



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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HR NEWS

We are pleased to announce the following promotions in the Woodstock Police Department:

- **John Lieb** has been promoted to **Chief of Police** at the Woodstock Police Department effective June 4, 2016. Chief Lieb previously served as the Department's Deputy Chief of Police.
- **Jeffrey Parsons** has been promoted to **Deputy Chief of Police** effective June 5, 2016. Deputy Chief Parsons previously served as the Department's Detective Sergeant.
- **George Kopulos** has been promoted to **Patrol Sergeant** effective June 5, 2016. **Patrol Sergeant Kopulos** previously served in the role of Police Detective.
- **Jeremy Mortimer** has been promoted to **Police Detective** effective June 26, 2016. **Detective Mortimer** previously served as a Patrol Officer in the role of School Resource Officer for the high schools in Woodstock Community Unit School District 200.

Congratulations to the above Woodstock Police Department personnel...way to go!

In other HR News...we are pleased to announce that **Betsy Cosgray** has been hired as **Dual Department Office Assistant** in the City Manager's Office and the Woodstock Opera House. Betsy's first day is Monday, June 13th. If you see Betsy, introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome.



BEAUTIFUL WEATHER FOR OPENING WEEKEND AT WWW

Woodstock Water Works had a successful opening weekend with sunny skies and the temperature rising into the 80's. Over the Memorial Day

Weekend, from Saturday through Monday, over 1,600 patrons visited the facility generating close to \$4,000 in general admission.

The 60-member pool staff began the weekend on Friday, the eve of opening day, participating in a mock opening. City of Woodstock employees and their families were invited to swim so allow new staff hands on training learning the rules, policies and procedures of the facility with an old staff member nearby. Close to 100 were in attendance.

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LET'S PUT ON A SHOW! FY16-17 HOTEL/MOTEL TAX TOURISM GRANTS AWARDED

The City is pleased to be able to provide annual funding assistance to local nonprofit organizations to help produce a wide variety of tourism-generating events and activities. Funds are made available through a 5% tax on hotel and motel facilities, as allowed by state statute.

The program was managed this year by **Grant Writer Terry Willcockson** and **Economic Development Director Garrett Anderson**. Staff recommendations for the FY16-17 Hotel/Motel Tax Tourism Grant Awards were approved by City Council at their meeting this week. They included "Tier I" automatic awards as follows: **Woodstock Opera House/\$30,000; Visit McHenry County CVB/\$15,000; Woodstock Chamber of Commerce & Industry/\$10,000; and, Challenger Learning Center for Science & Technology/\$10,000.**

Available funds over and above the Tier I amounts are distributed among qualifying "Tier II" organizations on a competitive basis. The remaining funds for FY16-17 have been approved to be allocated to these organizations in support of their valued programming:

Woodstock Groundhog Days/\$4,000

3,000 attendees, weeklong mid-winter events which draw great publicity

Woodstock Farmers Market/\$3,500

90,000+ attendees at twice-weekly markets now held year-round

Jazz on the Square/JazzFest/\$2,500

500 attendees at 2 performances with growing audience from bimonthly JazzJams

McHenry County Heatwave/\$2,500

3,500 attendees at 3-day tournament 70 baseball teams at Emricson Park

Town Square Players/\$2,000

4,000 attendees at 3 productions with 25 musical or dramatic performances

Midwest Mozart Festival/\$2,000

800 attendees at 2 performances with many former musicians and new organization

Mental Health Resource League/Fair Diddley/\$1,000

8-10,000 attendees and 300 crafters at annual juried fair in its 49th year

NW Area Arts Council/2nd Fridays/\$1,000

2,000 attendees at 4 events to attract Friday evening patrons to the Square

Off Square Music/Harvest Fest/\$1,000

1,000 attendees at fall family event with traditional music & crafts

Adult & Child Therapy Services/AleFest/\$750

1,500 attendees at summer event with craft beer/bacon/bluegrass theme

Woodstock Folk Festival/\$750

1,000 attendees at day-long music festival in its 31st year

Woodstock Professional & Business Women/Art Tour/\$500

400 attendees for new driving tour to attract visitors and support local artists



SEVERE WEATHER WARNING SIRENS

The City of Woodstock operates two audible warning systems designed to assist citizens in protecting themselves from weather related hazards.

