



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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REVISED IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTED



After the City Council approved revisions to Woodstock’s impact fee regulations earlier this week, **Community and Economic Development Department** staff members began taking necessary measures to implement and publicize the changes. Copies of revised Chapter 10 of the Unified Development Ordinance, which contains the impact fee regulations, were distributed to City staff and the City Attorney. The City’s fee handout materials were also revised to include the new changes and, along with the updated version of Chapter 10, have been placed on Woodstock’s web site. Information on the revisions, as well as the impact fee deferral program authorized by the Council, will also be conveyed to members of the building and development community.

WHY ARE THEY DRILLING HOLES IN THE SIDEWALK?

When and where possible, the **Department of Public Works Street Division** is utilizing a process coined “mud jacking” to repair sunken, hazardous sidewalks. The process consists of drilling holes into the sunken concrete slab in order to pump in a mixture of clay and cement, which raises the slab back up to its original position. The Street Division has already successfully accomplished this procedure in several areas throughout Woodstock with great results. The City has found that in some cases, this process saves time and money as compared to physically removing and replacing sidewalk to eliminate trip hazards. Mud jacking is not always the best solution to fixing a trip hazard but it is one very important alternative when it comes to keeping sidewalks safe for pedestrian use. If you have any questions about this procedure, or to report a trip hazard, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



IN THIS ISSUE...

2 Travel Writers Visit Woodstock

3 JULIE

4 Crackdown on Drunk Drivers

5 Adult Basketball at Rec



TRAVEL WRITERS VISIT WOODSTOCK

The City of Woodstock welcomes travel journalists on Friday, August 23. The twenty travel writers coming from OH, LA, NC, MA, NJ, IL, MI, AZ, IN, CA, WA and GA are being

hosted by the McHenry County Convention & Visitors Bureau. The visit is a post-conference event and part of the Travel Media Showcase held this week in Rockford. Their stop in Woodstock includes a tour of the **Opera House**, walking tour of the Groundhog Day movie sites, time to explore the Square and downtown Woodstock, and lunch at La Petite Creperie before heading to Lake County and Chicago's North Shore region.

PRAIRIE RIDGE DRIVE PARK COURTS GET NEW SURFACE

Within the City's park system there are a total of nine basketball courts and nine tennis courts. Two of these courts (one basketball & one tennis court) were constructed in the Prairie Ridge Drive Park in 2003. These courts and others throughout the City help to provide broad-based recreational choices for patrons of the park system. Following the City's plan for scheduled maintenance of park amenities, the tennis court and the basketball court at Prairie Ridge Park were recently resurfaced and restriped. The regular maintenance of these facilities helps to extend their useful life, keep the playing surface safe for play, and it protects the City's original investment. When you have a moment, grab your tennis partner or basketball buddies and come out to enjoy these newly restored courts.



WASTEWATER EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN MINI-CONFERENCE

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Anne George and **Plant Operators Dan Bolda** and **Wayne Baker** recently attended the 7th annual Fox Valley Operators Association (FVOA) Mini-Conference in Carpentersville. The FVOA is dedicated to the education of its members. This day-long event included simultaneous educational seminars, special demonstrations, and vendor exhibits. Woodstock employees participated in seminars related to pressure/temperature instrumentation, lift station maintenance, aerobic digester operation & control, and EPA updates. These conferences are beneficial in keeping plant operators in tune with changing regulations and technology. This group also knows that interaction with others in the same field and the exchange of information on a personal level is sometimes one of the most valuable experiences participants receive at this conference.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Monday, August 26 – Historic Preservation Commission- 7PM, Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 27-Metra Public Forum, 2-4PM, Council Chambers

TOWNSQUARE PLAYERS PRESENTS ...

“Sunday in the Square on Stage” this Sunday, August 25 from noon – 11:00 PM. Come out and support TownSquare Players for a day of fun, theater, magic, and music in the Woodstock Square.

TownSquare Players will debut this event which will be held in the Park in the Square, filled with local talents to entertain you all afternoon and evening. Family-friendly programs will be available from 1:00PM – 5:00PM. Bring your family out for an afternoon of music, story-telling, face-painting, magicians, performers and more. Bands will continue playing on through the evening until approximately 11:00PM. Many restaurants and shops on the Square will stay open and food vendors will be on-site as well.

Event and band schedules will be posted. For further information go to [http://www.bewolfe.org/Current Events](http://www.bewolfe.org/Current%20Events).



JULIE ONE- CALL SYSTEM

In 2002, the City of Woodstock was required by law to join the JULIE Illinois One- Call System; JULIE stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators. This system requires all companies who have and maintain underground utilities to be a part of this notification system. JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground lines.

Anyone planning on digging for any reason is required to call JULIE at 811, prior to the start of excavation, to request locates for the utilities in the areas they want to dig in. JULIE operates a call center where the information is received as to the location of where the excavation will take place and what type of work will be done there. This could be for a water main break, landscaping, installation of a cable drop to a home, etc... Once the call is made the caller receives a Dig #, in which they have 14 days to start their excavation. If you do not call and subsequently damage any underground utilities, you are subject to fines under State law.

