



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



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DON'T FORGET TO BUCKLE UP!

A reminder that May 11th marked the beginning of the nationwide "Click it or Ticket" campaign. There are mass media efforts at the State, Federal and Local level during the entire month of May regarding this campaign. The Illinois seat belt compliance rate is at an all time high of 92.9%. It is the State's goal to increase the rate to exceed 93% in 2012.

The Woodstock Police are engaging in a special traffic enforcement initiative targeting Occupant Restraint (Seat Belt and Child Safety Seat) violations during the month of May. The primary focus of this enforcement effort is to reduce the number of personal injuries that occur during the course of a crash because of unrestrained vehicle occupants. As part of this initiative, all Woodstock police officers will be paying special attention to such violations.

Officers that are detailed to perform during this special enforcement initiative are requested to adopt a zero tolerance for restraint violations. Motorists are reminded that current legislation requires both front *and* back seat passengers to be properly restrained with seats belts or proper child safety seats.

The Woodstock Police Department will participate in this nationwide effort by establishing Seat Belt Enforcement Zones which will be funded by a grant that was awarded by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Questions regarding this or any other traffic enforcement issue should be directed to **Sergeant Leard** at 815-338-2131 or dleard@wodostockil.gov.

PANERA BREAD PERMIT ISSUED

The building permit for the new Panera Bread restaurant, located on South Eastwood Drive and across from McDonalds, was issued by the **Department of Community and Economic Development** earlier this week. A pre-construction conference between the building contractor, City Inspectors, **Public Works** and representatives from the Woodstock Fire Rescue District has also been held. Construction on the building and site is expected to start within the next 7 to 10 days and be completed by September.



TRAINING FOR SAFETY

During the month of May, all sworn personnel and all dispatchers at the **Woodstock Police Department** will be attending training courses in order to be recertified in CPR/AED. All sworn personnel will also complete recertification in HAZMAT, Blood Borne Pathogens and tactical EMS. Thanks to the expert training by the Woodstock Fire/Rescue District, held at their Raffel Road station, we can rest assured that Woodstock's first responders are ready to assist in any emergency!

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LIBRARY NEWS

Fish Tank Mural

The popular salt water coral fish tank at the **Woodstock Library** now has a decorative fish themed mural framing it thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Woodstock Public Library. The mural frames the fish tank and includes a large sea bass which will hold a donation box for anyone wishing to help feed the fish. Artist Kristin Plansky began the mural on Monday, May 7th which was also the start of the D200 spring art show. At the art show reception that night over 685 visitors had a chance to watch Kristin paint as they viewed the spectacular D200 artwork on display at the library. This was a perfect opportunity to see the work of local student artists and a professional artist at work. The D200 artwork will be on display until May 18th but the mural will remain. Photos of the mural being created are on the library's Flickr photostream.

Summer Reading is Delicious!

Adult, Young Adult and Children's Summer Reading Club (SRC) program sign-ups all begin on May 23rd. Story Hour sign-up starts on May 29th and SRC logs can be picked up starting on June 4th. Let's get the family reading together this summer at WPL. This year's SRC theme is '*Reading is Delicious*'. WPL staff had fun creating a promotional video for the Woodstock Summer Reading Club which is online to view at: vimeo.com/woodstockpubliclibrary/srp2012



"It's not what isn't, it's what you wish was, that makes unhappiness."

-Janis Joplin

Pinata Fun!

Congratulations to all those who participated in the piñata making program. There were many creative pinatas but the 1st place winner was *Angry Bird* and the 2nd place was awarded to *King Pig*. WPL staff members **Trudie Dreyer** and **Valeria Cereda** held this intergenerational piñata making program. Sign-up for this event filled up fast as did the library meeting room with family members who had a great deal of fun making their piñatas!



