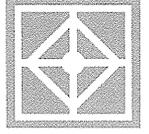




CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume XXII, Issue 6

February 10, 2012

POLICE ANNOUNCE FEBRUARY TRAFFIC INITIATIVE

The **Woodstock Police Department** will engage in a special traffic enforcement initiative targeting Posted Speed Limit violators during the month of February.

The purpose of the speed enforcement initiative is to reduce the incidence of speeding related motor vehicle crashes, and the resulting injuries and fatalities, through highly visible increased enforcement of speed related laws. In order to achieve this purpose, the following goals have been defined:

- Reduce the number of speed related traffic crashes.
- Increase enforcement of speed laws.
- Increase compliance with the posted speed limit.

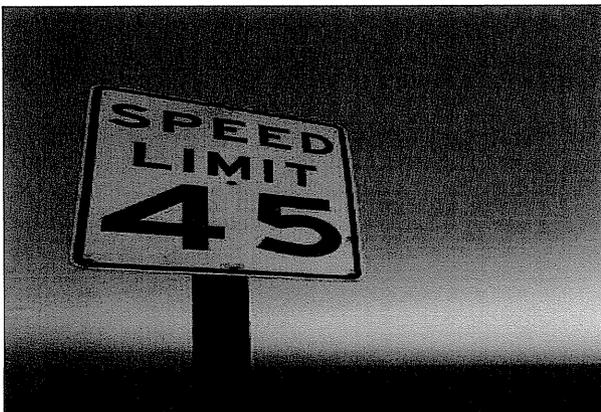
As always, the enforcement effort is intended to educate motorists as well as reduce the number of traffic collisions and incidents of road rage that occur on our city streets. The ultimate goal is to change driving behaviors and encourage motorists to voluntarily comply with traffic laws.

Any questions regarding the initiative may be directed to **Sergeant Dennis Leard** at 815-338-2131 or dleard@woodstockil.gov.

CITY IS RECIPIENT OF 2ND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT



On the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) website is a listing of the recipients of 2011 funded projects. The City of Woodstock is listed as the recipient of a \$250,000 grant award to construct sidewalk (where none currently exists) on both sides of Dean Street from Kimball Avenue to Prairie Ridge Drive. This grant application stated the funds would be used to construct sidewalks for a safe route along Dean Street for students attending Dean Street School. The website further states that award letters are forthcoming sometime within the next 7-10 days which is the first step in the grant process. Because SRTS is a federal program, the City will be working with the Council of Mayors to develop a final cost share agreement and to complete all project programming with the Local Roads Bureau at IDOT. Once the City obtains an approved agreement, they will receive a "Notice to Proceed" from IDOT. The City will then have three years to construct the project. It is anticipated that through the IDOT schedule that needs to be followed, construction will occur during the summer of 2013.



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LIBRARY NEWS

Food for Fines!

Date: 2/14/2012

Start Time: All Day

Description: Valentine's Day **ONLY!** - On Tuesday, February 14th, the library will waive overdue fines in exchange for canned food donations. Maximum fine clearance is \$5.00 per library card. Amnesty does not apply to lost or damaged charges. Food donated will go to the Woodstock Food Pantry.

Have a Heart! Blood Drive

Age Group(s): Adults over 18

Date: 2/14/2012

Start Time: 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Description: WPL will host Heartland Blood Center's Mobile Coach on Tuesday, February 14 in the library parking lot. Donated blood will benefit area hospitals. All donors must show a photo ID prior to donating. All donors must show a photo ID prior to donating. Please sign up for an appointment at www.heartlandbc.org or call the library at 815-338-0542. Walk-ins are also welcome. Location: Library Parking Lot

Karen Cries on the Bus (World Film Night)

Date: 2/15/2012

Start Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Description: The Woodstock Public Library's World Film Night features the best of independent films from around the world. Film: Karen Cries on the Bus. Karen risks everything when she leaves her emotionally abusive husband and embarks on a difficult journey of self-discovery. This Columbian film was an Official Selection at the Berlin International Film Festival. No registration required. These films are intended for adults and may contain adult situations and language. Location: Meeting Room

