



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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2014 CRACK SEALING PROGRAM

The Woodstock City Council awarded the 2014 Crack Sealing contact to S.K.C. Construction, Inc. (West Dundee) at their October 21, 2014 City Council meeting. The contract is for a not-to-exceed amount of \$25,000 and includes the routing, cleaning and sealing of approximately 39,700 LF (lineal feet) of cracks with a hot, liquefied asphalt sealer.

A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 27 and work is scheduled to begin within the next 7 days.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



SEEING THE LIGHT



On Wednesday, **Opera House Production Manager, Joe McCormack, Production Assistant, Nathan Knapke and Building Manager, Mark Greenleaf** along with electricians from Associated Electric began the first phase of replacing the downtown perimeter lighting system by installing new low voltage LED lighting strips on the building at 129 E. Van Buren Street. Over the next few days the crew will install the same lights on the Opera House Annex building and the Opera House bell tower openings. The overall project is being done in two phases with this first phase providing valuable information and experience when it comes to installation methods and power control systems. This work will also help staff establish more accurate cost estimates for completing the project next summer.

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LEAF COLLECTION

The **Department of Public Works** collects bulk leaves curbside during a four-week period in the fall. Although we cannot guarantee that each and every leaf will be collected during this time, we do collect the majority of leaves. Residents are asked to rake loose leaves to the parkway for collection but should **NOT** rake leaves into the street. Leaves that have been raked into the street can plug storm sewer intakes and cause unnecessary flooding during rain events. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 27 and, ***weather permitting***, will include the following schedule:

- Monday, Oct.27 Leaves will be collected from all streets north of the railroad tracks during the week of October 27. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 AM on Monday, October 27.
- Monday, Nov. 3 Leaves will be collected from all streets south of the railroad tracks during the week of November 3. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 AM on Monday, November 3.
- Monday, Nov. 10 Weather permitting, the final collection from all streets north of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 10. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 AM on Monday, November 10.
- Monday, Nov. 17 Weather permitting, the final collection from all streets south of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 17. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00 AM on Monday, November 17.

If you would like the City to collect leaves at your property, it is very important that you have the leaves raked to the parkway on these specific dates. **No vehicles should be parked on the street within twenty (20) feet of any leaf pile.** Residents who prefer to bag their leaves for collection may call the Public Works office at 815-338-6118 to request pickup of bagged leaves. Leaves must be placed in paper bags only. The bulk collection of leaves along state highways can be dangerous for the leaf collection crews. Residents along Route 47 and Route 120 are encouraged to bag their leaves and phone the Public Works Office to arrange for collection. This, however, is only a request and is not mandatory.

Once the scheduled bulk collection is completed, there is a possibility that the Department of Public Works will continue to collect bagged leaves the following week. Contact Public Works for more information, 815-338-6118.



MADNESS MANOR; THE HAUNTED SQUARE

This weekend is the last full weekend of **MADNESS MANOR**, the “incredibly terrifying, interactive Haunted House” in the Woodstock Square. This year’s **MANOR** includes several new rooms to explore and reveals the legend of the cursed Madigan family that haunts its halls!

The following *SPECIAL EVENTS* are planned:

- **The Great Zombie Round-Up Scavenger Hunt**, Friday, October 24, 7-11 PM.
- **Zombie Pub Crawl** (ages 21+) on Saturday, October 25, 7 PM-midnight.
- **Haunt-or-Treat after Dark**, Friday, October 31, 7-11 PM.

Along with several **ADVENTURES** for the KIDS:

- **Ghostbusters Adventure**, Saturday, October 25, 2-4 PM.
- **Haunt-or-Treat for Kids**, Friday, October 31, 4-6 PM.

All proceeds of The Haunted Square go to benefit Family Alliance’s programs and services, which allow us to provide care and enhance the quality of life for over 1,400 people in McHenry County.

For more information, go to <http://TheHauntedSquare.com/>



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



Chief Robert Lowen and the **Woodstock Police Department** want your Halloween to be a treat instead of a trick! Please keep in mind the following safety tips and you’ll be sure to enjoy a *boo-tiful* evening of fun!

- Wear a reflective costume or carry a flashlight with you.
- Cross streets at designated crosswalks.
- Trick or treat in a group accompanied by at least one parent or very responsible teenager.
- Always let your parents inspect your candy before you eat it; dispose of any item with a torn wrapper or unusual odor. *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- Watch out for cars and be careful around jack o’ lanterns or other decorations with burning candles inside.
- Visit homes in your own neighborhood that you are familiar with.