May 18, 2012 Newsletter

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

Since May is Building Safety Month, it is important to be aware of what can be done to minimize injuries and accidents around your home. As families move outdoors to enjoy the nice weather in spring and summer, special care should be taken to ensure outdoor areas are safe from potential hazards. Swimming pools, barbecue grills, gardening tools and fertilizers, and lawn toys all pose risks to children and adults alike. The following simple but important steps should be taken to avoid accidents:

- Practice constant, adult supervision around any body of water, including pools and spas. Nationally, drowning is a leading cause of death to children under five.
- If you're considering a swimming pool purchase, contact **Woodstock's Building Department** to determine what permits are needed and what requirements you must follow.
- In-ground and above-ground pools, including inflatable pools holding more than 24 inches of water, must be surrounded by a fence or other barrier having a height of at least 4 feet. Any gates in the fence must be self-closing and self-latching.
- Reserve a visible location near the pool for lifesaving devices, including a portable or mobile telephone.
- Steps and ladders for above-ground pools should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.
- Use a cover for the pool when it is not in use.
- Make sure drain covers are properly fitted or have vacuum suction releases to prevent someone from being trapped under water.
- Consider installing a pool alarm that can alert you if someone enters the pool.
- Spa water temperatures should be set to 104 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to avoid elevated body temperature, which could lead to drowsiness, unconsciousness, heat stroke, or death.
- Designate a cooking or grilling area as a "No Play Zone" and keep children and pets well away until the equipment is completely cool.
- Check propane cylinder hoses for leaks before use.
- Do not move hot grills until they have cooled off.
- Do not add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and don't use flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Don't leave toys, tools and equipment in the yard.
- Keep steps, sidewalks and patios in good repair.
- Check all swings, slides, playhouses and other structures for sharp objects, rusty metal pieces, breaks or weakened support pieces.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and when to use it.



WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EMPLOYEES PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE

This past week, **Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Anne George**, along with **Plant Operators Wayne Baker** and **Adam Sheahan** attended the 85th annual Central States Water Environment Association, Inc. wastewater conference held at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, IL. The conference began with the “Water’s Worth It” campaign to promote the importance of providing safe drinking water to everyone in the world. There were also several technical sessions that included meeting phosphorus limits, chemical phosphorus removal, and reducing inflow and infiltration in the sanitary sewer lines. The monthly Fox Valley Operators meeting was also held at this conference in addition to a large and informative vendor exhibition.

REC CENTER RECOGNIZES MOMS

Pictured are participants in the **Rec Department’s Power Gym** class as part of the *Mother of a Workout* Mother’s Day event last Saturday at the Rec Center. Six classes were offered including Hip Hop Hustle/Zumba, Turbo Kick, Hit It Kick Box, Butts & Guts, Family Yoga, and Power Gym.

Other activities included massages, light snacks, Shakeology samples, hair products from Platform 108, and prize raffles.

Thanks to **Recreation Coordinator Becky Vidales** for coordinating the event.



WHEN AND WHY SHOULD I FLUSH MY HOT WATER HEATER?

Some “rotten egg” odors and iron residue on fixtures can originate from the lack of maintenance to your hot water heater. Sometimes simply drawing a glass of water from your cold water tap and comparing the smell of that to a sample from the hot water tap can determine the origin of the problem. Most often that smell in the hot water sample is a sign that sediment has accumulated in the bottom of the hot water heater or that the “sacrificial” anode rod needs to be replaced. The “rotten egg” odor can come from the breakdown of iron particles which oxidize or settle out in the hot water heater. This is not uncommon in plumbing systems served by water originating from groundwater wells. Most municipal water systems also are required to add a phosphate product to control corrosion in the water distribution systems which extends into and includes individual home plumbing systems. Excess concentrations of phosphate can also accumulate in the bottom of a hot water heater. The amount of sediment in the hot water heater is directly related to the amount of hot water you use. Most manufacturers recommend that the hot water heater be flushed every six months. Either flushing the hot water heater yourself, or contacting a plumber to perform the flushing and then resetting the water heater to a modest temperature will in most cases minimize odor and mineral problems detected in the hot water side of your building’s water tap. Be advised that after draining the hot water heater, it is not uncommon for the valve to leak. It is therefore suggested to install a new valve after draining the water heater.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

No Meetings Scheduled

RECRUITMENT NEWS

A great big Woodstock Welcome Back goes out to **Jane Lynch-Deihs**, who rejoins the City of Woodstock this week as **Public Works Office Manager**, the role recently vacated by retiring **Susan Gullotto**. **Jane** is known to many employees as the smiling face that previously served in both the **Community Development** and **Finance Departments** at City Hall for several years. She can be reached at Public Works, 815-338-6118, or jdeihs@woodstockil.gov.

Interviews with selected candidates for **LPT Recreation Center Cashier** were held this week with results to be announced shortly.

