



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 16

August 16, 2013

## **COFFEE WITH THE MERCHANTS**

This Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, **Woodstock Police Chief Robert Lowen** will host his annual *Coffee with the Merchants* meeting at the **Stage Left Café** at 8:30AM. The meeting is primarily designed to address the specific needs and concerns of merchants and business owners located on the Square, but all merchants are welcome to attend.

**Woodstock Community & Economic Development Director Cort Carlson** will also be on hand to provide information on economic issues in the City and to answer questions.

**Officer Jason Bernstein**, accompanied by **Sergeant Dan Wesolek**, will be present in his capacity as the Permanent Beat Officer for Beat #22, which includes the Square. They will answer questions or address concerns merchants may have.

Chief Lowen appreciates the use of the Stage Left Café and is grateful to **Woodstock Opera House Director John Scharres** for providing both the comfortable space and the delicious coffee for the meeting.

## **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

An extra-big City of Woodstock welcome is extended to **Paul Ruscko**, who assumed leadership as the City's new **Public Works Director** this week. **Paul** spent his first two days on the job meeting and greeting co-workers, and receiving an overview of Woodstock's various City Departments first-hand by touring all City facilities with **Assistant Director Jeff Van Landuyt** and **HR Director Deb Schober**.

A public reception to offer all employees, colleagues and interested community members the opportunity to meet and welcome Paul will be held in Council Chambers at Woodstock City Hall, from 4-6:30PM next Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **WOODSTOCK ON THE SQUARE BENEFIT CAR SHOW**

The Woodstock on the Square Benefit Car Show will return to the Woodstock Square once again this year on Saturday, August 17, from 5:00 to 9:00 PM.



The show will include more than 320 cars, raffles, disc jockey "Double J", food vendors and more! All proceeds from this year's car show will benefit Helping Paws Animal Shelter in Woodstock. Helping Paws will have animals available for adoption during the event.

Whether you're a car aficionado or just looking for a fun way to spend your Saturday evening, come out and enjoy a great night on the beautiful Woodstock Square.

For further information, call 815-338-5108.

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

**2 SAFETRIP**

**3 Bates Park**

**4 City Scenes to Printer**

**5 Health & Safety Message**

**6 Coffee with the Chief**

## **PUBLIC WORKS PREPARES FOR THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF SCHOOL TOO**

The City's **Street Division** is responsible for all signage within the corporate limits of the City with the only exception being those signs on private property and those signs on state routes such as IL Rt. 47, IL Rt. 120, and US Rt. 14. In preparation for the 2013/2014 school year, employees have updated a number of signs that are non-compliant with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Deficiencies in current signs may include, but not be limited to: those that have faded; those that have new regulations for size; and those that do not meet retro-reflectivity requirements.

Updated signs include those delineating 'No Parking', 'Stop for Pedestrians', 'Speed Limit', and 'No Turn', and/or 'Bus Stop'. At the present time, all District 200 school zones have proper signage to start the school year off safely. The **Department of Public Works** will continue to stay abreast of any changes as they arise and will be diligent in posting signs that meet the most current regulatory requirements.

If you have any questions about traffic control signs around Woodstock's school, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815.338.6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov).



## **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A "SAFETRIP"**

According to the Automobile Association of America (AAA), millions of people will hit the highway by the end of this summer for their long-awaited summer trip. AAA anticipates that well over 8 million motorists nationally will require roadside assistance by Labor Day. Don't let your road trip end with family or friends stranded by the side of the highway. AAA suggests that you make sure your car can handle the trip by remembering the acronym "SAFETRIP" and complete these simple tasks:



- Service your battery
- Air conditioning check
- Fluids for windshield washer/wipers
- Emergency roadside assistance kit
- Tire inflation and condition
- Regular maintenance
- Inspect under the hood: belts, hoses and fluids
- Prepare and plan ahead

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

Tuesday, August 20 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers

Wednesday, August 21-Transportation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

### **PARKS DIVISION COMPLETES PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION AT BATES PARK**

In order to provide new and safe facilities for our parks users, the City's **Parks Division** has completed the removal and replacement of playground structures at Bates Park. Playground structures at this particular site were originally installed in 1994. When equipment has been in use this long, the availability of replacement parts decreases and the overall condition of the play features decline from use and environmental exposure. As a result, the request to replace this equipment was approved and funds were appropriated in the FY13/14 budget. Parks Division employees completed this work this past Wednesday and found children waiting in line to be the first to use the new equipment. All work associated with this equipment replacement project was completed by employees of the Parks Division. No other playground structures are slated for replacement in 2013. If approved, Tara Drive Park play structures will be replaced in 2014.



### **IT'S THE END OF THE SUMMER GRILLING TIME ... BUT BE CAREFUL!**

For many families, their yard is merely an extension of their indoor living space. It's an outdoor living room, play room, and even dining room. Make sure your yard is a fun, and safe place to play, and be careful when grilling those delectable food items by taking these easy actions:



- 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 build of dangerous and deadly carbon dioxide.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises that you keep your grill far from anything that can burn, such as your home, your car, dry vegetation, shrubs, and children or pet activity areas.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by establishing a 3-foot "safety zone" around the grill, and 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 children 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.