The City receives requests from JULIE by e-mail during normal business hours. Outside of normal operating hours on weekdays, and on the weekends, the **Police Dispatchers** receive the notifications from JULIE; they notify the **Department of Public Works** of these requests. There are two types of requests that can be made; one being a normal request in which the City has 2 business days to mark our utilities, or an emergency request which we have 2 hours to respond. On average, the City receives approximately 250 to 350 JULIE requests each month, a majority of them are completed during normal working hours Monday thru Friday.

JULIE now allows you to submit your locate requests on-line. Please go to www.illinois1call.com for all the details.

WOODSTOCK POLICE JOIN CAMPAIGN TO CRACKDOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS

From now through Labor Day, **Woodstock Police** will be out in force as part of the annual Illinois “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” crackdown on drunk drivers. The crackdown includes high-visibility alcohol and seat-belt enforcement throughout Woodstock, and will run from August 16 through September 2, 2013.

The effective statewide crackdown is also supported by national and state paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb drunk driving. Officers will be aggressively looking for drunk drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving drunk. In addition, seat-belt law violators will be ticketed.

Although 0.08 BAC is the illegal limit in all 50 States, far too many people across the nation get behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol. The latest statistics underscore the serious nature of the nation’s continuing drunk driving epidemic. “Every year in Illinois, about one third of all motor vehicle traffic deaths involve one or more drunk drivers or motorcycle operators,” said **Sgt. Dennis Leard**. “We want to remind everyone that getting behind the wheel drunk is a terrible idea. Unfortunately, not only does drinking impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely, it also impairs your judgment and good sense about whether you can, or should drive. If you have any doubt about your sobriety, do not get behind the wheel. If you do chose to drive impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses,” Leard said. “In addition, zero tolerance will be shown for seat belt law violators -- in the front and back seats.”

Sgt. Leard noted that being arrested for driving drunk brings a wide range of negative consequences into one’s life. Drunk drivers face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of jobs. When family, friends and coworkers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

The law enforcement crackdown is funded by federal traffic safety funds through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

For questions, please contact Sgt. Leard at 815-338-2131 x234 or at dleard@woodstockil.gov.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK...

Friday, August 23 – Jazz Festival, 8PM,
Stage Left Café

Saturday, August 24 – Jazz Fest, 9AM-Noon,
Park in the Square

Saturday, August 24-Jazz Fest, 6PM, Stage
Left Cafe

Sunday, August 25 – Sunday in the Square
on Stage, Noon-11PM

Quotation

**Generosity is giving more than you can and
Pride is taking less than you need.**

-Kahlil Gibran

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE TO CONVENE SOON

As we move into the fall season, employees are faced with the annual decision-making time of year, with Open Enrollment for participation in the City's 2014 benefit programs taking place during the upcoming Benefits Fair in October.

As has been widely publicized, this year includes substantial changes in health insurance offerings for almost every organization, with expanded benefits followed by increasing costs, and mandatory enrollment of currently uninsured individuals through the Health Insurance Exchanges now being set up according to Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates.

This year's Benefits Fair will therefore include several opportunities for mandatory employee attendance at presentations concerning necessary forthcoming health insurance changes, as employers are required to provide this information to all employees.

While the City's plan framework may remain largely the same as in the past, there is no doubt that the expanded coverage required by ACA will substantially increase the costs for many of its components, which may in turn dictate additional plan design changes.

In order to more fully understand the many ramifications of these Federally-required changes that are affecting employers, and therefore employees, throughout the country, the City is reinstating an effective peer-communications resource, the Employee Health Insurance Committee.

The Committee is comprised of representatives from each City Department and includes: **City Manager's Office/Roscoe Stelford, HR/Deb Schober & Terry Willcockson, Finance/Ruth Ann Lieb, Public Works/Jane Howie & John Mecklenburg, Police/Jeff Parsons & Fred Spitzer, Recreation/Mary Lynn Lisk & Dave Zinnen, Community & Economic Development/Donna Limbaugh & Donovan Day,**

Opera House/Daniel Campbell & Scott Creighton, and Library/Mary Ryan & Nick Weber.

A preliminary meeting has been scheduled next week between the City Manager and HR Department and representatives from our insurance broker, Corporate Benefit Consultants. At that time, rate quotes and coverage proposals from several insurance providers and third party administrators will be reviewed, and further details will become known to share with the Health Insurance Committee at a date to be announced soon.

ADULT OPEN BASKETBALL OFFERED TWICE A WEEK AT REC CENTER



Pictured are participants in the **Recreation Department's Adult Open Basketball** program held every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7-9PM at the Rec Center. The program draws between fifteen and twenty participants in the summer and twenty to thirty in the winter.

The fee is \$4 for nonmembers and free for Rec Center members.