The following recruitments has been publicly posted and shared with employees internally this week:

FT Accounting Assistant/Finance

The Finance Department at Woodstock City Hall has opening for experienced Accounting Assistant. Position performs data entry for numerous municipal billing processes, provides customer service at front desk, coordinates the City's community-wide fire/security alarm system, and serves as backup to Staff Accountant. Min. qual.: HS diploma or equiv.; 2 to 3 years' office/bookkeeping experience; computer skills in MS Office Suite. Hours M-F, 8:30AM-5:00PM. Starting salary: \$16.70/hr. with full benefits.

Interested parties are asked to send a resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications. **Information must be submitted electronically to:** humanresources@woodstockil.gov. Upon review, the most qualified candidates will be invited to submit formal applications. Deadline: Thursday, May 24, 2012. EOE.

FT Maintenance Worker/Public Works

The City of Woodstock has entry level openings in three Public Works divisions. Positions perform manual labor and operate vehicles and equipment in the maintenance and repair of City streets and

throughways, parks and recreational areas, and/or sanitary sewer collection and water distribution systems. Positions have varying daytime work schedules that may include weekends (Sat/Sun) as part of the standard work week schedule. Further variations may occur due to departmental staffing, seasonal or emergency needs.

Min. Qual.: High school diploma or equivalent; ability to speak, read and write English language; two years' responsible work experience in public works, construction or related field; good driving record and ability to obtain a valid Class B Illinois commercial driver's license (CDL) with air brakes endorsement within 3 months of employment. Physical requirements are as follows: Visual and auditory acuity, natural or corrected; ability to operate equipment as outlined above; ability to perform moderate to heavy work requiring climbing, balancing, bending, stooping, twisting, reaching, kneeling, crouching, crawling; ability to lift/carry/move loads up to 250 lbs; ability to push/pull upwards of 100 lbs. of force; ability to stand for upwards of 8 hours per day (with breaks); ability to climb ladders; ability to work in confined spaces.

Starting salary: \$15.30/hr in accordance with current Union contract; includes full benefit package with group health insurance, benefit time and IMRF retirement plan.

Current resumes and letters of interest should be emailed to: humanresources@woodstockil.gov. If electronic submission is not possible, the above may be delivered to the City of Woodstock HR Department, 121 W. Calhoun St., Woodstock, IL 60098. Formal applications will be sent to the most qualified candidates and must be returned by the specified deadline date in order to receive consideration. The City reserves the right to select only the most qualified applicants for an interview. Deadline: Friday, June 1, 2012. EOE

WWW OPENING A WEEK AWAY

Pictured is **Lifeguard Dan Werner** power washing the west pavilion floor at **Woodstock Water Works** this week in preparation for the Aquatic Center's opening on Saturday, May 26th.

All three pools are filled and are being chemically balanced; staff is undergoing training; the Funbrellas and the deck furniture are out; the green space looks like a golf course; and the play features are freshly painted.

Don't forget- all City of Woodstock employees and their families are invited to a special **LIVE TRAINING** opening night at Woodstock Water Works on Friday, May 25 from 6:00-8:00PM.

The fee for the evening is only \$2.00 per person (4 years & up) or use your 2012 Season Pool Pass. Passes are available for purchase at the Recreation Center. Any questions, please contact **Becky Vidales** at 815-338-4363 or bvidales@woodstockil.gov.



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: WATER— THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT

This spring has brought more 80-degree days than we've experienced in a long time. It's also the most active time of year, with gardening and yard work, sports and other recreational activities eagerly pursued. But we often don't realize that the higher heat can take its toll quickly on our stamina and energy levels, and precautions should be taken to protect ourselves against heat-related illness. The easiest way to ensure this is by consuming plenty of water, which decreases body temperature as it fuels energy.

Many of us have jobs that require working outdoors, in addition to those who enjoy playing there. In either case, the American Council on Exercise offers these guidelines to keep you physically safe and healthy:

- **Drink plenty of water** before, during and after exercise.
- **Don't exercise as vigorously** as you normally do, especially during the first few days of hotter weather.
- **Pay attention** to factors other than temperature, including humidity.
- **Exercise early** in the morning or late in the evening, to beat the hottest temperatures.
- **Wear lightweight clothing** that fits loosely.
- **Listen to your body** and take a rest when you need it.