



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume II Issue 14

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## **POLICE ANNOUNCE APRIL TRAFFIC INITIATIVE**

The **Woodstock Police Department** has announced that April's Traffic Enforcement Initiative will target Alcohol and Drug Induced Impaired Driving as well as Distracted Driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has designated April as *National Distracted Driving Awareness Month* and *Alcohol Awareness Month*.

Woodstock Police Officers will be conducting highly visible increased enforcement on these issues with the primary goal being to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle crashes and the resulting injuries and fatalities that result from these violations.

For further information or questions regarding this special traffic enforcement initiative, please contact **Sergeant Rob Pritchard** at 815-338-2131 or at [rpritchard@woodstockil.gov](mailto:rpritchard@woodstockil.gov).

## **SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING BEGINS**

The City's Department of Public Works is flushing hydrants again this spring as preventive maintenance. You should not wash clothes when hydrants in your area are scheduled for flushing. Hydrants will be flushed Monday through Friday for a three week period beginning Monday, April 14; schedule follows:

All hydrants west of IL Route 47  
April 14 through April 23

All hydrants east of IL Route 47  
April 24 through May 2

*No scheduled hydrant flushing will take place on Saturdays or Sundays.*

If you have any questions regarding hydrant flushing, or when flushing will occur in your neighborhood, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118, or via e-mail at [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov).

### **IN THIS ISSUE...**

- 2 Street Sweeping**
- 3 Ban Continued**
- 4 Safe Digging Month**
- 5 Recruitment News**
- 6 Tween Event**
- 7 Health & Safety Message**
- 8 United Way Drive**



## **STREET SWEEPING**

Now that the snow has melted, it's time for some spring cleaning and the street sweepers are back on the road. Street sweeping provides two primary benefits to the City. The more obvious benefit is the collection and removal of paper, leaves, and other visible debris that collect in the gutters. This debris can block storm water facilities, causing localized flooding during heavy rains. An equally important, but less visible benefit is the removal of metal particles and other hazardous waste products left by passing vehicles. Although they are virtually invisible, these particles can be extremely harmful to fish and other wildlife if they reach our creeks, rivers, ponds and waterways. Street sweeping is an effective method of removing both the large and microscopic pollutants that collect on City streets. This sweeping also serves as one of our Best Management Practices (BMP) to control and improve water quality.

The City of Woodstock has two street-sweepers; one is assigned to the north half of the City and the other covers the south half. The area around the Square is swept early in the morning on Monday and Friday. Street sweeping is typically conducted from the spring through the fall; however, Public Works will conduct some sweeping during the winter months if the weather permits.

Residents can also do their part to help prevent storm sewer blockages. Please rake up leaves and yard waste, put the materials into a paper yard waste bag, and have it hauled away by the waste disposal company.



## **ILETRSO T-SHIRT SALE HAS BEGUN**

The McHenry County leg of the Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics doesn't take place until the first weekend in June, but you can purchase a commemorative race T-shirt today!

The T-shirts are available in sizes small, medium, large, XL and (a few) 2XL. The cost is \$15.00 and the proceeds will benefit Special Olympics. Please make your check payable to ILETRSO and forward it to the attention of **Sergeant Constantino Cipolla** at the **Woodstock Police Department**. If T-shirts are not your thing, but you'd still like to support Special Olympics, donations are always welcome.

Spring is *finally* here and summer is not far behind; get ready for the warmer weather by purchasing a cool T-shirt for a very good cause – Illinois Special Olympics!

For further information on the T-shirts or how to register to run in the race, please contact Sergeant Cipolla at 815-338-2131 or [ccipolla@woodstockil.gov](mailto:ccipolla@woodstockil.gov).

## **MEETINGS NEXT WEEK**

Tuesday, April 8 – Economic Development Commission, 8:00AM, Council Chambers

**ANOTHER CERTIFICATION FOR OUR  
INSPECTION AND CODE ENFORCEMENT  
TEAM**



Congratulations to **Building Inspector Rob Walkington** for obtaining his International Code Council (ICC) Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector certification. This is an example of the hard work that our entire inspection/code

enforcement team puts into training and certification. Pursuing ongoing training helps our staff to be better prepared to assist the people we serve in all matters regarding properties and building safety.

