



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 21

May 23, 2014

CITY OBSERVES MEMORIAL DAY



In observance of Memorial Day, all non-emergency City offices will be closed on Monday, May 26th.

The annual Memorial Day Ceremony will begin at 10:00AM in the Park in the Square followed by the Memorial Day Parade.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

MEMORIAL DAY IMPACTS CITY'S GARBAGE SERVICE

As a reminder, Memorial Day will alter the garbage pickup schedule for residents during the week of May 26th through May 30th. With Memorial Day falling on a Monday, all residents normal garbage pickup will occur one day later. In addition, those residents who 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 815-334-0014.



CITY'S CREDIT RATING RISES!

The City of Woodstock's credit rating by Standard and Poor's (S&P) on May 20, 2014 was upgraded from "AA-" to "AA".



S&P cited the City's solid balance sheet along with strong management as reasons for the credit upgrade. The City of Woodstock's proximity to the City of

Chicago allows for its strong financial position which allows for the ability to capitalize on this economic diversity for commercial and industrial growth.

With this upgrade it is expected that the City will be able to secure lower interest rates on future debt issuances.

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TREE PLANTING ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY GENERAL GUIDELINE AND REQUIREMENTS

The planting of new trees, whether on your own property or in the public right- of- way, can add value to your home, reduce energy costs, and improve the overall appearance of the lot and an entire neighborhood. The City encourages residents to plant new trees and will allow trees to be planted on public property when a few simple guidelines are followed:

- Always contact JULIE to have utilities located prior to any excavation.
- Contact the **Department of Public Works** to receive approval prior to planting trees or shrubs in the right of way (e.g. tree bank, parkway).
- Avoid planting trees near street lights.
- Trees should be at least 6' from back of curb.
- Trees should be at least 100' away from an intersection.
- No evergreen tree should be planted within the right of way.
- Only low-growing trees should be planted under or close to overhead utility lines.
- Avoid planting too many of the same species of tree on your property; variety is good.
- When planting near other trees already established, select a location that is based on the mature tree size. Plan ahead and allow proper space for trees to grow to their mature size.

The City's Certified Arborist can assist with the proper selection of tree type and location for planting. Please contact the Department of Public Works, 815-338-6118, to request planning assistance and for approval to plant a tree in the public right- of -way.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOUR

Each year, Northwood's sixth-grade class tours the **North Side Wastewater Treatment Plant**. Two hundred forty sixth-grade students from Northwood Middle School toured the North Side Wastewater Treatment Plant on Friday, May 23rd. There were two groups of one hundred twenty students in which broke into another four groups for each tour. Each year, Northwood's sixth-grade class takes this informative tour at the treatment plant. In the classroom, before the tour, the students are taught about the importance of wastewater treatment and how it relates to the water cycle. This is a great lesson for them to see first-hand how crucial the treatment process is to the environment. Each tour took approximately one hour, and was conducted by **Superintendent, Anne George; Henry Vidales, Wastewater Treatment Operator I, Dan Bolda, Wastewater Treatment Operator I, Adam Sheahan, Wastewater Treatment Operator I, and Wayne Baker, Wastewater Treatment Operator II;** gave the tours. **Sue Hansell, Laboratory Manager,** instructed the laboratory portion.

To schedule a tour, please contact the **Department of Public Works;** 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



HAVE ANOTHER WEINER!



It's that time of the year when the smell of grilled hamburgers, brats, and hotdogs begins permeating your neighborhood. When preparing for outdoor cooking or barbecuing, it's important to be careful to avoid problems. The following steps will help you have a safe and positive grilling experience.

- Always light your grill in an open, well-ventilated area. Never light or cook on a grill in an enclosed area like a garage due to the potential for buildup of dangerous and deadly carbon dioxide.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises that you keep your grill far from anything that can burn--your home, your car, dry vegetation, shrubs, and kids or pet activity areas.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "safety zone" around the grill. Discourage kids and pets from entering or playing in this zone.
- Treat these places the same way you would treat their indoor counterparts. Train your kids to stay away from them when they're in use and always store them out of view, or keep covers and lids on when not in use.
- Keep matches and lighter fluid stored out of sight.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

No Meetings Scheduled

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

With pool season in full- swing, it is important to be aware of what can be done to minimize injuries and accidents. As families move outdoors to enjoy the nice weather, care should be taken to ensure that outside recreation areas, especially swimming pools, are safe from potential hazards. Although swimming pools can pose risks to children and adults alike, the following simple but important steps can be taken to avoid accidents:

- Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death for children under five years of age.
- If you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact **Woodstock's Building Department** at 815-338-4305 to determine what permits are needed and what design requirements are required.
- In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 24 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier having a height of at least 4 feet. Any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Reserve a visible location near the pool for lifesaving devices and consider utilizing a portable or mobile telephone.
- Steps and ladders for above-ground pools should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.
- Use a cover for the pool when it is not being use.
- Make sure drain covers are properly fitted or have vacuum suction releases to prevent someone from being trapped under water.
- Consider installing a pool alarm that can alert you if someone enters the pool.
- Spa water temperatures should be set to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to avoid elevated body temperature, which could lead to drowsiness, unconsciousness, heat stroke, or death.
- Learn cardiopulmonary precipitation (CPR) and when to use it.



