



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume XXII, Issue 13

March 30, 2012

PUBLIC WORKS ANNOUNCES HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrant flushing is a necessary, regular maintenance activity of the **Woodstock Water and Sewer Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works**. This flushing helps to remove sediments that have accumulated in the water mains (iron and other mineral deposits) that can affect water quality for our customers. This process of hydrant flushing is done over a period of two weeks, requires the services of two full-time employees, and the next hydrant flushing has been scheduled as follows:

April 9 through April 13 – west of Illinois Route 47
April 16 through April 20 – east of Illinois Route 47

During these two weeks, some loss of pressure and discoloration of water may occur in some homes or businesses. This condition will not present any health hazard and will only be temporary. However, due to this discoloration, residents are urged to check their water quality prior to doing laundry and to avoid doing any laundry when hydrants will be flushed in your area. If you have any questions regarding the hydrant flushing, or when flushing will occur in your neighborhood, please contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118, or via e-mail at pwdept@woodstockil.gov.

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TWO OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM THE ACADEMY

On Thursday, March 29th, **Deputy Chief John Lieb** and **Sgt. Tino Cipolla** traveled to Urbana to represent the **Woodstock Police Department** at the graduation ceremony of **Officer Michael Karnath** and **Officer Marco Guerrero**.

Officers Karnath and Guerrero have spent the last twelve weeks at the University of Illinois Police Training Institute enrolled in their Basic Law Enforcement class. Similar to military boot camp and every bit as rigorous, the intensive 480-hour course provides the recruit with basic training in a multitude of disciplines such as Human Behavior, Investigation, Law, Traffic and Weapons. Recruits also receive certification in First Aid, C.P.R. and Hazardous Materials. In addition, Officer Karnath was enrolled in a 12-hour Police Spanish course taught in the evening after regularly scheduled classes.

Both officers will report for duty on Saturday, with Officer Karnath assigned to the day shift, and Officer Guerrero assigned to the afternoon shift. They will now begin an additional three months of field training under the direct supervision of the Department's Certified Field Training Officers, and will rotate through each of the three shifts, gaining valuable insight from both observing and working in tandem with experienced Officers. Only after successful completion of the training phase will Officers Karnath and Guerrero be certified for solo patrol duty.

Congratulations, Officer Karnath and Officer Guerrero, and Welcome to Woodstock!

Congratulations!

DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE THE FILTERS

Many of today's refrigerators come with water dispensers. This essentially provides you with "cold water on tap" which is better than running the water in the sink until it gets cold. Most of the newer model refrigerators have a built-in water filter. The disposable filter element typically includes activated carbon to improve taste and odor while the filter itself reduces sediment and mineral content. Changing this filter regularly is paramount to maintaining the quality and taste of the City's drinking water. Check the manufacturer's recommendation to determine how often the filter should be changed. Factors such as the age and type of interior plumbing systems in your home and whether or not you have a water softener may impact the life of the filter requiring the filter to be changed more or less often. When a water filter is put into service for a long period of time, it loses capacity to reduce sediment, minerals, etc. Failure to change the filter could actually create a health condition because those components being filtered out are being concentrated within it and when the filter is full, it can begin to re-introduce those compounds being removed, back into the water stream you use to fill each glass of water. This information also pertains to whole house filters that may be installed near the location where water enters your home. Changing these filters as recommended will help protect you and your family.



LIBRARY NEWS

Genealogy Research

Date: 4/5/2012

Start Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Description: Join us for an exploration of genealogical research. This program includes an introduction to beginning genealogy and a demonstration of the library genealogy databases, Ancestry and Heritage Quest. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions they may have about genealogy research in general or questions that have arisen during their own research. Registration required.

Location: [Woodstock Public Library](#) Training Room

Wrigley Field's Last World Series

Date: 4/19/2012

Start Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Description: Wrigley Field's Last World Series: The Wartime Chicago Cubs and the Pennant of 1945 -- Sports fans and history buffs alike will enjoy author and sports historian Charles Billington's presentation of the Chicago Cub's domination during the team's first 70 years of existence and the profound effects that World War II had on baseball. Rare film footage of the 1945 World Series as well as 1940's music dealing with war and baseball complement this program. Registration required.

Location: Woodstock Public Library: Meeting Room

The Reading Promise's Author Alice Ozma in Woodstock

Start Time: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Description: Woodstock Fine Arts Association, in partnership with the Woodstock Public Library, welcomes Alice Ozma, author of The Reading Promise: My Father and the Books We Shared. Ozma will share her childhood story about her father's promise to read to her every night for 100 nights. While celebrating their accomplishment over breakfast after they reached this goal, they made a decision to continue reading for 1,000 consecutive nights. "The Streak," as they called it, continued until her first day of college. Alice is dedicated to encouraging each of us to make a commitment to read...to ourselves, to each other, and to our children. Come learn how reading can help influence your life and those around you.