## QUOTE

Quality is not an act. It is a habit.

-Aristotle

## **EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY BAN ON OVERWEIGHT / OVERSIZE LOADS**

At the beginning of March, 2014 the City of Woodstock imposed a temporary ban on overweight/oversize loads for all roadways under its jurisdiction. This ban is imposed each spring in order to protect the pavement from failure during a period when the subgrade is unstable (i.e., frost, thaw, rain).

The initial ban was set to expire on April 7, 2014. However, the City will be extending the temporary ban on overweight / oversize loads for an additional two weeks based upon weather conditions and the condition of the subgrade.

The new expiration date for the ban on overweight loads for 2014 is now **Monday, April 21**. If you have equipment to move that would result in an overweight load, that movement must take place after the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

Although it is not the City's intent, this temporary restriction prohibiting overweight vehicles could be extended if conditions persist.

If you have any questions, please contact the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)



## APRIL IS SAFE DIGGING MONTH

“Governor Pat Quinn proclaimed April 2014 as Call Before You Dig Month in Illinois.”

Now that spring has arrived, many of us are making plans to begin outdoor projects. As a reminder, no matter how big or small your digging project may be, always call JULIE for utility line locates before you dig. Most electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies are delivering utility services underground. And, state law requires you to call JULIE before digging. Having lines located before digging is the best way to prevent injury and avoid damage to underground wires.

There are four important steps to every safe project:

1. Call JULIE at 8-1-1 or go to their [Web Site](#) (below) to enter your own request;
2. Wait the required amount of time (two business days);
3. Respect the marks; and
4. Dig with care.

Always call JULIE, Inc. before you dig, # 811; Illinois one-call system. Both the phone call and the locate service are free. For further information, go to their website: <http://www.illinois1call.com/>



## GIRL SCOUTS TOUR THE NORTH SIDE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

This past Tuesday afternoon, **Anne George, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent**, lead a plant tour for ten 8- year old girls from a Woodstock Girl Scout Troop. This troop has been working on several water conservation and water treatment badges. The girls, and leaders, were very interested in wastewater treatment and how important it is to our environment. They enjoyed learning how the treatment is a natural process with microorganisms playing an important role in treating the wastewater. This was a great opportunity for the City to display the work that is being completed at our wastewater plants on a daily basis. And, the girls can share this newly-learned information with their families and friends.

We often get interesting questions or comments from some of these tour group participants. At the beginning of the tour, when it was explained that everything that goes down the drain comes here to this plant, one little girl said, “but my Mom told me that when we flushed my dead goldfish down the toilet it was going to the ocean to play with the other fish. Hmm...”

Sorry for ruining your story, mom.



## **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Welcome to the **Woodstock Police Department's** newest **Police Officer, Matthew Prentice!** **Matt** officially starts work today, April 4<sup>th</sup>, then heads off to the Academy for training beginning next week. Also at the WPD, **Robert Luckey** joins his brothers, **Dale** and **Harry**, in the City's team of **School Crossing Guards**.

The position below has been posted and is open for application by qualified candidates:

### **Street Supervisor**

Woodstock seeks experienced candidates for Street Supervisor, responsible for planning, scheduling and implementing a wide range of maintenance and public improvement activities, including all aspects of street construction, repair and maintenance, as well as maintenance and repair of all City vehicles and equipment. Exempt position reports to the Asst. Public Works Director and oversees 12-18 employees in the Street Division. Minimum qualifications: Associate degree in civil engineering, construction management, public administration or related field; five (5) years of street maintenance/construction/utility experience; three (3) years of supervisory experience; and a valid IL Class B CDL with air brakes endorsement and good record, required. 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](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov) no later than: **Friday, May 2, 2014**. Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates. EOE.

The following position remains active until next Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:

### **Water Meter Technician**

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. Position normally works Monday through Friday, 7:00AM – 3:30PM with on call assignments and overtime, as required. Bilingual ability is required for this position.

