



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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## **MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS LIFTED**

Due to last year's drought, the City implemented mandatory water restrictions in early July of 2012 as allowed by City ordinance. As provided for by the color-coded tier system implemented by the ordinance, the water-use condition was changed to "yellow," allowing for a mandatory even/odd schedule for outside water usage. Woodstock was one of the first communities to place any restrictions and it is evident that the community cooperated in restricting water use. For example, by August of 2012, water use was down 0.3% over the same period in the previous year. Implementation of the restrictions and the community's efforts enabled the City to avoid any significant failures, loss of water pressure, or lack of adequate supply for fire protection during the remainder of 2012. This drought condition lasted well into the winter months with no real relief until late spring of 2013.

At this time, water levels in the City's drinking water wells have returned to normal levels, and the system is able to meet demand. Consequently, based upon current conditions which include cooler than normal temperatures and frequent, or at least occasional, rainfall, the mandatory restricted water use has been lifted and the condition moved to "green." This requests, rather than mandates, the even/odd schedule for outside usage. Of course, because no one can definitively predict what this summer will bring and water is a precious resource, the City asks everyone to be cognizant of their water usage, observe the requested even/odd schedule, and conserve water whenever possible.



## **POLICE ANNOUNCE JUNE TRAFFIC INITIATIVE**

The **Woodstock Police Department** will engage in a special traffic enforcement initiative targeting center lane/median/no passing zone violators during the month of June. This violation occurs when a vehicle travels within the center turn lane and the striped area preceding the left turn lane at an intersection.

As always, the enforcement effort is intended to educate motorists as well as reduce the number of traffic collisions that occur on our city streets because of center lane/median/no passing zone violations. The ultimate goal is to change driving behaviors and encourage motorists to voluntarily comply with traffic laws.

Any questions regarding the initiative should be directed to **Sergeant Dennis Leard** at 815-338-2131 or [dleard@woodstockil.gov](mailto:dleard@woodstockil.gov).



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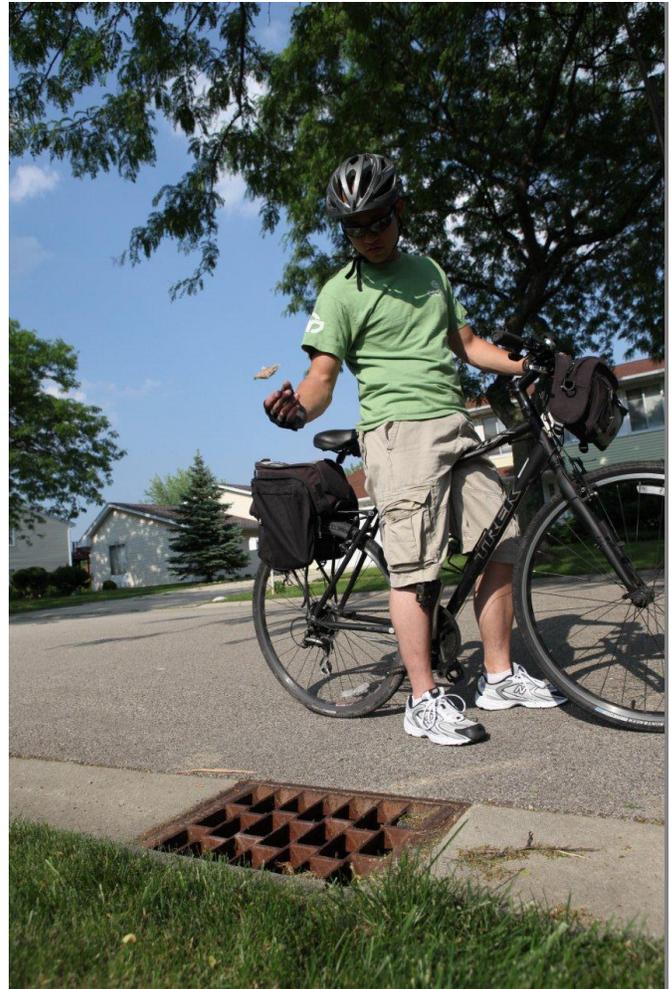
### **EARLY SEASON MOSQUITO CONTROL**