### **FLEET MAINTENANCE DIVISION COMPLETES NEW FORD UTILITY SQUAD CONVERSION FOR PD**

As in years past, the **Fleet Maintenance Division** is called upon to complete the up-fitting work required to prepare the new squads for service. This year is no exception, with the addition of four new vehicles to their fleet. The one difference this year was the addition of a Police Utility Vehicle that will be used by the Officer in Charge for each shift. This vehicle will be more of a command unit capable of carrying all their less-than-lethal equipment at all times. It is also equipped with a Starcom radio which allows the officer to talk with all law enforcement agencies in the state from car to car at all times.

Working with the Police Department, **Fleet Mechanic Rob Lamz** completed the up-fitting work on this vehicle. Since this is the first SUV style vehicle in the fleet, all new equipment was needed for this vehicle which included the prisoner cage, computer docking station, rear lighting, radio equipment and main center control console. Rob completed the work on this vehicle which is now in service. He has received many positive comments from the officers that drive the vehicle daily to protect the safety of the community.

Rob has also completed the up-fitting work on two of the new Police interceptors which are in service. This requires the same labor-intense work of removing lighting, radios, prisoner cages and computer equipment from vehicles taken out of service and installing it in the new vehicles. By utilizing the Fleet Division for this work, the City is able to save of \$1,800 per vehicle. The Fleet Division expects to have the final car completed and in service sometime in September.

### **ALL CITY SCENES OFF TO THE PRINTER**

After a series of corrections and revisions, the Summer City Scene has been forwarded to the printer. The City Scene will be direct mailed August 29 to over 15,000 residents in the 60098 zip code and the west side of Wonder Lake (District 200 boundaries).

The 64-page brochure is compiled by the **Recreation Department** with submittals from various City departments. In addition to the general information about City services that are published in each edition, there is also program information for the Challenger Learning Center, **Opera House, Library, NISRA, the Recreation Center, and the Recreation Department.**

Special thanks to **Recreation Coordinator Alan Dunker** for coordinating various projects while also spearheading the coordination of the Fall City Scene.

## Quotation

**Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing flawlessly.**

**-Robert Schuller**

## **HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: ENERGIZE ME!**

Whether we're 15 or 50, few of us can say we wouldn't like to feel a little (or a lot!) more energetic when facing the many duties of our daily lives. So try these proven tips:

**Color Me Awake**—a burst of color really does wake us up and help us start the day feeling positive; hot colors such as red, orange and yellow work especially well.

**Chill Out**—after soaking up a nice hot shower, turn the water to cold for a quick final finish and a true energy zing.

**Light Up My Life**—sleep studies show that even indirect light on a cloudy day can provide feelings of energy. If you can get outdoors within 15 minutes of waking, and face east for 20 minutes, you'll be ready to tackle the rest of your day.

**All That Jas**—jasmine fragrance increases beta waves, which makes us feel more awake and alert. Try keeping a small bottle in your desk or purse, use air freshener or hand lotion with this lovely scent.

**Tickle Me Elmo**—laughter doesn't just make us feel better emotionally, it actually makes us feel better physically as well. Whether your "giggle of choice" comes from a cartoon or humor columnist in the morning paper, by chatting with funny friends, or by visiting a favorite video site, make an effort to incorporate humor into every day.



## **UPCOMING EMPLOYEE EVENTS...**

**City Picnic: Return of the Chili Cook-Off**—Sunday, September 8th, 2 – 8PM at the Main Pavilion in Emricson Park. Food & fun for the whole family!

**Family Fitness Fun at the Rec Center**—Pizza Party Swim & Gym, Saturday, November 16th, 5 – 9PM.

**Café After Dark Merry Mixer**—employees and spouses only, at Stage Left Café, 5PM or after, on Thursday, January 9th.

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK...**

**Saturday, August 17** – *Keep the Beat Poker Run, 11AM, , Moose Lodge*

**Saturday, August 17** – *Wasted Plains, 10AM, VFW*

**Saturday, August 17** – *Jailbreakers Stroll Through the Square, 1PM, Woodstock Square*

**Saturday, August 17** – *Benefit Car Show, 5-9PM, Woodstock Square*

**Saturday, August 17** – *Holly Keyl-Jones Benefit, 7PM, Ortmann's*

**Thursday August 22** – *Jazz Fest, 8PM, Stage Left Cafe*

**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*



# Coffee with the Chief

You're invited to a meeting of Square merchants hosted by Chief Robert Lowen. Share a cup of coffee with the Chief and let him know what's on your mind. City Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, Police Sergeant Dan Wesolek and Officer Jason Bernstein will also be in attendance to answer your questions.

Tuesday, August 20, 2013  
8:30 a.m. at  
Stage Left Café  
125 Van Buren Street

For further  
information, please  
call 815-338-6787.