Recommended hours for trick-or-treating in the City of Woodstock are from 4-7PM on Friday, October 31, 2014.

Have fun – stay safe!



HOME WINTERIZATION TIPS

Have your furnace or heat pump inspected to be sure the system is clean and in good repair; be certain to change your furnace filter on a monthly basis.

If your home had a lot of icicles or ice dams last winter, have your home's attic inspected for possible air leaks and / or inadequate insulation. Also, look at your roof for damaged, loose or missing shingles that may leak during winter's storms or from melting snow.

Check for gaps around your windows and door frames. If the gaps between siding and window or door frames are bigger than the width of a nickel, reapply exterior caulk. If needed, add weather-stripping around doors, making sure you cannot see any daylight from inside your home.

Clean leaves & debris out of gutters to prevent water from backing up against the house, which could cause damage to the roof, siding & trim. Check to be sure your gutters & fascia boards are in good repair.

Turn off exterior faucets, as undrained water in pipes can freeze, which will cause pipes to burst as the ice expands. Disconnect all garden hoses and drain the water that remains in faucets. If you don't have frost-proof faucets, turn off the shut-off valve inside your home.

When your yard is dry, mow your leaves instead of raking them; they'll decompose and serve as nourishment to your lawn over the winter.

Prepare your lawn mower for winter storage. It's important that any remaining fuel is removed from the engine; otherwise the fuel will decompose, "varnishing" the carburetor and causing difficulty when starting the engine in the spring. Check your mower's manual for other cold-weather storage tips.

Horticulturalists advise waiting until late winter to prune trees & shrubs, when they've been long dormant and just before spring growth begins. If you have dead or low-hanging branches close to your home or power lines; these should be trimmed at once.

Periodically test your sump pump by slowly pouring several gallons of water in the sump pit to see whether the pump turns on. This way you'll be certain that your sump pump is in good working order.

If you have a fireplace, have your chimney & vents cleaned prior to use each winter. This will prevent chimney fires & prevent carbon monoxide from creeping into your home.

Restock winter essentials such as salt and ice melt, an ice scraper in your car & shovels in your garage. Start your snow blower to make sure it's working.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Renaissance Restoration began demolition of the limestone stairs in front of the Old McHenry County Courthouse this week. The original steps were in desperate need of restoration after many years of being patched where chunks of limestone had fallen off the stairs creating an unsafe traverse into or out of the building. The railings will be taken off-site and restored to their original beauty. The Sheriff's House next door will also receive a new set of limestone steps. Removal of the concrete steps that are currently in place will begin next week. Both projects are expected to be completed around Thanksgiving



MEETINGS NEXT WEEK....

Monday, October 27 – Historic Preservation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

HR NEWS

Congratulations to **Phil Groh** who applied, interviewed and was selected as the most qualified candidate for the **Public Works** internally-posted position of **Fleet Maintenance Division Mechanic**.

Congratulations to **Arleen Quinn** who applied, interviewed and was selected as the most qualified candidate for the appointed **City Clerk** position. In addition, congratulations to **Amy Weber**, who was appointed to the position of **Deputy Clerk**.

City of Woodstock 2015 Open Enrollment Benefits Fair Recap:

The City of Woodstock open enrollment event was held on Wednesday, October 22nd from 10:30AM – 6:00PM at City Hall, 2nd Floor.

Attendees received an informative presentation on benefits. Topics included:

- UMR Health Insurance/Dental
- UnitedHealthcare® Vision
- VSP® Vision Care
- Flex Spending Accounts
- Aflac® - Supplemental Insurance Coverage
- ComPsych® - Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Lincoln Life® Supplemental Life Insurance
- NCPERS - Optional Life Insurance

The event was well attended and we thank you for your participation. Anyone not at the event will receive their **2015 Benefits Form** and folder shortly. Please note that **all** Benefit Forms are due in the HR Office **NO LATER** than **Wednesday, November 12th, 2014**.



REC DEPT A CORP SPONSOR OF CARE 4 RACE

Pictured are **Front Counter Staff Members Karina Fuentes, Erin Sarich, and Arturo Diaz** manning the information table at the 14th Annual Care 4 Breast Cancer Walk/Run last Sunday at Woodstock North High School. Over 2,100 participated in the event that benefits the Family Health Partnership Clinic.

