



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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## **ANNUAL MUNICIPAL AUCTION**

The McHenry County Council of Governments hosts an Annual Municipal Auction each fall. This year's Auction is on Saturday, October 11, 2014, beginning at 11:00AM. (should last approximately 3 hours) and is being held at the McHenry County Fairgrounds.

The annual auction provides local governments the opportunity to sell their surplus vehicles, equipment, office supplies, bicycles and more. This year's Auction will include **only** vehicles, motorized equipment and bicycles.

If you have any items to include in the Auction, please contact Chalen Daigle at [cdaiGLE@mchenrycountycog.org](mailto:cdaiGLE@mchenrycountycog.org) or at 815-477-2090.



## **YARD WASTE PICK-UP**

As autumn draws to a close, remember that MDC Environmental Services will continue picking up yard waste through the end of November again this year. All grass clippings, leaves and yard waste must be placed into biodegradable bags with a 'yard waste' sticker attached. You may also use a 32-gallon container for yard waste disposal; be certain to mark the container with a large 'X', and affix a 'yard waste' sticker to the container. The bags or containers should be placed curbside by 6:00 a.m. and will be picked up by Marengo Disposal on your regular garbage collection day.

Branches should not be placed into a bag or container, but should be cut to no longer than 3 feet in length and no larger than 4 inches in diameter. The branches should then be tied with twine in bundles weighing no more than 25 lbs. and placed at your curb.

If you have any questions regarding yard waste or garbage collection, please contact MDC Environmental Services at 815-568-7274 or visit their website <http://www.mdces.com/>

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## **WOODSTOCK OFFICIALLY DEBUTS CHILDREN'S PEACE PARK & PATHS**

The culmination of many years of research, planning and design will be realized on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 1:00PM as the public is welcomed to the grand opening of Children's Peace Park & Paths, a new conveniently-located landscape attraction for both children and adults. The celebratory opening of the project's first phase will take place at the site, adjacent to Dick Tracy Way Park on Lake Avenue near the Woodstock Police Station.

Children's Peace Park & Paths is a unique two-phase project that features a global/social awareness seating area with landscaped surroundings, as well as a future labyrinth pathway. The project represents a partnership between the City of Woodstock, D200's Challenge Corps Program, and the Bull Valley Garden Club, with participating D200 students contributing to many aspects of the Peace Park's development.

The Phase One peace sign-shaped seating area includes two benches, made from over 3,000 recycled milk jugs, engraved with inspirational sayings to encourage relaxation and reflection. This area celebrates Challenge Corps' participation in the 2012 First Lego League Open European Championship in Germany, and their experience engaging with other students from around the world. The motive behind the seating area's conception was to return funds remaining from the students' trip back to the community. The Peace Park's ongoing design, artwork and signage elements will reinforce the importance of global connectedness and "giving back" to society.

Bull Valley Garden Club researched and proposed adding the Phase Two labyrinth walking paths, using a labyrinth design that originated in the isle of Crete. For over 4,000 years, labyrinths have been used as a natural meditative aide, as well as for entertainment. Such interactive outdoor spaces are a popular attraction for school groups and the general public to visit. Both garden areas are designed as being wheelchair accessible and will serve children and adults of all ages.

The above groups, including students and family volunteers, have worked with the City's Public Works/Parks Division to lay-out the pathway and garden elements, to install brickwork and create pathways and to plant hundreds of new and donated perennials. The gardens are designed to be colorful and textural, but low-maintenance, using native prairie plants including coneflowers, black-eyed Susan, sedum, liatris, bee balm, wild geranium and lamb's ear, complemented with varying types of prairie grasses.

The project will be fully completed in spring 2015, when the labyrinth walking paths will be constructed. Given the anticipated popularity of this unique landscape attraction to both residents and visitors, an additional parking area is planned for the adjoining northwest corner of Ryder's Woods, to safely accommodate school groups and families. This complex project reflects over four years of planning efforts by numerous individuals involved. The partnership provided the basis for the City of Woodstock to receive a \$10,000 grant from the McHenry County Community Foundation, ensuring maximum public benefit from this community collaboration.



## **DRUG TAKE BACK A SUCCESS**

During last Saturday's Drug Take Back event held at the **Woodstock Police Department**, 115 pounds of unwanted, unused or expired drugs were collected. **Sergeant Dan Wesolek** and **Officer Dan Pauley** were on hand to collect the drugs offering drive by drop off service to those who had medications to dispose of.

This was the ninth take back event held at the WPD; 1,030 pounds of drugs have been collected in total and given to the local DEA office for proper disposal.

If you missed the event, don't worry – you can still dispose of your unwanted medications; for your convenience, there is a MedReturn collection box available 24/7/365 in the lobby of the police station. Any and all solid (no liquid) prescription and over the counter medications will be accepted – even pet medications!

