



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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## WINTER PARK ACTIVITIES



During the winter months, when weather conditions are favorable, Emricson Park (900 W. South Street) offers a skating area on the pond along with a designated area for sledding. Outdoor ice skating is also available on the

pond at Hennen Conservation Area (4622 Dean Street). If you're interested in cross country skiing and snow shoeing, check out the beautiful trails at Emricson Park, Hennen Conservation Area and Ryders Woods (751 E. Kimball Avenue). You'll also find a small "bunny" hill for sledding on the east side of Raintree Park (401 E. Lake Street).

Caution should be used on the ice skating ponds, however, as they are only open for skating when the ice is a minimum of 5" deep. Please heed the signs.



The ice conditions will be monitored by City employees on a regular basis and "No Skating" signs will be

posted when the ice thickness is not adequate for safe skating. For your own safety, please observe the posted signs. Please contact the **Department of Public Works** with any questions, 815-338-6118.

## WINTER PARKING REGULATIONS

The City of Woodstock wants to remind you of the following parking regulations during snow events.



- **NO PARKING** on downtown streets after 11:00PM. after a 3" snowfall or more. Vehicles will be towed!
- **NO PARKING** on all other City streets **any time** after a 3" snowfall or more. Vehicles may be ticketed or towed away!

The City Code also stipulates that regardless of the weather "No person shall park a vehicle on any street for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00AM and 6:00AM" (City Code Section 5.3.16)

### Public Parking Lots

There will no longer be parking bans in the public parking lots, however, vehicles parked in any of the downtown lots may not exceed any 24-hour period. In addition, from time to time, any of the lots may be closed temporarily for maintenance to clear the excess snow. Please observe and obey these temporary closures. Vehicles that are not moved can be towed away at the owner's expense.

If you have any questions concerning parking regulations, please contact the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118.

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**SINGLE FAMILY HOME CONSTRUCTION ON THE RISE!**

A review of single-family home sales activity in Woodstock over the past two years indicates that the number of homes sold in 2013 has increased by approximately 13 percent when compared with the number of homes sold in 2012. The average sales price of said homes also increased during this time period by approximately 2.7 percent. The number of days that most homes were on the market and being advertised for sale dropped by approximately 5.7 percent. All of this suggests a more positive single-family housing market and growing interest in the purchase of single-family homes. As of January 7, 2014, there were 161 single-family homes listed for sale in both Woodstock and in Huntley. The largest number of single-family homes listed for sale was in the McHenry/Johnsburg area (278) and then in Crystal Lake (225).

Single-family home activity in various municipalities in McHenry for the 2012 and 2013 calendar years is provided in the following table and indicates that the number of single-family homes on the market has increased since 2012. Furthermore, the average sales price between 2012 and 2013 has also increased, while the number of days a single-family home has been on the market has dropped (*with the exception of Marengo and Wonder Lake*). This suggests on average that single-family home sales are occurring more quickly and at higher sales prices than in the recent past. The table below provides this information for major communities in McHenry County, and also provides a comparison of sales prices between 2012 and 2013, as well as the number of days a home was on the market and being advertised for sale.

<u>Single Family Sales Activity</u>	<u>Average List Price</u>	<u>Sold in 2013</u>	<u>Average Sold Price</u>	<u>Days for Sale</u>
<b>Algonquin</b>	269,909	<b>343</b>	<b>234,596</b>	<b>115</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		313	216,449	171
<b>Crystal Lake</b>	379,838	<b>752</b>	<b>219,017</b>	<b>130</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		579	202,464	152
<b>Harvard</b>	308,404	<b>132</b>	<b>118,443</b>	<b>132</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		105	111,461	215
<b>Huntley</b>	269,774	<b>499</b>	<b>227,757</b>	<b>127</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		360	214,779	172
<b>Lake in the Hills</b>	279,795	<b>373</b>	<b>197,646</b>	<b>105</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		286	177,104	130
<b>McHenry/Johnsburg</b>	249,743	<b>745</b>	<b>160,726</b>	<b>151</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		593	143,262	175
<b>Marengo</b>	236,719	<b>128</b>	<b>157,512</b>	<b>146</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		120	156,169	120
<b>Wonder Lake</b>	163,737	<b>204</b>	<b>95,385</b>	<b>139</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		173	88,026	135
<b>Woodstock</b>	349,259	<b>331</b>	<b>170,466</b>	<b>150</b>
<i>Same time 2012</i>		292	165,698	159

## **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Welcome to **Zachary Maxwell** who joins the **Public Works Department** this week as **Sewer & Water Maintenance Worker**, and to **Claudia Platt**, who begins work at the **Woodstock Public Library** as **PT Library Desk Assistant**.

## **FINAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WELLNESS DAYS SIGNUPS!**

The City's annual Wellness Days Health Assessment program remains open for registration for all employees, retirees, and dependents age 18 and over. The quick and easy fasting blood draw only takes a few moments, followed by a brief lifestyle survey. All results are completely confidential, with individual detailed analysis sent directly to the participant's home address in a week to 10 days following the assessment.

To register for appointments on either Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, simply visit <http://register.wellness-inc.com> and enter the City's key code and requested personal details for each appointment desired. There are appointments still available for January 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as for January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The basic assessment, and selected additional tests, are offered to all employees, dependents 18 and over, and retirees on the City's health plan, at no charge, and employees receive reduced monthly premium charges for participating. Only the covered employee must participate for all family members to receive the discounted premium. All other employees may pay via check or cash to receive the assessments as well.