The City of Woodstock has three lightning prediction systems in operation within the City's Park system. Lightning prediction systems scientifically predict the probability of a lightning strike, including the very first strike unlike a detection system which provides a warning based upon the actual occurrence of a lightning strike after the fact. These systems are located at Sullivan Field in Emricson Park with a remote system at the Woodstock Water Works Aquatic Center facility, at the athletic fields in Bates Park, and at the Davis Road Soccer complex. Even though these systems are in place, it is important to seek shelter anytime lightning is a threat, even if a signal has not been sounded. When the lightning prediction system does activate, park users are to suspend recreation activities immediately and seek shelter in a large building or automobile.

These systems will sound an audible 15 second horn blast when lightning is predicted. At the same time a visual strobe light will begin flashing and remain flashing until safe conditions are detected. Activities can be resumed only after three - five second blasts of the horn are sounded and the strobe light stops flashing.

The City of Woodstock has five outdoor emergency warning sirens which are located at Bates Park, Emricson Park, First Street, Lake Avenue, and McConnell Road. The sirens are in place to be used to announce the approach of a tornado to the community. When activated, the sirens will sound for a three minute period. There is no all clear siren activated for the outdoor emergency warning siren system.

The purpose of these sirens is to help warn residents who are outside, that they should take cover immediately. The sirens are not intended for, nor do they have the capability of, warning all residents particularly those who are inside their homes or businesses. All citizens should monitor updated information by radio, television, internet and telephone devices anytime that the forecast includes the possibility of the development of severe weather in the area.

The outside emergency warning sirens are generally sounded only when a confirmed funnel cloud is aloft, or when a tornado has been sighted on the ground within an expanded boundary of the City of Woodstock. Therefore, the sounding of a siren designates an immediate threat and the need to take cover immediately.

It should however be noted that the sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The sirens will sound briefly during that time.

In conclusion:

- Outdoor emergency warning siren: 3 minute activation when tornado sighted in immediate area of Woodstock. No all clear siren activation. Monitor radio, television, etc. for further severe weather information.
- Lightning prediction system: 15 second horn blast and visual strobe light will flash and continue flashing until safe conditions are detected. Activities can resume only after 3 -5 second blasts of horn and strobe light stops flashing.

CITY ADVISES RESIDENTS ON ELECTRICAL SERVICE RATE CHANGE

The City of Woodstock entered into an electrical aggregation co-op through the Northern Illinois Governmental Electric Aggregation Consortium (NIGEAC) with several other McHenry County municipalities in July 2012 as a way to save residents and small businesses money on their electric bill. While ComEd continued to provide billing services and to deliver power, NIGEAC negotiated for bulk power purchases in the competitive market place resulting in lower cost power supplies than ComEd could provide. This resulted in an average savings of \$37.97 per month per household at the onset--a savings of almost 43% over ComEd's rate at that time. In total, this electrical aggregation program has saved participating Woodstock residents almost \$500 per household over the past four years.

In July of 2015, the co-op entered into a contract with Constellation Energy Services, Inc (CES) with a rate of 6.89 cents/kWh for residential customers. When compared to the ComEd base rate at the time of 7.615 cents/kWh this contract still offered savings to residents. However, beginning in June of 2016, ComEd's base rate is reduced to 6.19 cents/kWh through September, followed by 6.308 cents/kWh through May of 2017.

To ensure residents would not be subject to any unforeseen rate change, a no-fee exit strategy for residents is part of the negotiated contract with Constellation Energy Services. As the new ComEd base rate of 6.19 cents/kWh is lower than the co-op's current 6.89 cents/kWh, the City of Woodstock would like to remind residents they are able to leave the NIGEAC program at any time without penalty or any disruption of service. Residents may call Constellation Energy Services at 1-844-257-8244 and should have their ComEd bill available when calling to provide their account number. Upon opting-out of the NIGEAC program, electrical service and billing will both be handled by ComEd and residents will be billed the ComEd rate for their power supply.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, June 14 – Economic Development Commission 8AM, Council Chambers

Tuesday, June 14 – Parks and Recreation Commission, PM, Council Chambers

Quotation

“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.”