The City has geared up for the 2013 mosquito season through the implementation of periodic larvicide applications in road-side storm-sewer inlets and structures and publicly-owned areas with open water. This year the City of Woodstock has once again contracted with Clarke Mosquito Control to assist with mosquito abatement. Throughout the season you may notice Clarke technicians bicycling throughout the City depositing pellets into public storm drains and catch basins in hopes of controlling the mosquito population before they become adult insects. Besides delivering integrative & environmentally responsible mosquito control, it is also Clarke's goal to reduce their footprint on the environment. Clarke's Environmental Plan states, *"The increased use of bicycling creates a more sustainable environment by reducing traffic congestion, vehicle exhaust emissions, noise, and energy consumption."*

According to Clarke Mosquito Control, individuals can take the following steps to protect themselves against infection and assist in the fight against West Nile Virus:

- If outdoors when mosquitoes are active, dress in light-colored, long-sleeved clothing, long pants and socks when outdoors during prime mosquito hours. Apply mosquito repellent with DEET to clothing and exposed skin in accordance with label directions.
- Discard any outdoor container that might hold water, and empty water from wading pools and birdbaths once a week.
- Keep grass cut short and shrubbery well-trimmed around the house so adult mosquitoes will not hide there.
- Since dead birds (crows, blue jays and raptors) can be the first warning that West Nile Virus is present in the area, report dead birds on your property to the McHenry County Health Department (815) 334-4585.

Information about mosquito control or the treatments being utilized can be found on their website at [www.clarkemosquito.com](http://www.clarkemosquito.com).



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

Tuesday, June 18 – Opera House Advisory Commission, 4:30PM, Opera House

Tuesday, June 18 – City Council, 7:30PM, Council Chambers



### **CONGRATULATIONS TO DONOVAN DAY!**

**Donovan Day**, Code Enforcement Officer and Assistant to the Director of Community and Economic Development, has successfully graduated from Leadership Greater McHenry County (LGMC)!

Started in 2004, Leadership Greater McHenry County addresses a critical need of every community: the fostering and development of community members who can serve as effective leaders are concerned for all of the public processes. The mission of LGMC is to educate and inspire professionals to engage in community leadership, and to ensure that local leaders are equipped and recruited to move into a variety of leadership positions on boards, commissions, and volunteer groups, as well as to advance within their sponsoring organizations. Donovan's ten month participation in the LGMC program focused on three primary objectives:

- Learning about community issues and processes as well as a greater awareness of opportunities.
- Acquiring personal and professional growth through the study and analysis of exemplary leadership.
- Realizing the benefits and rewards of community trusteeship and stewardship, and the value of diversity and cultural competencies.

Again, congratulations to Donovan for devoting considerable time and attention over the last several months and completing this rigorous and valuable educational program.

### **WPD WINS TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGE AWARD**

The **Woodstock Police Department** finished in Second Place in the *2012 Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Challenge* in the Municipal 36 – 50 Employee Category.

Congratulations to all WPD personnel who contributed to this effort and to **Sergeant Dennis Leard** for organizing the endeavor.

### **OUTDOOR SWIM LESSONS BEGIN**



The first session of swim lessons began last week at Woodstock Waterworks despite the cool temperatures. A job well done by the thirteen instructors that effortlessly taught nineteen classes of

Level I-Level VI in the mornings and evenings. The pool is heated at a warm 82 degrees, but the air temperature was rarely over 65 degrees.

Spots are filling quickly in the next three sessions; June 17-June 27, July 8-18, July 22-August 1.

### **WPD PARTICIPATES IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN**

**Woodstock Police Department** personnel participated in the Special Olympics Torch run on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Donations raised benefit the Illinois Special Olympics.

