable hours. Position pays \$15.00 per hour with no additional benefits. **Application Deadline: Friday, December 11, 2015 at 5:00pm.**

### Limited Part-Time Facilities & Events Workers

– **Woodstock Opera House (*Reposted*):** 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. Starting pay is \$9.57 per hour; no additional benefits are provided. **Application Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2015 at 5:00pm.**

Please refer to the City's website at [www.woodstockil.gov](http://www.woodstockil.gov) and click on the Jobs section for further details and the application process on the above opportunities. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

## HEALTHY HOLIDAY EATING TIPS FOR THANKSGIVING

Do you know that the average Thanksgiving dinner has over 2000 calories? It can be a real challenge if you are watching your



waistline. The following are some eating tips so that you can still look good and be healthy after the Thanksgiving dinner without having to deprive yourself.

### If you are a guest of a Thanksgiving dinner:

- **Don't go to the Thanksgiving dinner hungry:** we often eat faster and more when we are hungry – therefore eat a wholesome breakfast and lunch on the day to avoid overeating at dinner time.
- **Thanksgiving dinner is not an all-you-can-eat buffet:** Fill your plate half with vegetables, one quarter with a lean meat and the rest with a starch of your choice. Eat slowly and stop when you are full.
- **Turkey – go skinless:** choose your 4-oz turkey portion skinless to slash away some fat and cholesterol. Save your appetite for the side dishes and desserts.
- **Side Dishes – watch your portion size:** go for smaller portions. This way you can sample all the different foods. Moderation is always the key.

- **Make a conscious choice to limit high fat items:** high fat food items can be found in fried and creamy dishes as well as cheese-filled casseroles in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. For instance, mashed potatoes are usually made with butter and milk; green bean casseroles are often prepared with cream of mushroom soup, cheese and milk and topped with fried onions; candied yams are loaded with cream, sugar and marshmallows. If you cannot control the ingredients that go in to a dish, simply limit yourself to a smaller helping size. Again moderation is the key.
- **Drink plenty of water:** alcohol and coffee can dehydrate your body. Drink calorie-free water to help fill up your stomach and keep you hydrated.

**If you are the honorable chef of a Thanksgiving dinner:**

- **Substitute** high fat ingredients with lower-fat or fat-free ingredients.
- **Leftover Turkey?** Instead of turkey sandwiches, use the leftover turkey to make a pot of soup with fresh chunky vegetables.



*Woodstock's Most Complete Fitness Center*

**The Recreation Center will be open**

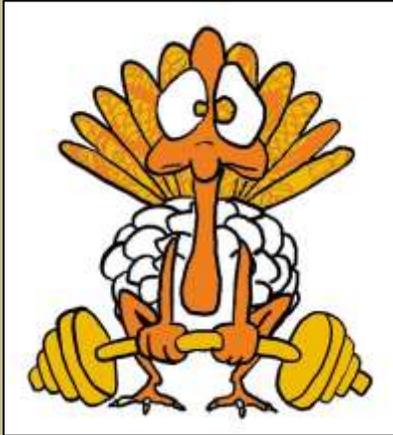
# **Thanksgiving Day**

**Thursday, November 26, 2015**

**7 until 11 a.m.**



**The Play Room will be open  
from 7:45-11 a.m.**



**Group Fitness  
Thanksgiving Classes  
Thursday, November 26  
8:00-9:15 am**

**LAND:**

**8:00-9:15 am - TURDUCKEN CIRCUIT in the gym**

We will be combining some of your favorite moves from step and turbo to make the ultimate pre-feast workout. For a little extra burn we will include some high intensity interval training in a circuit style class. This 3 style workout, like a turducken, will be sure to satisfy everyone. Let's start this holiday season off right, together!

**WATER:**

**8:00-9:00 am - Aqua Turkey Tread**

Get yourself moving early this Thanksgiving with an **AQUACISE** class and still be in time for Thanksgiving dinner.

*\*All other regularly scheduled classes will not be offered.*



**Come Shake Your Can for  
Christmas Clearing House**

# **TAG DAYS**

**Volunteers needed to fill 2-hour time slots in Woodstock.**

- **Wednesday, November 25 / 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
- **Friday, November 27 / 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**
- **Saturday, November 28 / 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

## **Sign Up**

• **on-line / [www.WoodstockRotary.org](http://www.WoodstockRotary.org)**

• **by phone / Laura 815-861-8252 or Lynn 815-321-5017**

Click on this logo.