Albert Einstein

LABYRINTH ARTWORK DEDICATION TO BE HELD THIS SUNDAY

A beautiful art sculpture entitled “Meeting”, by Marengo artist David Orth, is being installed as the final phase of the Peace Path & Labyrinth Journey public attraction on Lake Avenue. The completed park will be formally dedicated by Mayor Sager at a public ceremony on Sunday, June 12th, at 2PM and all are invited to attend.

Orth holds a graduate degree in Philosophy from Northwestern University and has taught in the Sculpture and Design Departments of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He designs and crafts sculpture, furniture, and ceremonial objects out of bronze, steel, wood, and other materials.

To help educate the public about the benefits derived from recreational use of Labyrinths down through the ages, Woodstock Public Library will host Neal Harris of Relax4Life in Barrington at 7PM the next day, Monday, June 13th. Neal has been studying and building labyrinths for many years. He will share his interest and knowledge through word, visuals and hand-on activities.

LEGO ROBOTICS STEM CAMP BEGINS

The *Recreation Department's Stem Summer Camp* was held this past week. STEM Programming continues to be a popular subject with fifteen participants filling the class. The four-day camp focuses on robotics, engineering and coding and is taught by the Chasewood Learning Staff.



TWEEN NIGHT AT WOODSTOCK WATER WORKS

As great weather continues, 140 Tweens came to Woodstock Water Works this past Wednesday night for the first Tween Night of the pool season. Each Wednesday from 8:15-9:30PM, 5th-8th Graders have the pool to themselves to swim and socialize with their friends.

A BUSY SEASON OF PLAYGROUND PROGRAM HAS BEGUN

Tuesday, May 31 was the kick off training for the **Recreation Department's Playground Program** staff at the Rec Center. All twenty-four staff members met with **Human Resources Director Deb Schober** to fill out tax forms, information sheets, and discuss personnel policies. Staff were re-certified in First Aid and CPR and trained in disability awareness by NISRA staff. They learned about DCFS mandatory reporting and they all passed the certification set forth by DCFS.

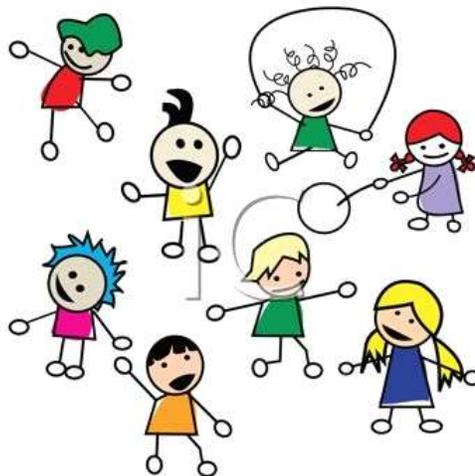
The rest of the week was filled with team building, learning new games, songs and crafts for the counselors led by the **Playground Program Supervisors Emily Draffkorn and Elissa Limbaugh**.

At the end of the week, everyone headed out to the location of the program, Olson Elementary School, to set up supplies and prepare for the program.

On Thursday our *Counselors in Training* met the counselors and toured the school facility. This year, the program has a perfect number of CITs, with 22 enrolled. The CITs are an important part of the program and serve as an extra safety measure for the little ones in the morning. The CITs met with supervisor **JD Fuller**, to go over expectations and daily responsibilities, to prepare them to start volunteering for the first week!

The Playground Program Counselor Meet and Greet was Friday, June 3 from 5-7PM at Olson Elementary School. During the open house, participants and their parents meet their counselors, pick up an information packet, find their meeting point for camp days and ask any questions they may have about the program.

This year there are over **310 kids** registered. Children ages 4-7 attend from 9AM-Noon and Children ages 7-12 attend from 1-4PM. . This is the program's 59th year of providing a fun and safe activity for the children of our community. Registration is still available for this fun and safe summer program. Please contact the Recreation Department for more information.



6 WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH ASTHMA



About 6.3 million children under the age of 18 have asthma, according to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Asthma is the most common chronic illness in children, resulting in 10.5 million missed school days annually.

Even more alarming, “Allergy and asthma rates are increasing and we still don’t know why,” says Janna Tuck MD, an allergist in Cape Girardeau, Missouri and spokesperson for the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Both outdoor and indoor air quality have improved, thanks to a reduction in second-hand smoke due to recent smoking laws and fewer people smoking. Nonetheless, asthma incidence is climbing, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

While we don’t know the reason behind these rising asthma rates, we know that management is key. And one way to help kids manage an asthma diagnosis is to help them own it: “You don’t want your kids to feel powerless, you want them to feel in control,” says Lisa M. Asta, MD, a pediatrician in Casa Verde, California and spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Here are six strategies to help you and your child cope with the condition.

