



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 48

December 5, 2014

## WPD COLLECTING FOR TOYS FOR TOTS



The Woodstock Police Department is collecting toys for children in need now through Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. A Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots collection box is available 24/7 in the department's lobby at 656

Lake Avenue for receiving donations of new, unwrapped toys. All toys will be distributed to children living in McHenry County.

Go shopping for a good "claus" and play Santa for a child in need this holiday season. Unleash your inner "elf" and put a twinkle in the eye of a lucky girl or boy. (Hint: apparently all things *Frozen* are hot this year!)

For further information, please contact **Tamara Reed** at 815-338-6787 or [treed@woodstockil.gov](mailto:treed@woodstockil.gov).

## WINTER PARK ACTIVITIES

Looking for some winter fun this year? Woodstock's City parks offer a wide variety of outdoor winter activities. At Emricson Park (900 W. South Street) you can utilize the sledding hill as well as wide open spaces for cross country skiing or snow-shoeing. And if it's cold enough, there's a pond for ice skating.

The Hennen Conservation Area (4522 Dean Street) offers a different type of experience when it comes to cross country skiing or snow-shoeing and it too includes a pond for outdoor ice skating. Ice skating is only permissible when the ice is more than 5 inches thick. Signs are posted with the status of the ice thickness signifying the skating areas as being "open" or "closed".

Ryders Woods (751 E. Kimball Avenue) is also a great location to cross country ski or snow-shoe, and there is also a small "bunny" hill on the east side of Raintree Park (401 E. Lake Street) for sledding.

Contact **Public Works** for updates on ice conditions at 815-338-6118.

- 2 Built to Honor Home
- 3 Winter Driving
- 4 HR News
- 5 Rec News
- 6 Safe Toys and Gifts
- 7 Rec Holiday Celebration



### ***“BUILT TO HONOR” HOME***

On Friday, December 12, 2014, between 8:00AM – 3:00PM the PulteGroup will host the Final Ceremony celebration at the “Built to Honor” home for U.S. Army Specialist Tim Carner and family, at 1002 Yasgur Drive.

Please note, Yasgur Drive will be closed to thru traffic between Manke Lane and Woodside Drive.

If you have any questions, please call the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118.



### **REMINDERS FOR SAFE WINTER DRIVING**

- ✓ Always allow extra time to reach your destination when driving on slick winter roads. Slow down and avoid making sudden moves – no fast turns, no quick acceleration and no hard breaking.
- ✓ Keep your car clean. Chemicals, salt and gravel used for de-icing roads can be extremely corrosive to your vehicle. Clean regularly with plain water to reduce the harmful effects of these agents.
- ✓ Remember, bridges & overpasses freeze before road surfaces. Freezing air circulates above and below bridges causing ice to form more rapidly than on a surface that has freezing air above and a warmer ground below.
- ✓ Allow additional stopping distance on any road that is not dry by doubling the Four-Second Rule. This rule teaches new drivers safe driving distances – when the rear bumper of the car ahead passes any designated spot, make sure you reach the same spot in four seconds or more. Doubling or even tripling this safety measure is especially wise during winter driving but should be practiced throughout the year.
- ✓ Remember that visibility is an important factor for safe driving during a winter storm. Keep your lights on and clear the windshield of accumulations of ice and snow.
- ✓ Know what to do if you skid on ice or get stuck in snow. Counter steer to regain control in a skid. Steer the car in the same direction that the rear wheels are sliding. If the rear wheels slide to the right, turn the front wheels right and vice versa. Do not spin your wheels when stuck on ice or in snow. Instead, remove snow from the area around the tire, if necessary, and spread sand or salt under the drive wheels to regain traction.

Safe winter driving can be achieved by using plain common sense. However, there are occasions when the best driving decision is not to drive. If you are uneasy about your ability to drive on slick winter roads or your car's ability to handle them, stay safe – stay home.



## **HR NEWS**

Congratulations to **Rob Walkington** who transferred from Building Inspector to **Code Enforcement Officer/Assistant Building Inspector** in Community & Economic Development as of Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to **Jason Dyer** who was offered and has accepted the position of **Mechanic I** – Jason's first day was Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Jason most recently was a Service Advisor for Buss Ford in McHenry, where he provided customer service, oversaw repairs for proper procedures, and sold repair services.

Congratulations to **Kevin Kucharski** who was offered and has accepted the position of **Parks Maintenance Worker I** – Kevin's first day was Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Kevin most recently was a Research Field Station Intern for McHenry County Conservation District, where he evaluated, planned and, performed restoration on various conservation sites and developed interactive exhibits for the public on the local ecology. In addition, Kevin was also a seasonal temporary employee for several years with the City of Woodstock's Parks Division.

Congratulations to **Phil Lechner** who was offered and has accepted the position of **Streets Maintenance Worker I** – Phil's first day was Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Phil most recently was an Installer for Nicor Home Solutions in Lombard, where he installed furnaces and air conditioners, as well as ran gas pipes and performed electrical work.

## **RECRUITMENT**

Interviews for chosen qualified applicants for **Water Meter Technician I** and **Sewer & Water Maintenance Worker I** were held on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. Information on the positions will be released shortly.