If you have any questions, please call 815-338-6787 for further information.



Walmart offers a Community Grant Program which awards grants ranging from \$250 - \$2,500 for qualified and approved non-profits. Eligible non-profits must operate on the local level and directly benefit the local service area of the store providing the grant. It appears as though the Woodstock Walmart does have remaining funds to grant. Deadline for application is December 31 2014, but grant funds are available on a first-come first-serve basis. The application process is easy and can be done on-line <http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/local-giving>. The company also offers National and State giving programs for those nonprofit entities with a larger scope of service beyond the local community.

## **US ROUTE 14 RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING**

A pre-construction meeting was held on Monday, September 20, 2014 at IDOT offices in Schaumburg, IL. to discuss the upcoming reconstruction and widening of 3.93 miles of US Route 14 from West Lake Shore Drive to Lucas Road in the City of Woodstock. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$25,281,881. The meeting also included discussion of the reconstruction and widening of an additional 2.30 miles of US Route 14 from Lucas Road to Crystal Lake Avenue in the City of Crystal Lake. The estimated cost of these improvements is \$22,880,979. The contractor for these projects, Plote Construction, Inc. is expected to begin work in October 2014 and complete work by October 2016.

The specific details of construction staging were discussed at this meeting. The work generally includes the reconstruction and widening of existing US Route 14 from a two-lane facility to a four-lane facility with a divided median. The project includes the reconstruction of intersections at Lake Shore Drive, Doty Road, Lily Pond Road and Ridgefield Road North. The work shall include, but is not limited to, pavement and shoulder removal, tree removal, storm sewer removal, and removal of other miscellaneous items including construction of jointed Portland cement concrete pavement, hot-mix asphalt pavement, storm sewers, concrete curb and gutters, seeding and sodding, traffic signals, pavement markings and traffic control.

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

## **HR NEWS**

### **Open Enrollment:**



**Save the date!** The City of Woodstock open enrollment event will be held on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:30AM to 6:00PM. A presentation on benefits

will be held several times during the day and representatives from several vendors will be on hand to answer your questions about your benefits.

Detailed information on the event will be coming soon.

### **RECRUITMENT**

The deadline for the **Public Works Department's** internal transfer opportunity of **Fleet Maintenance Division: Mechanic** (open to current **Public Works** employees only) has closed.

In addition, the deadline for the **Maintenance Workers** positions has closed. Interviews for chosen qualified applicants will be scheduled shortly for the above noted positions.

Interviews were held on Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> for the **City Clerk** position.

### **Part-Time Library Desk Assistant – Woodstock Public Library:**

The City of Woodstock is seeking applicants for a part-time Library Desk Assistant for the Woodstock Public Library. Examples of duties include checking in, checking out and renewing library materials, creating and renewing library cards, shelving materials, customer relations and other related duties as assigned. **Bilingual ability is highly desirable for this position.** Position works 25 hours per week, with a current schedule of Monday 9AM-6PM, Tuesday 12PM-9PM and Wednesday 2PM-9PM with rotating weekends and other hours as needed and assigned.

**Please refer to the City's website Employment Opportunities section for further details and the**

### **POLICE ANNOUNCE OCTOBER TRAFFIC INITIATIVE**

During the month of October, **Woodstock Police Officers** will be paying special attention to Stop Arm Violations (passing a stopped school bus) and Speeding.

With the school year in full swing, it is imperative that the motoring public pay close attention to any school bus they encounter in traffic. Buses make frequent stops to pick up or drop off children; a stopped school bus with an extended stop arm must never be ignored. No matter how important your destination or how much of a hurry you are in, the consequences of passing a stopped school bus can be nothing less than tragic.

Speeding, especially in school zones, should be avoided. Give yourself ample time to reach your destination without hurrying; patience is a must when behind the wheel of a vehicle in any circumstance.

Questions on this traffic initiative may be directed to **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** at 815-338-2131 or [rpritchard@woodstockil.gov](mailto:rpritchard@woodstockil.gov).



### **BILL ANDERSON AT LIBRARY**

Bill Anderson, former mayor of Woodstock, returns to our city with a stop at the library to promote his new book. Mr. Anderson will be at the Woodstock Public Library on Wednesday, October 15, 2014 to talk about his book *The New Kid*, which he wrote under the pen name of Andrew Moss.

There will be two sessions with Mr. Anderson, one at 1PM and the second at 6PM. Each will feature a short presentation about the book, which chronicles Anderson's memories of his eleven years of growing up in the Woodstock Children's Home and the lasting effects the experience has had on the rest of his life. A question and answer session and book signing will follow the presentation at each session.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase during the event. For more information, contact **Beth Ryan** at the Woodstock Public Library, 815-338-0542.