Minimum Qualifications/Requirements: HS grad or equivalent; 1-2 years' maintenance and customer service experience; valid driver's license and good driving record; bilingual English and Spanish fluency required, including conversational Spanish ability. Starting salary rate: \$15.64 per hour in accordance with current Union contract. Position includes eligibility for full benefits package of group health insurance, benefit time and IMRF retirement plan. To apply, contact [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov) or visit Woodstock City Hall **no later than Friday, April 11, 2014**. EOE.

## **TWEEN'S EVENTS COMING UP AT KINGSTON LANES & THE REC CENTER**

The next **Recreations Department's Tween Night at Kingston Lanes** is Saturday, April 12 from 3:30-5:30PM. For \$10, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders receive unlimited bowling, pop and a bag of chips. Pizza is available for purchase. This is a drop-in program; no pre-registration is required.

The next  *Tween Night at the Rec Center* is Saturday, April 26 from 6:30-8:30PM. For a \$4 drop-in fee, the tweens get to swim, play in the gym, play walleyball or racquetball, or play ping pong.

For more information about the program please visit [www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com](http://www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com).

## **INTERVIEW PROCESS BEGINS FOR WOODSTOCK WATER WORKS**

Twenty **Woodstock Water Works** applicants attended the first portion of the lifeguard interviewing process this past Wednesday evening. Before applicants are invited to an interview, they must pass a Pre Skills Test of swimming 300 yards without stopping, diving and swimming with a rubber brick, and demonstrate how to save a passive and active drowning victim.

Interviews will be held the week of April 9 with those applicants that passed the skills test. **Recreation Program Coordinator Becky Vidales** and **Lifeguard Instructors Leslie Behrns** and **Jen Elliott** administered the test.

## **CITY HALL TOUR**

On Wednesday afternoon, **City Manager Roscoe Stelford** took on a new duty as a City Hall Tour Guide. A local Girl Scout troop came by in the late afternoon to learn more about the City of Woodstock and Woodstock City Hall. Roscoe told them about the many uses of the building since its inception as a school in 1906 up to its current use as our City Hall. Highlights of the tour included having their pictures taken while sitting in the Mayor's chair in the Council Chamber and visiting the old jail cells in the basement. The girls were also treated to a special visit from **Sgt. Cipolla** and **Officer Dempsey** who brought along Jax, the City's new Police dog. Jax received a lot of attention while the officers answered the many questions the girls had about him. A special thanks to Sgt. Cipolla, Officer Dempsey and Jax for stopping by to visit with the Girl Scouts.



**HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: CARS & CALLS JUST DON'T GO TOGETHER!**

We all know how tempting it is to use those extra minutes while driving to make a quick check-in at home or let a friend know our estimated time of arrival, especially with the new available technology that allows hands-free wireless communication in our cars. However, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is, and now research shows that even hands-free cellphone use while driving is simply not risk-free driving.

Eighty percent of U.S. drivers think hands-free smartphones are safer than hand-held ones when they are behind the wheel, the National Safety Council found. But the council's experts analyzed 30 studies and found using a hands-free device while driving is no safer than using a hand-held phone because both are a distraction.

"While many drivers honestly believe they are making the safe choice by using a hands-free device, it's just not true," David Teater, senior director of transportation initiatives at the National Safety Council, said in a news release. "The problem is the brain does not truly multitask. Just like you can't read a book and talk on the phone, you can't safely operate a vehicle and talk on the phone. With some state laws focusing on hand-held bans and carmakers putting hands-free technology in vehicles, no wonder people are confused."

Although 12 states, including Illinois, have banned the use of hand-held cellphones while driving, hands-free devices have not been regulated by any state or municipality, according to the council.

A growing number of cars are being equipped with dashboard systems that allow drivers to make hands-free calls, send text messages, email and even update their social media statuses, the study authors noted.

The researchers found that 53 percent of those polled believe these devices are safe because they were installed by the car's manufacturer. Moreover, 70 percent of those surveyed said they use hands-free devices for safety reasons.

The National Safety Council has designated April as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month," to draw attention to the fact that hands-free cellphone use while driving carries its own risks. Please remember to plan your time accordingly and avoid making calls while driving at all times!