PARKS DIVISION EMPLOYEES GET A JUMP ON SPRING CLEANUP

From the inside looking out, it appears as though spring has already arrived! There is no snow on the ground, grass has a green tinge to it, and temperatures are unseasonably mild. This weather provides an unusual opportunity for the **Parks Division** to prune back and rake out the perennial beds in the downtown streetscape islands this past week. The accompanying photo shows **Parks employee Brandon Eddy** performing tasks that would normally be completed in mid to late March. After general clean-up, landscape mulch will be applied to the plant beds to help prevent winter kill caused by cold winds during the next few months. Winter is not over but it certainly seems as though spring is knocking at the door.



MEETINGS NEXT WEEK:

Wednesday, February 15 – Transportation
Commission, 7PM, Council Chambers

WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATORS PARTICIPATE IN MONTHLY OPERATORS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators Wayne Baker and Adam Sheahan attended the February meeting of the Fox Valley Operators Association. Membership is made up of wastewater treatment plant operators in the Fox Valley area. February's meeting included a guest speaker representing A.W. Chesterton, a firm that manufactures and distributes mechanical seals, packing, gasketing, and hydraulic and pneumatic sealing devices. All pumps in the wastewater industry have packing or seals to keep potentially hazardous gases and liquids from leaking around rotating equipment. The presentation highlighted the proper installation of new seals, the importance of maintaining those already in place, and methods for prolonging the service life of a mechanical seal. Putting the information learned into practice will increase efficiency and reduce costs to operate the utility.

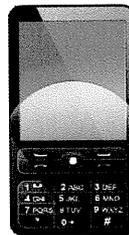
CUSTOMER SERVICE: THE CUSTOMER'S WISH LIST

We are all "customers" in our daily lives, yet, those extra touches we appreciate when we do business are sometimes the very skills and attitudes we overlook when we provide service to others.

Top service qualities cited in one recent survey include:

- ◆ **Flexibility**—responding in positive, "can-do" ways
- ◆ **Honesty and trustworthiness**—being truthful about programs and services
- ◆ **Availability**—make it as easy as possible for your customers to reach you
- ◆ **Pleasantness**—be friendly, courteous, tactful and helpful at all times
- ◆ **Professionalism**—exude confidence and be able to answer any questions
- ◆ **Understanding**—listen to your customers' concerns, anticipate their needs and take a personal interest in them as individuals.

CELL PHONE DISPOSAL METHODS MAY IMPACT GROUNDWATER QUALITY



Will Smith, Woodstock's Water Treatment Plant Superintendent supports a new State law which prohibits many electronic devices from being disposed of in landfills.

State Senator Susan Garrett, D-29th, of Lake Forest, the chief sponsor of the act said one of the main goals of this legislation is to keep potentially harmful materials out of landfills. She said many of the electronic items include metals such as gold, cadmium, lead, and silver which can threaten the groundwater supply. These types of materials can be hazardous and can seep into our groundwater. When discarding your electronic devices, do so properly. Contaminated groundwater is detrimental for people of all generations. For more information or to dispose of an electronic device call Rock River Disposal at (815)965-2489.

Quotation

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

— Mother Teresa

MCHENRY COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The McHenry County Planning & Development Divisions of Stormwater & Water Resources are holding a free workshop on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 6:00PM – 8:30PM in the McHenry County Government Administrative Building: Conference Rooms A, B, and C to discuss stormwater infrastructure maintenance responsibilities for Home Owners Associations (HOA's). Topics to be covered include:

- 1) The Evolution of stormwater facilities
- 2) Stormwater management
- 3) Maintenance responsibilities
- 4) Covenants
- 5) Legal obligations
- 6) Water Conservation
- 7) Water Quality
- 8) Natural Areas Maintenance

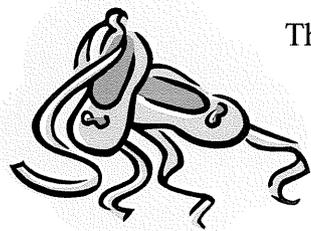
Additionally, you can learn more about local water quality issues such as Coal Tar Asphalt Sealants, Lawn Care and Pavement Deicing at this workshop. This is a workshop for Homeowner's Associations and contracted professionals who have maintenance responsibilities for subdivision drainage systems. For more information, email plandev@co.mchenry.il.us or call (815) 334-4560.