And, of course, there are lots of other exciting things happening at the library this fall, so keep your eye out for our newsletter which will arrive in your mailbox right after Labor Day. Or, check it all out on our web page: <http://www.woodstockpubliclibrary.org/>. See you at the library!

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

Tuesday, October 14 – Economic Development Commission, 8AM, Council Chambers  
Tuesday, October 14 – Opera House Advisory Commission, 4:30PM, Opera House

## **Quotation**

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper.

[Jerry Seinfeld](#)

### **PET CARE – AUTUMN SAFETY TIPS**

Ah, fall—there’s nothing like crisp, cool air, the first months of school and luscious foliage to get you excited for the changing seasons. Your pet, too, is probably welcoming the break from hot, sticky weather. But pet parents, beware—fall is also a time of lurking dangers for our furry friends. From household poisons to cold weather hazards, the season is a minefield! Here are some tips to keep your pet snug and healthy during the autumn months:



- The use of rodenticides increases in the fall as rodents seek shelter from the cooler temperatures by attempting to move indoors. Rodenticides are highly toxic to pets—if ingested, the results could be fatal. If you must use these products, do so with extreme caution and put them in places inaccessible to your pets.
- It’s back-to-school time, and those of you with young children know that means stocking up on fun items like glue sticks, pencils and magic markers. These items are considered “low toxicity” to pets, which means they’re unlikely to cause serious problems unless large amounts are ingested. However, since gastrointestinal upset and blockages certainly are possible, be sure your children keep their school supplies out of paw’s reach.
- Training tip: If you and your pooch haven’t been active outdoors in a while because of the summer heat, do some remedial recall training. Dogs, like people, get rusty on their skills if they aren’t using them.
- Fall and spring are mushroom seasons. While 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the 1% that are highly toxic can cause life-threatening problems in pets. Unfortunately, most of the highly toxic mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from the nontoxic ones, so the best way to keep pets from ingesting poisonous mushrooms is to keep them away from areas where any mushrooms are growing. Contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 immediately if you witness your pet eating a wild mushroom.
- In order to generate body heat, pets who exercise heavily outdoors, or who live outdoors, should be given more food during colder seasons. Make sure horses and other outdoor animals have access to clean, fresh water that is not frozen.
- Autumn is the season when snakes who are preparing for hibernation may be particularly “grumpy,” increasing the possibility of severe bites to those unlucky pups who find themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. Pet owners should know what kinds of venomous snakes may be in their environment—and where these snakes are most likely to be found—so they can keep pets out of those areas.

- Many people choose fall as the time to change their car's engine coolant. Ethylene glycol-based coolants are highly toxic, so spills should be cleaned up immediately. Consider switching to propylene glycol-based coolants—though they aren't completely nontoxic, they are much less toxic than other engine coolants.



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

Sergeant Ryan Stewart of the McHenry County Conservation District Police Department will discuss his duties and experiences with the MCCD.

# Coffee with the Chief



Monday, October 13, 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.

# WOODSTOCK POLICE EXPLORER



Est. January 11, 2012

## *Interested in a law enforcement career?*

The Woodstock Police Explorer Program will provide you with the necessary opportunities to get you started. Through training, community interaction, and hands-on experiences, you will be well on your way to a successful career in law enforcement. In order to be a Woodstock Police Explorer you must be between the ages of 14-21 (completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade), you must maintain a good grade point average, and you must attend bi-monthly meetings. The Woodstock Police Explorer Program will

- teach you
- TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
  - BUILDING SEARCHES
  - HIGH RISK TRAFFIC STOPS
  - DEFENSIVE TACTICS/ HANDCUFFING
  - POLICE K-9
    - High Risk Traffic Stops
    - Defensive Tactics/ Handcuffing
    - Police K-9
- and law enforcement and much more:
- DUI
  - DOMESTICS
  - NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS
  - FORENSICS
  - FIREARM OPERATIONS

The Woodstock Police Explorer Program will not only provide you with the effective training in the above listed topics, the program also offers a wide variety of opportunities. These include riding-along in a patrol vehicle, participating in explorer competitions, as well as assisting with community events. The Woodstock Police Explorer Program strives to promote leadership within its members, and ultimately create future generations of law enforcement.

For more information, please attend one of our orientations. Orientations will be held on **Wednesday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm. Both orientations will be held at the Woodstock Police Department (656 Lake Avenue) in the training room. All new explorers are

required to attend one of the orientations. No new explorers will be accepted into the program

after December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.



*For additional questions, please contact*

*Sgt. Tino Cipolla #56*

*ccipolla@woodstockil.gov*