



# CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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## **GOT DRUGS? SAVE THE DATE!**

On Saturday, September 29, 2012, the **Woodstock Police Department** will again participate in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the public parking lot (east side of the building.)

Start your fall cleaning now in your medicine cabinets, cupboards and drawers. Any and all prescription or over-the-counter drugs will be accepted if they are in pill form (no liquids or syringes.) You can bring in as few or as many as you have – there is no minimum or maximum. The drugs will be accepted no questions asked and will then be properly destroyed by the DEA in an environmentally safe fashion.

If you cleaned out your own medicine cabinet last time, help your parents or grandparents clean out theirs this time around. The service is free and your privacy is protected. You don't even have to get out of your vehicle – you can drive-by and drop off and be on your way.

For further information, please call Tamara Reed at 815-338-6787 or visit [www.nationaltakebackday.com](http://www.nationaltakebackday.com).

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## **PAVEMENT STRIPING CONTRACTORS BEGIN NEXT WEEK**

The City's 2012 Pavement Marking Program is scheduled to begin this Monday, September 24 and



run for approximately two weeks assuming favorable weather conditions. Crews will be repainting existing lines and painting at new locations to delineate crosswalks, stop bars, traffic

lanes, parking stalls, and handicapped locations. The first priority for the stripers will be areas around the schools, followed by the downtown. Be advised that this necessary work may result in temporary traffic delays and both the City and its contractor hopes that motorists will exercise caution in areas where work is being completed. The replacement of paint markings improves safety for both motorists and pedestrians, helps to control and direct the flow of traffic, and improves access and efficient use of parking spaces and parking lots. If you have any questions or if you would like more information, please contact the **Department of Public Works @ 815 338-6118**.

## **CLASSIC CARS OF MCHENRY COUNTY**

Al Wilson, City Engineer, attended a pre-construction meeting on September 19, 2012 with the owner of "Classic Cars of McHenry County" to discuss construction and permitting requirements for a proposed 5,000 square foot facility that will be located in the Cold Headers Industrial Subdivision on McConnell Road. This business restores vintage collectable cars for clients throughout the United States.

Construction is expected to begin immediately and will be completed in approximately 3 months.

## LIBRARY NEWS



### **Computer Classes for Job Hunters**

New computer classes geared to help job seekers will be added to the line-up at **Woodstock Public Library** for the fall. The new classes are made possible through a grant from the McHenry County Community Foundation. The classes are

specifically designed to help job seekers gain the necessary skills to fill out online job applications and create resumes.

These classes will be held on Saturdays and compliment the classes already being offered by the library. The new classes include Basic Computer Skills on Saturday, October 6, 2012 from 9:30 a.m. -12:30 a.m. Beginning Internet class on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Beginning Microsoft Word on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Register for the classes online at [woodstockpubliclibrary.org](http://woodstockpubliclibrary.org) or by calling the library at [815-338-0542](tel:815-338-0542).

### **Mums the Word Fundraiser**

The Friends of **Woodstock Public Library** raised over \$1,200 during their Mums the Word Fall Plant Sale. The money raise will go to support the library by paying for special library programs, software, and large print books.

## MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AUCTION



The McHenry County Council of Governments (MCCG) will hold its annual surplus vehicle and equipment auction from twenty-four municipalities all over the county. The auction will take place at the McHenry County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 22, 2012 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

For a listing of items available, purchase requirements and other particulars, please visit the website of the auctioneer, Gordon Stade, at [www.gordonstadeauctions.com](http://www.gordonstadeauctions.com)

## MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Monday, September 24 – Historic Preservation Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

Wednesday, September 26 – Economic Development Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

### **RECRUITMENT NEWS**

Welcome to 3 new SEDOM Education to Careers work program students at the Woodstock Recreation Center: **Stephanie Rutkowski, Dan McEwan and Belinda Dedual.**

Welcome also to 3 new employees at the Woodstock Public Library: **LPT Desk Assistant Diane Strzelecki, and LPT Library Shelves Pat Bergeson and Rebecca Williams.**

### **THE FAIR IS COMING, THE FAIR IS COMING**

The City's annual employee Open Enrollment Benefits Fair has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Woodstock City Hall. Be sure to check out the information provided with next week's paychecks to maximize your participation in the City's benefit programs for next year.

Employees are strongly encouraged to review their current benefit and deduction elections for 2012; discuss the elections with other "decision makers;" and, consider any changes they may wish to make for 2013 when visiting the Benefits Fair. The Fair is a great opportunity to talk to service provider representatives, ask questions, customize benefits to specific family needs and complete 2013 enrollment forms.

Many benefits qualify for pre-tax Flexible Spending Account (FSA) deductions and those completed forms will be due to the **HR Department** no later than Monday, November 5, 2012 for benefits effective January 1, 2013. All employees who participate in health insurance coverage and other eligible benefits must sign the open enrollment form annually.

To refresh information about the benefit coding used on paychecks, it is as follows:

FLE—Employee health & dental insurance (variables: single or family; wellness day

participation or not; represented employee or non-represented)

FLA—AFLAC supplemental medical insurance (employee-paid)

FLD—FSA Dependent Care commitment (pre-tax up to \$5000; forfeited if not used)

FLH—FSA Health Unreimbursed Expenses commitment (note: new lower limit per Federal regulations for 2013; pre-tax up to \$2500; forfeited if not used)

FLI—IMRF optional life insurance (NCPERS, employee-paid)

FLL—Lincoln life insurance optional buy-up (employee-paid)

FLV—VSP vision insurance (employee-paid)

Contact the **HR Department** with any questions or just bring them along to the Benefits Fair on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.



