



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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SAVE THE DATE! WOODSTOCK CELEBRATES SUMMER IN THE PARK



Woodstock's new celebration – Woodstock Celebrates Summer in the Park – will be held July 18 through 20 at Emricson Park. While plans are still in the works, here is an outline of what is planned for the weekend:

Friday, July 18 – *Woodstock Celebrates Music* with a concert under “the big tent” featuring the popular group *Chasin’ Mason*. This Wisconsin-based group is “rooted in country and laced with rock and roll” and has appeared at Summerfest and the Wisconsin State Fair. The beer garden will be open and a variety of delicious food available.

Saturday, July 19 – *Woodstock Celebrates Summer at the Pool* with a special day at Woodstock Waterworks featuring entertainment, games, food, and, of course, fun. There will be a reduced admission fee to the pool that day and all activities are free.

Of course, the fabulous Gavers’ Barndance will be held Saturday evening beginning at 5:00PM under the big tent.

Sunday, July 20 – *Woodstock Celebrates Summer in the Park* with a day of fun at Emricson Park featuring a variety of entertainment, games, food, fun, and activities for all ages including a community picnic—enjoy delicious food from a variety of vendors or bring your own--and concluding with a very special “Movie in the Park” held under the big tent complete with popcorn, candy, and soda.



The City is seeking food vendors and businesses or not-for-profits who would like to participate in this new annual community celebration. And, of course, volunteers are always welcome. Interested? Want to know more? Contact the **City Manager’s Office** at 815-338-4301 or citymanager@woodstockil.gov. You can also follow this event by joining our City Facebook group and checking out the website at www.woodstockil.gov.

“OFF THE RAILS” GETS ON TRACK

Woodstock’s latest eatery, “Off the Rails Restaurant” (OTR), located at 228 Main Street and across from the Woodstock Theatre opened to rave reviews earlier this week. Specializing in Italian cuisine, OTR offers pizza, pasta, soups, salads, sandwiches, and traditional dinner entrees such as “gnocchi quarto formaggio” and “chicken asiago carbonera.” The menu also features a hearty variety of appetizers to whet the appetite and a “junior conductor” menu for the younger crowd. OTR opens for business at 11:00AM and closes at 10:00PM during the week and is open until 1:00AM on Fridays and Saturdays. Call them at 815-527-7425 for your dining pleasure!



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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.

FY2014/2015 BUDGET COMPLETED

At this week's March 18th City Council meeting, the City Administration presented the Council with a balanced FY2014/2015 operating budget for its consideration.

In addition to funding programs and services such as street resurfacing and water treatment, several new programs were proposed. These include a new economic development webpage, a revolving loan fund for small businesses, and a new energy efficient lighting system to enhance the Lighting of the Square.

The statutorily-required Public Hearing on the FY2014/15 Budget will be held as part of the April 1st Council meeting at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Council will conduct its annual Budget Workshop on Friday, April 11th at 1:30PM in the Council Chambers, and the Budget is tentatively scheduled for adoption at the April 15th Council meeting.

The Budget is available for public review at the Public Library and on the City's website, www.woodstockil.gov.



CITY ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SHOPPING CENTERS PROGRAM

The City of Woodstock recently took the opportunity to attend the 2014 International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) Midwest Idea Exchange and Illinois Alliance Program. ICSC is the leading association for all things related to retail development and the shopping center industry. Attendance at the Midwest Idea Exchange afforded the chance to interact and learn from nearly 300 professionals in the economic development, retail leasing and development, and shopping center sectors. As the City continues to pursue new retail development opportunities ICSC membership will play a major role in reaching out to desired retailers and their representatives as well as real estate brokers and developers. Many of the topics discussed at the day-long conference centered on trends and growth in retail development.

THINK SPRING!!!!