**MAKE A CHANGE IN MCHENRY COUNTY...LEARN ABOUT UNITED WAY OF GREATER MCHENRY COUNTY**

The United Way Employee Campaign Committee, comprised of **Beth Ryan (Library)**, **Monica Amraen (Administration)** and **Jill May (Human Resources)**, is pleased to invite all employees to its United Way Employee Campaign on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers.

The Committee's goal is to secure 20 Pledges for a total of \$4,000. We know we can reach our goal!

Steve Otten, Executive Director of Greater McHenry County, will present the many wonderful things the organization does for our community. We will also have an event day raffle and snacks! There will also be a pledge prize drawing in May for employees who contribute to this worthy organization. **For more information, please see the attached event flyer.**

United Way of Greater McHenry County is the easiest & most powerful way to help your community. A gift to United Way supports programs all across McHenry County. Donations directly impact 44 human service programs offered through 27 local partner agencies, including Family Alliance, Family Health Partnership Clinic, JourneyCare, Home of the Sparrow, Turning Point, etc.

Last year, United Way of Greater McHenry County was able to help 88,000 PEOPLE in the McHenry County area—that's 1 IN EVERY 4 RESIDENTS!

Donations are tax-deductible. You can even direct where your donation will be applied! Donations may be made one-time via check or conveniently deducted from paychecks throughout the year.

We hope you can join us on April 21st!

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Jill May, Human Resources Benefit Analyst, at (815) 338-1172.

# Bull Valley Dog Park



# Grand Opening

**Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Corner of Country Club and Bull Valley Roads

Admission \$5, children 11 and under free

Free for dog park permit holders

Dog park will be closed during scheduled activities but open  
the rest of the day for use by permit holders

Try out the dog park with a special pass good for 9 am to 4 pm on May 3 only.

Available that day at the Bull Valley booth.

Bring water and a bowl for your dog. There is no water on site.

Dogs must be on leash when not in fenced area or participating in an event

## Scheduled Activities

Police Dog Demonstration by the

Woodstock Police Department Canine Unit

Barn Hunt: Test your dog's hunting instinct in a constructed maze

Trainer Demonstrations, Groomers On-Site, Presentations on  
Nutrition and Health issues, Adoptable Dogs from Local Shelters,  
Merchants, Food Vendors, Raffles, Silent Auction and more!

**Other fun offerings are being planned so check us on Facebook to see  
what's new. Or call 815-59-4833**





## UNITED WAY EMPLOYEE CAMPAIGN

**The City of Woodstock is pleased to partner with United Way of Greater McHenry County for an employee fundraising event**

**Join us to learn how your support will lead to meaningful change in the lives of thousands of people right here in our community**

### WHEN

Monday, April 21, 2014  
2:00pm

### WHERE

Woodstock City Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Council Chambers

Note: Refreshments will be served after the event in the Middle Conference Room

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Jill May in the Human Resources Department at (815) 338-1172, ext. 11206

### FIND OUT ABOUT THE UNITED WAY

Steve Otten, Executive Director of United Way of Greater McHenry County, will present on how the organization supports the community and how you can help too!

### PRIZES & REFRESHMENTS

As a thank you for coming to the event and showing your support, you automatically have a chance to win several great prizes during the event-day raffle!

And, of course, don't forget to enjoy the tasty treats!

### INTERESTED IN MAKING A PLEDGE?

Pledge cards will be available on-site if you wish to make a financial pledge.

To encourage & recognize City of Woodstock employees who contribute to this worthy organization, we are pleased to offer the **2014 UNITED WAY PLEDGE PRIZE DRAWING!** Winners will be randomly drawn to win:

- WWW Family Pool Pass for summer 2014
- 2 tickets to a Woodstock Opera House show
- \$30 Chamber of Commerce Gift Card
- 1 additional Floating Holiday

If you made a pledge during 2013, you will be automatically included in the 2014 drawing.

To be eligible for the drawing, pledge cards, or checks, **must be turned in to the HR Department by 5:00pm, Monday, May 5, 2014.**