1. Encourage Compliance

Asthma is always there, says Tuck. It’s important to make sure your child takes his medication daily if that’s part of his asthma action plan—even if he feels fine. A sticker chart, in the form of daily checklist or calendar, can work wonders for younger children. Here’s how it works: Every time they follow the plan, they place a sticker on the chart. That’s usually enough incentive, but if not, you can provide small rewards for following the routine. For instance, they get a trip to the local zoo or a sleepover with a friend when they accumulate 10 stickers. You can customize the chart, too: “They can add reminders for when to take their medication, or to rinse their mouths after using a steroidal inhaler,” adds Asta.

2. Help Your Child Properly Identify Symptoms

“Some symptoms, shortness of breath for example, may be due to the child simply being out of breath after running around,” says Asta. Anxiety can also cause shortness of breath. “Some teens overuse their inhaler because they think they are having an asthma attack when it’s really teen angst,” adds Tuck.

3. Be Aware of Subtle Symptoms

A child gets used to the symptoms and may become insensitive to them, says Tuck. He may think it’s normal to feel a certain way. In addition, viral illnesses and allergies can intensify symptoms. “They may be coughing

more, wheezing, struggling to breathe, or it may be more subtle, like they are not playing as they normally would, or seem listless and don't feel well in general."

4. Talk to Your Child About Role Models

Help your child seek out others who thrive with the condition. "There are high-level athletes with asthma," Asta points out. Discuss how their determination to control their condition allowed pro football player Jerome Bettis and Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey to achieve their dreams. The singer Pink, known for her athletic performances onstage, also has asthma.

5. Practice Prevention

"Whether it's on the field, in a seat at school, or relaxing at home, prevention is worth its weight in gold," says Asta. Pay attention to outdoor air quality. If pollen or smog is high, limit outdoor activity. Indoor air matters, too: Dust and pet dander can aggravate allergies and thus provoke symptoms. Asta suggests using an allergen-proof mattress cover and pillowcase, keeping the windows shut during pollen season, and if possible, investing in an air filter for your child's bedroom.

6. Partner With Your Child's Doctor

You are your child's advocate. If you have any concerns, say so. For instance, Tuck references some recent concerns with the medication Singulair—the anti-inflammatory non-steroidal drug has been shown to increase risk of depression. But instead of relying on blogs to make your decision, she recommends speaking with your child's physician first. "He may tell you that it's still the best choice, but it's not the only choice," she says. "If you're not happy with the medicine your child is taking, say so. There are lots of options."

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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.

LABYRINTH PATH DEDICATION

DICK TRACY PEACE PARK

(Lake Street, near Woodstock Police Department)

Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 2:00 pm

Residents have witnessed quite a bit of change since late summer of 2014 at Woodstock's Dick Tracy Way Park. A multi-phase project is coming to its conclusion this Sunday, June 12th at 2:00 pm with a dedication of the final project phase entitled, "Labyrinth Journey Art and Seating".

The overall project began as a collaboration in 2014 between the Bull Valley Garden Club, District 200 Challenge Corps students, and the City of Woodstock. Generous in-kind donations from many sources as well as grant funding from the McHenry County Community Foundation have resulted in a genuine community-wide effort.



Below are highlights of the projects completed at the park since August of 2014 (pictures of the projects are on following page).

- ◆ Construction of the Peace Path and installation of various perennials throughout the interior of the path
- ◆ Installation of benches and more perennials surrounding the Peace Path
- ◆ Two Eagle Scout projects consisting of the installation of informational kiosks, a path entryway, and bench
- ◆ Installation of an unobstructed labyrinth path defined by a brick border (some repurposed historic bricks used from downtown Woodstock)
- ◆ Construction of six concrete pillars, five used for seating at the center of the labyrinth
- ◆ Final pillar holds original piece created by local sculptor David Orth entitled "Meeting"

The Woodstock Public Library will follow-up the dedication on Tuesday, June 14th at 7:00 pm with a free informational presentation regarding the various uses of labyrinths given by Neil Harris, a historian and labyrinth builder.