BE MINDFUL OF PEDESTRIANS

The **Woodstock Police Department** urges motorists to be alert for pedestrians both on City sidewalks, and on the pathways in City Parks, and yield to pedestrians as required by Illinois law. The Illinois Vehicle Code 625 Section 5/11-1002 states, *“When traffic control signals are not in place or not in operation, the driver of a vehicle shall stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a crosswalk . . .”*

NEW DETECTIVE IN TOWN

Congratulations go out to **Officer Rob Branum** who will be joining the Detective Division at the **Woodstock Police Department**. Officer Branum was selected from among five qualified candidates after completing an interview and meeting a standardized set of criteria to determine suitability for the position. Officer Branum’s one-year assignment will become available on May 1, 2012.



PARKS EMPLOYEES SPRING INTO ACTION

Parks Division employees have taken advantage of this unusually warm March weather to get a jump on spring startup at many of the parks throughout the City. Washroom facilities are now open at Bates and Emricson park sites. Crews have been prepping ball diamonds and soccer fields for scheduled games since March 14. Mowing has been completed one month earlier than normal years. All in all the weather has been fantastic but don’t be surprised if old man winter peeks out for one last storm event. The Parks Division has left three tractors setup for snow removal operations; just in case.

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUES COME TO AN END

The **Recreation Department’s Developmental Youth Basketball Program** ended last week with post season tournaments for the 4th-6th grade boys and girls.



At the request of the **Woodstock Girls Basketball Association**, the **Rec Department** assumed the administration of the developmental

basketball leagues for the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade girls and the in-house 7th and 8th grade girls programs. Previously, the department administered the 1st-6th grade boys and the 1st and 2nd grade girls programs.

With the inclusion of the girls program, an additional fourteen teams and approximately 150 kids participated. Overall, the developmental basketball leagues totaled 48 teams and over 400 participants.

A special thanks to the D200 office managers and custodians who were very cooperative throughout the four-month season. The basketball program used various D200 gyms throughout the week for practices and utilized Mary Endres, Olson, Prairiewood, and Creekside Schools for games on Saturdays.

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

- Tuesday, April 3 – City Council, 7PM, Council Chambers
- Thursday, April 5-Environmental Commission, 5:30PM, Council Chambers

RECRUITMENT NEWS

With the resignation of **S&W Utility Inspector Erin Selzer**, and several forthcoming retirements recently announced in **Public Works**, three positions were posted internally this week for application by interested bargaining unit members only. In keeping with current contract rules, internal candidates have until Wednesday, April 11, 2012 to submit a resume and letter of interest to the HR Department, citing their qualifications for the openings of **S&W Foreman**, **S&W Utility Inspector**, and **Water Treatment Plant Operator I**, as specifically outlined in the posted Opportunity Notices.

The notice below has been added to the City's website under the Employment Opportunities section to inform the public that no interest cards or applications will be accepted by the City until such time as any resulting vacancies have been formally announced. Please do not encourage contact with the City until the subsequent application process is available and posted.

Please note: Bargaining unit (Union) rules now in effect in all Public Works divisions require all open positions be posted internally for a period of 14 days and made available to the City's current Public Works bargaining unit members on a priority basis.

Following this internal posting and application process, any resulting openings will be publicized on this website with required application instructions for the public.

The City does not accept unsolicited resumes or applications, thus any such submissions will not receive a response and may be discarded. Furthermore, as we expect public posting for job openings in Public Works in the near future, effective March 28, 2012, the Interest Card process, **specifically for Public Works positions**, has been suspended. Please check this website

over the coming weeks to determine any potential recruitment activity.

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: ARM YOURSELF AGAINST STRESS

It's almost impossible to not feel stressed these days, especially for those of us working full-time, still raising kids, and possibly dealing with aging parents' needs as well.

While it may be easier to skip meals or grab fast food on the fly, taking a few extra minutes to eat a healthy snack will have a dramatic effect on minimizing the production of stress hormones, cortisol and adrenaline, and substituting them with restorative influences, instead.

Try the following effective stress-fighters and feel the healthy difference:

Carb-rich foods—such as a whole wheat English muffin with fruit spread, can boost levels of serotonin, a calming brain chemical.

Chocolate—a square of quality dark chocolate contains caffeine and other chemicals that are mood and energy-boosting stimulants.

Fluid-filled foods—staying hydrated is one of the simplest ways to keep energized and focused; lapses in memory and difficulty in concentrating often occur with even minimal dehydration. Instead of dry cracker type snacks, opt for water-rich snacks such as fresh veggies and fruits and foods that swell up during cooking such as pasta and oatmeal.

Tea—the combination of caffeine and L-theanine, both found in tea, have been shown to increase alertness, reaction time and memory. Continued use over time actually reduces the amount of stress hormone cortisol that is produced during tense moments.



"He who hesitates is sometimes saved."

James Thurber