RECRUITMENT NEWS

Welcome! To 3 new employees who joined the City of Woodstock this week:

David Sharp is a new **Police Officer** at the **Woodstock Police Department**. **David** comes to us with military service as a Navy Corpsman, and was most recently a Police Officer with Fox River Grove. As a certified officer, he will begin field training immediately, without needing to attend the police academy.

Joe Napolitano is the City's new **Economic Development Coordinator**. **Joe** offers an extensive background working with the business community, serving most recently as Economic Development Director for the City of North Chicago and, prior to that, as Community Development Director for the City of McHenry.

We also welcome **Jorge (George) Zermeno** as our new **Water Meter Technician** in the **Public Works Department**. **George** brings excellent mechanical aptitude to this position, as well as an upbeat and friendly communications style, including bilingual skills that provide an important level of customer service to our residents. George is also actively pursuing an Associate's degree in applied science at MCC.

The summer seasonal crews are also beginning work this week, with **Public Works** adding a total of 9 **Seasonal Worker** employees, and the **Recreation Department** bringing on a staff of 60 **Lifeguards** and **Pool Cashiers** at Woodstock WaterWorks. The final group of summer employees, **Playground Program Counselors**, will begin training work on Monday June 2nd.

The following position is posted and open for application by qualified internal and external candidates:

Parks Supervisor—Note: Deadline Extended!

Due to impending retirement, Woodstock seeks experienced candidates for Parks Supervisor, responsible for planning, scheduling and implementing a wide range of maintenance and public improvement activities related to parks construction, repair and maintenance, including athletic fields, irrigation systems, playgrounds, open space, landscaping, park amenities, natural areas, recreational areas, right-of-way trees, streetscape elements, buildings and other related tasks. Exempt position reports to the Asst. Public Works Director and oversees 8-15 employees in the Parks Division.

Minimum qualifications: Associate degree in parks and recreation administration or related field; five (5) years of parks and recreation experience; three (3) years of supervisory experience; and a valid IL Class B CDL with air brakes endorsement and good record, or ability to obtain within 3 months of hire. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Starting salary range: \$59,654 - \$76,160 DOQ, with excellent benefit package. Please send current resume and cover letter highlighting qualifications to: humanresources@woodstockil.gov no later than: **Friday, May 30, 2014**. Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates. EOE.

RIGHT-OF-WAY OPENING PERMIT

Prior to beginning any work within the public right-of-way, a property owner and/or a contractor, is required to obtain a Right-of-Way Opening permit from the City of Woodstock.

Typically, the right-of-way extends to the back side of the sidewalk on each side of the street and includes the sidewalks, tree bank area or parkway, curbs, and the street pavement. Examples of typical work performed by a property owner within the right of way include, repair of a sewer service, repair of a water service, repair and replacement of the driveway approach, sidewalk replacement, or landscape improvements. The City will inspect the location and review the proposed work both before the work begins and upon completion.

To obtain a Right-of-Way Opening permit application, contact the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov

T-BALL/ BITTIE BALL COACHES MEETING

Volunteer coaches for the **Recreation Department's T-ball and Bittie ball** program met on Tuesday, May 20 to get ready for the start of the season. 132 kids have registered for the program.

The Department offers a Tee-Ball program for five and six year olds as a way to introduce boys and girls to baseball. Fundamentals such as catching, throwing, base running, and hitting are stressed.

The Bittie Ball program for six and seven years olds is designed to help prepare participants for the Little League and Girls Softball programs. As with the Tee-Ball program, fundamentals are stressed but game situations are introduced and coaches pitch to the batters.

The season will start with the first practices the week of June 2nd and will continue with games every Saturday until July 19. A special thank you to all of our volunteers!!



**HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: LIGHTEN
THE LOAD ON YOUR HEART**

Healthy weight loss at any time in adulthood is good for your heart, a new study indicates. Findings suggest that losing weight at any age, including middle age and older, can result in long-term cardiovascular health benefits.

Researchers analyzed data in a group of men and women, from birth through age 64. The longer the participants had excess body fat in adulthood, the more likely they were to have heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure, diabetes and narrowing of the arteries later in life, the findings showed.

The investigators also found that people who moved down in weight categories - such as from obese to overweight, or from overweight to normal weight - at any time during adulthood reduced their risk for these conditions. This was true even if they regained weight later.

The study followed individuals for more than 60 years, assessing the effect of modest, real-life changes in levels of body fat, and supports the benefits for public health officials to promote lifestyle habits that help people maintain a healthy weight.



QUOTE

For love of country they accepted death...

-James A. Garfield





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

Officer Sharon Freund will discuss the process of police recruiting and hiring and also present an overview of activity in Beat 23 (the southwest quadrant of the city.)

Coffee with the Chief



Monday, June 9, 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.