**Sergeant Constantino Cipolla** organized the department's participation and ran in the event collecting \$245.00 in donations. **Mani Parsons**, wife of **Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Parsons**, ran and raised \$350.00 in donations. **Officer Jason Bernstein** drove the group and Detective Sergeant Parsons took pictures of the event.

Congratulations to each of you for participation in this worthwhile cause!



### **PLAYGROUND PROGRAM COUNSELORS PREPARE FOR A FUN AND SAFE SUMMER**

Monday, June 3 was the kick off training for the **Recreation Department's Playground Program** staff at City Hall. All twenty-four staff members met with **Human Resources Director Deb Schober** to fill out tax forms, information sheets, and discuss personnel policies. Staff were re-certified in First Aid and CPR and trained in disability awareness by NISRA staff.

The rest of the week was filled with team building, learning new games, songs and crafts for the counselors led by the **Playground Program Supervisors Emily Draffkorn and Elissa Limbaugh**.

At the end of the week, everyone headed out to the new location for the program, Olson Elementary School, to set up supplies and prepare for the program.

On Thursday our *Counselors in Training* met the counselors and toured the school facility. This year, the program has a record number of CITs, with 24 enrolled. The CITs are an important part of the program and serve as an extra safety measure for the little ones in the morning. The CITs met with supervisor **Emily Draffkorn**, to go over expectations and daily responsibilities, to prepare them to start volunteering next week!

The Playground Program Counselor Meet and Greet Open House was held at Olson Elementary School. During this program, participants and their parents met their counselor, picked up an information packet, found their meeting point for camp days and asked any questions they had about the program.

The 56th year of the Playground Program started Monday, June 10 with over **300 kids** registered. Children ages 4-7 attend from 9AM-Noon and Children ages 7-12 attend from 1-4PM. Registration is still available for this fun and safe summer program. Please contact the Recreation Department at (815) 338-4363 for more information.



### **A BUSY SEASON FOR THE PLAYGROUND PROGRAM HAS BEGUN**

Pictured are participants in the **Recreation Department's morning Playground Program** group during the all-group sing-a-long.

This year there are over 300 children ages four to twelve years old registered. The program runs Monday through Friday for seven weeks at Olson Elementary School. The four to seven year-olds meet from 9AM-noon followed by the eight to twelve year-olds from 1-4 PM.

Several guest speakers are lined up to speak at the program to help teach the kids a variety of new things. Thanks to the **Woodstock Fire Department** and the **Woodstock Police Department** who are once again taking time out to attend the program.

### **BLOCK PARTIES**

The Department of Public Works is happy to assist residents that wish to host a neighborhood or Block Party. A Block Party application form must be submitted, with required signatures, to Public Works at least seven (7) days prior to the requested date of the Block Party. Applications are reviewed and approved on a first-submitted, first-approved basis (there is no fee involved). Once approved, Public Works will provide barricades to close the public street during the event (if desired, by the resident) along with picnic tables and trash cans for event use. For further information, or to schedule a Block Party, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118.



### **NEW BABY NEWS AT WPD**

Sergeant Josh Fourdyce and his lovely wife, Angela, are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Merrik Jared, born on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Merrik weighed in at 8 ½ lbs. and was 21“in. long. Big sister Aiyana who is 2 ½ years old is reportedly happy with her brother. Everyone is home and doing fine.

Congratulations to the Fourdyce family and Welcome Merrik!

### **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Two very well-qualified candidates were invited back for second interviews for **Finance Director** this past week, with participation by **Department Directors**, and questions from the entire **Finance Department** staff. Based on thorough discussion following these sessions, it was determined that neither of these candidates reflected the best possible combination of skills, experience and management style that the City seeks in this pivotal role. Therefore, recruitment materials are being revised and this process will be reopened in the days ahead.

Interviews with 5 candidates for **Public Works Director** were held this week. The top 2 candidates will be invited back for further interview sessions soon.