The McHenry County Department of Planning and Development is holding a workshop on Friday, April 13, 2012 from 8:30AM – 12:30PM in the McHenry County Government Administrative Building: Conference Rooms A, B, and C. to discuss "Natural Lawn Care and Sustainable Landscapes". Topics to be covered include:

- 1) Implementing a natural lawn care program
- 2) Greening your ordinances
- 3) Creating a sustainable landscape
- 4) New fertilizer and pesticide regulations

This is a workshop for landscape companies, turf managers, homeowners associations and municipalities who want to learn more about how to create and implement cost-effective sustainable landscaping programs in your community. The cost of the workshop is \$25.00 and includes a continental breakfast. For more information, email plandev@co.mchenry.il.us or call (815) 334-4560 for registration details.

DANCE CLASSES BEGIN AND PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR RECITAL



The **Recreation Department's** *Little Dancers I & II, Ballet I & II, Hip/Hop and Kidz Pop* programs began their winter/spring session with fifteen classes;

almost of them all filled to the maximum number of participants with four additional classes added to accommodate class demand.

Little Dancers teaches students, ages 3-5 years, basic ballet and jazz steps while having fun expressing themselves through creative movement.

The Ballet class is a beginner ballet that teaches participants ballet terms and positions while improving the child's balance, movement and flexibility.

Hip/Hop and Kidz Pop classes use today's most popular music to teach the current dance moves.

These popular ten-week classes are lead by instructors, Laura Powell, Estee Forst, and Robin Sobel.

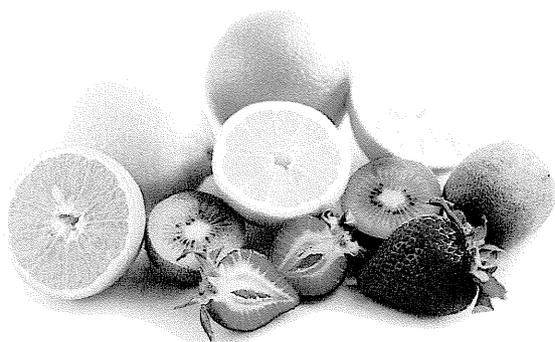
To enhance these growing programs, **Recreation Coordinator Renee Torrez** and the dance instructors are planning a spring recital for all dance participants on Thursday, April 26; the recital is open to the public and details regarding the event will follow.

HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: HOW TO HANDLE SNACK ATTACKS

The next time you're craving that soda and Doritos rush, or find yourself reaching for a handful of pretzel M&Ms, stop and think about the real reason you feel inclined to snack. Is it to satisfy actual hunger, to provide an energy boost, because junk food is the only thing handy, or perhaps just because the salty/sugary/fried flavors are simply irresistible?

Mindless snacking is one of the most common reasons for weight gain, but snacking doesn't have to be a bad thing. Not only can healthy snacks help prevent overeating at meal times, they can provide even more energy, with less caloric intake, than their counterparts. And, they can even be less expensive to consume, with just a little planning on what to keep on hand.

Convenient and inexpensive snacks, for children or adults, can include: carrots and hummus; apples or grapes and cheese slices; whole wheat bread, green peppers and turkey slices; dried fruit, string cheese, Wheat Thins or Triscuits; raw walnuts or almonds, applesauce, popcorn, and 1 percent milk. Drink a big glass of cold water before each snack (and again before each meal) for added fullness and energy.





You are cordially invited to join Chief Robert Lowen at the Woodstock Police Department for coffee, conversation, and an informative program.

Sergeant Heather Poerio will discuss her duties and experiences working as a Crime Scene Investigator for the Illinois State Police.

Coffee with the Chief



February 13, 2012
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Woodstock Police Department
656 Lake Avenue

For further information, please call
Tamara Reed at 815-338-6787.