With Spring coming (eventually) it's time to start thinking about spring plantings. In order to save some money and conserve some water, consider planting drought-resistant perennials. Following is a list of some native Illinois plants that do not require much water to flourish:



- Black-eyed Susan
- Blazing Star
- Little Bluestem Grass
- New England Aster
- Prairie Coreopsis
- Prairie Dropseed Grass
- Wild Bergamont
- Yellow Coneflower

WOODSTOCK THEATRE NEARING COMPLETION



Renovation and remodeling activities in the main auditorium at the Classic Cinemas' Woodstock Theatre have been completed and approved for use by the City's inspection staff. Final inspections of this portion of the theatre were conducted this past Thursday and all work passed with flying colors. The new and enhanced viewing space, which consists of the original Miller Theatre and movie viewing area, is now available for use by the public and will open today, Friday March 21 - so come on down, grab your popcorn, and catch the latest Hollywood blockbuster!

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday, March 24 – Historic Preservation Commission, Council Chambers, 7:00PM

QUOTE

“Spring is nature's way of
saying:
'Let's party!'”

— Robin Williams

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES MARCH MADNESS CHAMPIONS CROWNED



Pictured are “The Vipers” celebrating their victory in the 5th/6th Grade Boys Tournament Championship last Saturday at Creekside School. The Vipers, who were also league champions and finished the season 12-0, were coached by **Recreation Director Dave Zinnen** and **Rec Center Fitness Instructor Tim Hicks**.



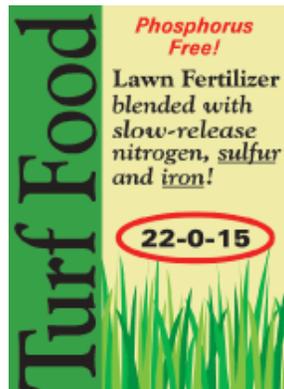
Also pictured is Team Schleutermann that placed second both in the league and tournament finishing with a 10-2 record and were coached by Eric Schleutermann and **Streets Foreman Roger Vidales**.

The finals for the 5th/6th Grade Girls Tournaments also finished on Saturday as Team Prerost defeated Team Brand 28-22 in the championship game at Olson School. The 1st-3rd Grade Boys and 1st-4th Grade Girls Leagues also completed their seasons on Saturday.

A total of 46 teams and approximately 400 kids have participated in the **Recreation Department's 1st-6th Grade Girls and Boys Developmental Basketball Program** this season. Approximately 70 team practices were held throughout the week at various D200 schools and the Rec Center with 23 games played every Saturday utilizing Mary Endres, Olson, Prairiewood, and Creekside Schools.

HELP KEEP PHOSPHORUS OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS

The use of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers contributes to poor water quality. Phosphorus, the middle number on the lawn fertilizer bag, can cause an increase in the flow of phosphorus into lakes and streams. The runoff from the unused phosphorus in lawn fertilizer moves across lawns, roads, and woods into streams causing an increase in the rate and volume of undesirable biological growth. One pound of phosphorus can produce 10,000 pounds of wet weeds and algae. Algae blooms create green lakes, which reduce the quality of the water for fish, wildlife, and humans.



Using phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer is one easy way anyone can contribute to better water quality. When shopping for lawn fertilizer look for the three numbers on the fertilizer bag. The middle number indicates the phosphorus content of the fertilizer, so look for a zero. The first number indicates the amount of nitrogen and the third number indicates the amount of potassium in the fertilizer. Although there is not a ban on fertilizer containing phosphorus, The City of Woodstock encourages residents to comply with this request to ensure long-term protection of our streams and other waterways.

RECRUITMENT NEWS

The following recruitment ends today, 3/21/14:

LPT Playroom Attendant

The Woodstock Recreation Center has an opening for a limited part-time Playroom Attendant to supervise members' children while they use the facility. The position works approximately 8-10 hours per week, with a current schedule as follows: Wed. 3:45 - 8pm Thurs. 5 - 6:45pm, Fri. 5 - 7pm, and Sat. 7:30 - 10:30am. Duties include supervising children in the facility's Playroom (ages 6 months through 10 years old) to ensure their appropriate play, safety and security; light cleaning; and, assisting in other customer service duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: 16 years of age

and older; childcare experience is preferable; ability to obtain CPR/First Aid Certification required (training provided); ability to respond to customer service inquiries in a pleasant, mature fashion required. Starting wage rate: \$8.25/hr.; no additional benefits are provided.