Applications from CDL-licensed **Maintenance Worker** candidates are under review and a selected number will be invited to interview, following determination of the internal transfer to fill the vacant **Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator I** position.

**Woodstock Opera House** has an opening for **LPT Facilities & Events Workers** to assist with staging of shows; build/repair props and scenery; run lights/sound; and help maintain facility. Requires physical strength and flexibility, and excellent customer service skills. HS grad or equiv., 18 or older. 10-15 hrs./week, days or weekends, \$9.57/hr. with no additional benefits. To obtain required application materials, email: [humanresources@woodstockil.gov](mailto:humanresources@woodstockil.gov), or call the HR Dept., Woodstock City Hall, 121 W. Calhoun St., 815-338-1172. Deadline to apply: Friday, 6/28/13.



One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, One Nation, evermore! - Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.



Happy Flag Day!

### **OLSON PARK SPRAY POOL**

Now that Woodstock schools are dismissed for the summer, Woodstock's children will be looking for different ways to beat the heat and discover free fun! One such park amenity is the Olson Park spray pool that is on for children's enjoyment throughout the summer when the air temperature is 80 degrees or hotter.

In keeping with the City's policy of water-conservation education and implementation, the spray pool will be turned on daily, when the temperature is 80 degrees, between the hours of 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. One exception to this rule is on Wednesdays when the **Recreation Department's Playground Program** spends the morning at Olson Park. On Wednesdays, from June 12 through July 24, the spray pool will be turned on at 9:15 a.m. regardless of the temperature. If the temperature is below 80 degrees at noon on Wednesdays, the spray pool will be turned off for that day. If the temperature is above 80 degrees at noon, the spray pool will remain on until 3:00 p.m.

For questions regarding the spray pool, Olson Park, or any of the City's parks; please contact the **Department of Public Works** at 815-338-6118 or [pwdept@woodstockil.gov](mailto:pwdept@woodstockil.gov)

### **ANGELO'S RESTAURANT IMPOSSIBLE EPISODE TO AIR JUNE 23**

Tune in as Angelo's on the Woodstock Square undergoes its transformation on national television. The Restaurant Impossible episode is scheduled to air at 9:00PM on Sunday, June 23 on the Food Network. See what happened behind the scenes and how the crew dealt with the unceasing rain, cold and generally nasty weather. Downton Abbey has nothing compared to the drama on the Woodstock Square. "A must see!" "Five stars!" "Two thumps up!"

### **HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: DISTRACTED DRIVING CAUSES HIGHWAY HAZARDS**

Each day in the United States, more than nine people are killed and more than 1,000 are injured in crashes that involve a distracted driver, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An increasing cause is use of devices such as speech-based technologies in cars that can overload drivers, taking their attention from the road and making an accident more likely.

"Hands-free is not risk-free, even though three out of four motorists believe it is," said Peter Kissinger, president and CEO of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. Multi-tasking can lead to "inattention blindness," he said, which occurs when people are concentrating on one thing and don't see other things going on around them. "You can literally look at something and not see it," he said. "We have seen that situation occur in the real world. We have seen people being engrossed in a cellphone conversation and run right through a red light and afterwards don't even remember seeing the red light."

Researchers have found that reaction time slows and brain function is compromised as mental workload and distractions increase. Drivers check the road less and miss cues that can result in not seeing things right in front of them, such as stop signs and pedestrians. Behaviors like listening to the radio were a very mild mental distraction, which researchers classified as a level-one distraction, Kissinger said. Voice-activated technology, however, was very distracting at level three, which is considered the highest risk.

A CDC expert agreed that hands-free devices don't solve the problem of distracted driving. "You still have the distraction that your mind is taken off of the driving," she said. "Anything that takes your hands off the wheel or your mind off the road poses a risk to safety."

Bottom line: don't take unnecessary risks while driving. If you must make calls while on the road, pull over and stop the car before doing so!