Not only is this terrific information to have for personal reference, it is also highly valued by physicians when shared with them by the patient. Many employees have identified health issues through these assessments and have benefited from early diagnosis and treatment before conditions deteriorated.

## **GREAT TURNOUT FOR LAND FITNESS DEMOS**



Pictured are some of the participants who turned out Saturday morning for the **Rec Center's** winter session Land Fitness Demos. Seven classes were demoed including Zumba, Bootcamp RX, Step, Piloxing, RIPPED, Turbo, and Hip Hop Hustle.

Tonight during Friday Family Fun Night additional classes will be demoed including RIPPED at 5PM, Turbo Kick at 5:30PM, Hip Hop Hustle at 6PM, and Young Warriors at 6:30PM. Demoes are free and are a great opportunity for new members to check out various classes or current members an opportunity to try something new.

These classes plus many more are offered throughout the week at the Rec Center. Classes range from the low impact Lite N'Lively to the more vigorous RIPPED, Turbo Kick, Piloxing, HIIT/TRX, etc.

Forty land fitness classes and twenty water group fitness classes are offered per week at the Rec Center including land fitness classes as early as 5:30AM.

Class schedules and descriptions are found on pages 9 and 10 of the Winter City Scene or go to [www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com](http://www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com).

**CAFE AFTER DARK EMPLOYEE  
GATHERING RINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!**

Employees, guests and retirees convened at Stage Left Café this week for a welcome winter warm-up with music, snacks and lots of good company. Thanks to the COW PIEs employee activity committee for conceiving this event, and our very sincere gratitude to **Opera House Managing Director John Scharres, Box Office Manager Daniel Campbell** and the rest of the **Opera House** staff who coordinated all the details and made the evening so enjoyable for all attending!

**REC CENTER BUSY DURING FRIGID WEEK**

Despite frigid temperatures, the Rec Center remained busy throughout the week with over 200 members and walk-ins utilizing the facility per day. Pictured are participants in the 9:15AM Turbo Kick class on Monday.



**WHERE DOES IT ALL GO? NEW 2014  
DEDUCTIONS NOW APPEARING!**

Once again, employees are encouraged to thoroughly review their paychecks next week and double-check their newly-elected deductions for calendar year 2014. These may include new premium co-share amounts for individuals carrying health insurance, in addition to any other benefit programs employees have chosen to receive. Also be sure to check that those benefits requested to be discontinued are no longer being deducted! Note that adjustments in health insurance premiums based on Wellness Days participation will be reviewed and any required changes finalized following that event.

Please don't hesitate to contact **HR Benefits Analyst Jill May** or **HR Director Deb Schober** with any questions or concerns regarding the new benefit deduction amounts.

Also of interest is when to expect employees' annual W2 forms. This document, indicating complete payroll amounts for 2013 for use with tax filing and other financial calculations, is produced as early in January as possible, given related factors. W2s will be inserted into paycheck envelopes, either on January 15<sup>th</sup>, or January 29<sup>th</sup>, depending on final availability.

**Be sure to check these next two paycheck envelopes and retain this important financial document for your personal records.**

## **HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: NEW HABITS MAKE A GREAT NEW YEAR!**

The beginning of a new year is a great time to reinforce those age-old admonitions: eat less (or at least, better); exercise more; recreate responsibly.

It's no surprise to read about studies showing that the bulk of the American population has become just that—bulky. As the Boomers reach middle age and beyond, everything just naturally slows down, including both bodily systems and the will power needed to keep folks active. At the same time, whole generations of “laptop potatoes” have emerged, with young people displaying increasing visual addictions and highly muscular thumbs.

Parents are reminded that we are role models by default, whether purposely instructing our children in positive ways, or merely providing standards of activity that will readily be copied...especially those that are “not” exactly positive!

So do frequently remind yourself, and your family members...a lot about how we feel, how we look, and how others respond to us, is all about daily choices that are entirely under our control. **Fruits and veggies** make energy-inspiring snacks instead of those high-calorie chips and cookies. **Walking** to the Square or the Library provides refreshing exercise and saves on gas costs as well. **Taking time for relaxing activities** such as daily meditation; enjoying music, books or movies; or appreciating nature, can go a long way towards preventing emotional and physical problems caused by the wear and tear of long-term stress. **Start today making good choices for the rest of 2014!**



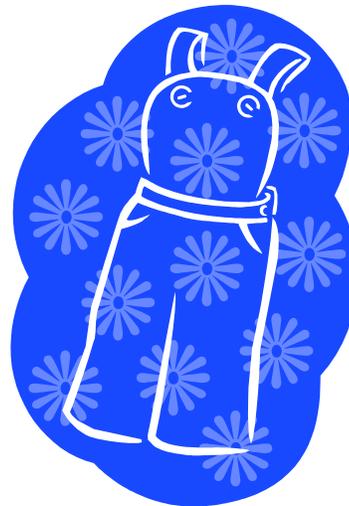
## **MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...**

Tuesday, January 14 - Economic Development Commission-8AM, Council Chambers  
Tuesday, January 14 – Opera House Advisory Commission, 4:30 Opera House  
Tuesday, January 14 – Franks/Althoff Town Hall – 7PM, Council Chambers  
Wednesday, January 15 – Transportation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

## **QUOTE**

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

Thomas Edison





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

A representative from State of Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's office will discuss the topic of Identity Theft.

# Coffee with the Chief



Monday, January 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.