Annually, the **Rec Center** is an in-kind corporate sponsor for this charity event. **Front Counter Staff Member Arturo Diaz** was a team captain for race set-up and take down and **Recreation Director Dave Zinnen** drove the Rec Dept bus to transport race volunteers to and from Woodstock North and the Merryman Fields parking lot from 6:30AM to 11:00AM. In return, the Rec Center is allowed to set-up a table to market Rec Center memberships and Rec Department programs in the high school gym.

Zinnen also challenged Rec Center members and staff to beat him in the 5K run. The six that beat him included Matt Zinnen (20:57), Ryan Zinnen (21:19), Lucia Alcazar (21:37), Mateo Alcazar (23:47), Justine O'Brien (23:50), Nevs Vilchez-Garcia (23:59), and **Rec Center Playroom Attendant Victor Cortez** (24:51). Rec Center members who beat Dave received \$5 in Fitness Bucks and Victor received \$5 in Boss's Bucks.

RECRUITMENT

Water Meter Technician I:

The City of Woodstock has an opening for **Water Meter Technician I** with the Public Works Department. The position performs a wide variety of manual labor duties and operates vehicles and equipment as required to read, install, and repair water meters; assist with sanitary sewer collection and water distribution maintenance; perform routine maintenance tasks; and other related duties as assigned. The work is performed under the supervision of the Sewer & Water Maintenance Division Foreman and Supervisor with daily assignments and instructions provided by the Foreman or Supervisor. Position normally works Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM, with on call assignments and overtime, as required. **English-Spanish bilingual ability is required for this position.**

Please refer to the City's website Employment Opportunities section for further details and the application process. Application deadline: Friday, November 14, 2014.

Interviews for chosen qualified applicants for the **Maintenance Workers** positions will be held today, Friday, October 24th. Interviews for chosen qualified applicants for the **Mechanic** position will be scheduled shortly.

The posting for the Part-Time Library Desk Assistant has closed. Interviews for chosen qualified applicants will be scheduled shortly.

Quotation

They're only truly great who are truly good.

[George Chapman](#)

YOUTH VOLLEYBALL CLASS IS “JUMPIN”

The new session of the **Recreation Department’s Youth Volleyball program** will start on Monday night in the gym at the Rec Center. The first to third grade class, which has ten participants, begins at 4:30, followed by the fourth to sixth grade class, which has ten participants, at 5:30. Both groups run through December 8th.

The class focuses on fundamentals of serving, passing, setting, hitting defense and blocking.

There are still some spots open for this session. Registration is available at the Recreation Center, 820 Lake Avenue.

FALL FITNESS PLAN: GET OUT & EXERCISE

Fine fall weather makes it easy to get outside — during lunch, after work — and get active!

Crisp fall weather is made for physical

activity — walking, running, biking, swimming are all fair game. They’re excellent forms of aerobic exercise, which means they give the heart a good workout. Even when life is ultra-hectic, it’s important to plan for exercise.

Exercise helps control blood pressure, and it helps your heart function optimally when you’re under mental stress, according to a Duke University Medical Center study. Additional benefits of regular aerobic exercise: weight loss, improved cardiovascular fitness, lowered heart rate, healthier blood vessels, and a better-pumping heart.



Runner’s high is real, research shows. During exercise, the brain produces endorphins — natural chemicals similar to morphine that cause a feeling of happiness. For maximum endorphin benefit, get at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise three to four times a week, advises the American Council on Exercise.

Yoga and tai chi also help with relaxation. While they won’t produce a significant endorphin release, these timeless practices increase strength, flexibility, and balance control. Because they involve deep breathing and calming exercises, they also help in releasing stress.

No Time? Try Lunchtime Workouts

If your schedule is tight, try a 30-minute lunchtime workout. You’ll lose the stress and anxiety — and get a boost in energy. Stepping away from work helps clear your mind, helps you refocus, too. You’ll be calmer, more productive.

Circuit training is great for a 30-minute workout. If a gym isn’t nearby, take a walk. Walk half an hour every day, and you can lose 10 pounds in a year — if you keep your diet healthy. A few more tips:

- Keep a workout bag at your desk: sneakers, gym clothes, basic grooming tools. Baby wipes help you clean up fast so you don’t have to shower.
- Pack a lunch so you don’t have to wait in food lines.
- Keep small pre-workout snacks on hand, like almonds, walnuts, string cheese, cottage cheese, oatmeal — so hunger won’t slow you down.

As we head into the holiday season, these workouts are especially important. Just don’t stress out about exercise. With just a little planning, exercise should eliminate the stress!

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

Jim Elliot from the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) will discuss how they assist local communities in times of emergency and disaster.

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, November 10, 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.