### **COOKING WITH KIDS**



A popular “no-cook,” *Cooking Class* for kids ages four to eight started this week through the **Recreation Department** on Tuesdays at the Rec Center.

Participants will get to enjoy the fruits of their labor including breakfast, snacks, lunch, and of course, dessert, that will be cooked up during

this four-week class.

This interactive class teaches participants the basic cooking skills for even the smallest of chefs while also learning about kitchen safety, healthy eating habits, and culinary delights with instructor Jen Bigler.

### **TWEEN NIGHT SAT AT EDGETOWN BOWL**

The second **Tween Night** of the fall session is Saturday, Sept. 22 at Edgetown Bowl from 6-8PM. For just \$10, kids in grades 5-8 will get three games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza, and pop. This is a drop-in program so payment will be accepted at the bowling alley.

Tween Nights were started during the 2011 season at Woodstock Water Works by **Recreation Coordinator Becky Vidales**. Due to the popularity of the program, the **Recreation Department** has been expanded it to include events throughout the year.

### **MAPLES MOVES FORWARD**

After the final plat of the latest phase of the “Maples at the Sonatas” was approved by the City Council earlier this month, Wilcox Development (*the developer*) is now in the process of recording the plat and starting efforts to schedule the installation of required public improvements. The third phase of the Maples’ project will provide for the creation of 11 lots which will be marketed with homes for individuals 55 years of age or better. According to the developer, there has been a significant interest in many of these lots and several are under contract. The new residences will share similar architectural and landscaping features with previous homes built in this development.



### **WOODSTOCK CELEBRATES NATIONAL INDOOR PLANT WEEK**

Earlier this week, a number of departments at City Hall were the recipients of local flower shops' celebration of National Indoor Plant Week. National Indoor Plant Week was established to increase public awareness of the importance of indoor plants and their many attributes. Benefits derived from indoor flora can assist in noise reduction, the lessening of stress, additional oxygen and decreased carbon dioxide.

Statistics have also proven that indoor plants increase morale in the workplace and demonstrate a direct relationship between health complaints and plant installations. Health improvements in offices where interior plants exist are significant and research shows a large reduction among employees of fatigue, headache, and coughs, as well as increased overall well-being. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that plants have positive psychological impacts and that employees exposed to interior plant settings demonstrate better attitudes and more positive emotions such as happiness, friendliness and assertiveness.



### **FUN FAT FACTS**

We hear a lot about bad fats these days. There's certainly enough of them in the foods we love to eat that we should all consider increasing our awareness, make sincere attempts to revise our taste preferences and limit our dietary intake of bad fat foods.

Effective ways to do this include bravely reading those tiny-print labels and staying away from those featuring "partially hydrogenated oils," the ones prevalent in cookies, chips, crackers, margarine and fried foods. Other obvious foods to avoid include saturated fats found in red meat, processed meats, butter, cheese and ice cream. While it may be the trendy "treat du jour" in the food world today, better advice is: Ban the Bacon!

But there are also some fats that are truly good for us, ones that actually help lower the high LDL cholesterol levels caused by their bad fat cousins. These include polyunsaturated fats found in fish, flaxseed, walnuts and canola oil, and monounsaturated fats such as olive oil, peanut oil, avocados and most nuts. Make these happy fats your new best friends!



Like everything else in life, a good diet is really all about moderation and balance. A burgers-one-day and salads-the-next plan at least provides a reasonable start. Once you start eating better, and subsequently feeling better, the rest becomes easy!

## **Quote**

"I'm a greater believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it" – Thomas Jefferson

**EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEKS OF SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**

Please stop by and congratulate the following employees on their anniversary with the City.

Employee	Department	Day	# of Years
Rob Pritchard	Police	September 9 <sup>th</sup>	18 Years
Tad Lester	Parks	September 9 <sup>th</sup>	12 Years
Eric Schmidtke	Police	September 9 <sup>th</sup>	14 Years
Tamara Reed	Police	September 11 <sup>th</sup>	12 Years
Ruth Ann Lieb	Finance	September 13 <sup>th</sup>	8 Years
Daniel Henry	Police	September 17 <sup>th</sup>	14 Years
John Mecklenburg	Parks	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	23 Years
Adam Garrison	Water Treatment	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	7 Years
Bruce Hilstrom	Police	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	21 Years
Wayne Baker	Wastewater Treatment	September 29 <sup>th</sup>	26 Years

A special thank you to all of these employees for their tireless efforts and commitment to excellence, which makes the City of Woodstock a wonderful place to work and raise a family, as well as for all of the future years of service still to come.

**SUDOKU PUZZLE**

Sudoku is the number placing game taking the world by storm. The rules of Sudoku are simple. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

**This Week's Puzzle!**

9	7	6	3	5			4	
				6			7	
		2		7		5		1
	5	3		2				4
2	8						1	9
1				4		3	5	
7		5		9		8		
	2			1				
	6			8	2	1	3	5

**Solution: Last Week's Puzzle**

6	2	4	5	9	3	8	1	7
1	3	8	7	2	4	6	5	9
5	7	9	1	6	8	2	4	3
8	1	3	6	5	2	7	9	4
7	4	5	8	3	9	1	2	6
2	9	6	4	1	7	5	3	8
4	6	2	3	7	5	9	8	1
3	5	7	9	8	1	4	6	2
9	8	1	2	4	6	3	7	5