To apply, contact: humanresources@woodstockil.gov or visit the HR Department at Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun St., Woodstock IL. **Application deadline: Friday, March 21, 2014.** The City reserves the right to select only the most qualified candidates for an interview. EOE.

The recruitment below has been posted **internally** to ensure current **Public Works** employees may express interest in this upcoming vacancy, prior to public posting:

Water Meter Technician

Position performs a wide variety of manual labor 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 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., with on call requirements and overtime, as required. Bilingual ability is highly desirable for this position. In accordance with collective bargaining agreement guidelines, this position is first being posted as available to City of Woodstock Public Works employees on an inter-departmental transfer basis only. **Therefore, if you are interested in being considered for this position, please make your interest known by contacting the Director of Public Works (or the Assistant Director in the Director's absence) by 3:30 PM on Wednesday, March 26, 2014.** Interest will require written notification.

RECRUITMENT NEWS CONT'D

A total of 50 applications were received for **Playground Program Counselor**. Seventeen applicants will be asked to participate in group interviews to determine those who may be hired to fill one or two substitute positions available for summer 2014. A total of 23 applications were submitted for certified **Lifeguard** at Woodstock WaterWorks. These candidates will be asked to perform group skills tests on April 2nd, with top candidates asked to interview the following week. Twenty-three applications were also received and are awaiting review by **Public Works** for summer **Seasonal Maintenance Workers**, including submissions by 4 previous seasonal employees.

The recruitment for **Production Manager** at the **Woodstock Opera House** received 31 letters of interest. Sixteen candidates have been invited to complete formal applications and submit these by April 2nd, with interview participants determined following that review.

There were 33 letters of interest in response to the **Economic Development Coordinator** recruitment. Formal applications were sent to 9 of these candidates and interviews will be scheduled with selected applicants based on submissions due back to **HR** by April 4th.

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF BETTER SLEEP



Many of us are feeling that “body clock” upset this time of year as we adjust to turning the clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time. These seasonal transitions do point out

how even minor changes in our sleep schedule can dramatically affect our mood, our physical well-being and our cognitive effectiveness. While certain individuals may function just fine on only a few hours of sleep per night, studies show it’s much more likely that you will function optimally by hitting the sheets earlier. With proper rest, memory and judgment capability both expand substantially.

Concentration is easier to achieve and productivity increases. And of course a nice side effect is also looking good physically, which naturally makes everyone feel better about themselves.

A variety of influences can affect both the quantity and quality of our sleep, but even simple and inexpensive adjustments can make a huge difference, such as:

1. **Control the temperature.** Most people get a better night’s sleep in a cooler space with good ventilation. Ceiling fans or portable air conditioners can help immensely without huge expense.
2. **Reserve your bedroom for sleep.** Trying to work or have heavy discussions in bed complicates the body’s ability to relax and drift off when the time comes. Your bed should be a comfort zone area and not be associated with stress or frustration.
3. **Keep bedrooms free of TVs and computers.** Many folks think watching TV in bed is relaxing, but in fact it stimulates the brain and prevents natural sleepiness. Even the light from someone else’s equipment use can hamper a partner’s slumber.
4. **Keep it quiet.** Even small noises can disrupt vital sleep stages. Try earplugs or use “white noise” generators such as air filters to ensure consistent sound levels.
5. **Block out light.** Blackout curtains or shades can make a huge difference in achieving adequate sleep, especially for those doing shift work or up at night with small children.
6. **Invest in a good bed.** With as much time as we spend there, we deserve a bed that is large enough to move without encumbrances, and one that responds to our own physical needs, not uncomfortably soft or distractingly hard.
7. **Diet and exercise matter, too.** Too much caffeine and sugar, heavy meals late in the day and inadequate physical involvement can all contribute to difficulties, both with going to sleep and staying there.

The benefits of sound sleep are so far-reaching, we owe it to ourselves to make sure we pay maximum attention to this fundamental life necessity.