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM**

The **City of Woodstock's** Holiday Lights Recycling Program is in full swing. Collection (recycling) bins are available at **City Hall**, 121 W. Calhoun Street; **Woodstock Public Library**, 414 W. Judd Street; and at the **Department of Public Works**, 326 Washington Street. This recycling program goes through the end of February, 2015.

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.*

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



## COOKING WITH KIDS

The popular “no-cook,” *Cooking Class* for kids ages four to eight offered through the **Recreation Department** wrapped up this past week. Due to the popularity of this class, a class was added to accommodate the seven additional participants.

Participants’ were able to enjoy the fruits of their labor including breakfast, snacks, lunch, and of course, dessert, that was cooked up during these four-week classes.

These interactive classes taught participants the basic cooking skills for even the smallest of chefs while also learning about kitchen safety, healthy eating habits, and culinary delights with instructor Jen Bigler.



## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, December 9 –Economic Development Commission, 8AM, Council Chambers  
Tuesday, December 9 – Parks and Recreation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

***Please don't forget to RSVP for the City of Woodstock Holiday Party. Call the Opera House by December 12<sup>th</sup> to RSVP.***

## SAVE THE DATE: 2015 CITY OF WOODSTOCK WELLNESS DAY:



Mark your calendars for the 2015 City of Woodstock Wellness Day, which will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, January 14, 2015:** 6:30AM – 11:00AM
- **Thursday, January 22, 2015:** 6:30AM – 11:00AM

Further details, including registration information, will be forthcoming.

## KICKBALL CLUB

The **Woodstock Recreation Department Kickball Club** is off and running. Twenty-four participants are kicking, throwing, running and screaming through the six-week class. Teams are chosen randomly for games each week.

During the upcoming winter/spring session, floor hockey and dodgeball classes will be offered. Information will be available in the Winter/Spring City Scene that will be mailed out in late December.

## Quotation

***A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.***

***Jackie Robinson***

**DECEMBER IS NATIONAL SAFE TOYS AND GIFTS AWARENESS MONTH**

***Keep Your Child's Holiday Toy Time Safe!***

Sharp or pointed edges, small removable parts and even pull strings longer than 7 inches can pose a health threat to small children. Do you know what toys are safe for your children?



Take a look at some tips for selecting safe toys for children:

- Consider the child's age, interests and skill level. Look for quality design and construction, and follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
- Use a small parts tester to determine whether small toys may present a choking hazard to children under age 3. Small parts testers can be purchased at toy or baby specialty stores or you can use the cardboard core of a toilet paper roll – if a toy can pass through, it is too small for young children and may cause them to choke if swallowed.
- Avoid toys with sharp points or edges, toys that produce loud noises, and projectiles (such as darts).
- Avoid toys with strings, straps or cords longer than 7 inches that may pose a risk for strangulation for young children.
- Avoid electrical toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Avoid cap guns that use caps that can be ignited by the slightest friction and can cause serious burns.

**Consider The Facts!**

- Falls and choking cause most toy-related deaths and injuries in children. Choking alone causes one third of all toy-related deaths – most often from balloons.
- Children 4 years old and younger account for almost half of all toy-related injuries and almost all deaths.
- Children younger than age 3 are at the greatest risk of choking because they tend to put objects – especially toys – in their mouths.

Toys can sometimes be recalled for safety reasons. Check the National Safe Kids Campaign website [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) for updates and information on recent toy recalls. For additional information about safe toys, visit [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org).

### **HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS BEGIN AT REC CENTER**

This past Monday, Water Group Fitness Instructors and members gathered for their annual Pot Luck Lunch at the Recreation Center. Judson and Judy Brown play the guitar and sang for the crowd as they sing along.



#### **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](http://www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com) for more information.

# Join Costco at a special reception!

Receive a **\$20**  
Costco Cash Card  
when you join as a new  
Executive Member.

OR, receive a **\$10**  
Costco Cash Card  
when you join as a new  
Gold Star Member.



DAY Monday

DATE Dec. 8, 2014

TIME 9:30 - 2:00

PLACE Rec Center  
multipurpose  
Room

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:  
Linda 847-960-9954

Valid only when you join in person with a Costco representative at this event. Valid only for new members for their first year of membership. Limit one Costco Cash Card offer per household. Offer is nontransferable and may not be combined with any other offer or coupon. Costco Cash Cards are not redeemable for cash. A Gold Star Membership is \$55 a year. An Executive Membership is an additional \$55 upgrade fee a year. Each membership includes a free Household Card. Please include sales tax in all applicable states. Costco accepts cash, checks, debit/ATM cards, EBT, Costco Cash Cards, Costco Credit Cards and American Express. AWARENESS CODE: 62000 MBR000014B 0214

Offer valid through August 31, 2014.

 FOLLOW US  
Visit [facebook.com/Costco](http://facebook.com/Costco)



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

Kara Plonczynski from McHenry County Animal Control will discuss their microchip clinics and rabies vaccine program as well as some very illuminating statistics. An Animal Control Officer will also attend.

# Coffee with the Chief



Monday, December 8, 2014  
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.