



CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume III Issue 43

October 23, 2015

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Chief Robert Lowen and the Woodstock Police Department want your Halloween to be a treat instead of a trick! Please keep in mind the following safety tips and you'll be sure to enjoy a *boo-tiful* evening of fun!

- Wear a reflective costume or carry a flashlight with you.
- Cross streets at designated crosswalks.
- Trick or treat in a group accompanied by at least one parent or very responsible teenager.
- Always let your parents inspect your candy before you eat it; dispose of any item with a torn wrapper or unusual odor. *When in doubt, throw it out!*
- Watch out for cars and be careful around jack o' lanterns or other decorations with burning candles inside.
- Visit homes in your own neighborhood that you are familiar with.

Recommended hours for trick-or-treating in the City of Woodstock are from 4-7PM on Saturday, October 31, 2015.

Have fun – stay safe!



NEW STAIRCASE INSTALLED IN LIFTSTATION

As recommended by City Staff, the City Council approved funds to replace two flights of stairs leading to the lowest level of the Tappan Street sanitary sewer liftstation. The stairs provide access to a grinder and a bar screen which are in line with the incoming sewer main. The original staircase, which served the City for more than 57 years, was fabricated from steel and it simply outlived its useful life. The stairs reside in a damp, corrosive environment which helped lead to their demise. The new stairs are fabricated from aluminum which is a better metal for this type of environment. From a safety and health perspective, this improvement was necessary and the new staircase should serve the City for years to come.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the **Department of Public Works**, 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



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BEAUTIFICATION AT RYDERS WOODS

On Sunday October 18th, 2015, Woodstock's Cub Scout Pack 350 helped the City with maintenance and upkeep at Ryders Woods. The group painted the entrance sign at the park, planted 100 tulip bulbs around the entrance sign, added mulch to the flower bed near the entrance, and trimmed vegetation along the Kimball Avenue fence line. Three hours of hard work by thirteen Cub Scouts and their families yielded great results and a commitment from Pack 350 to continue similar improvements. This area is mostly wooded and home to many walking paths, wildlife, and a pond. Recently, The Land Conservancy removed invasive species from the wooded area which opened the woods up permitting more natural growth. With the help from Woodstock Cub Scout Pack 350 the area will be more attractive and promote a positive reflection on the City.

Public Works is very appreciative to the community groups that assist with maintaining our park locations. Community involvement gives participants a sense of pride and ownership. With continuous help from groups like Pack 350 the City will be able to provide a safe, attractive, fun park environment to our residents and guests.

If you have any questions about this project, or have a group that would like to volunteer, please contact the Department of Public Works, 815-338-6118 or pwdept@woodstockil.gov



LEAF COLLECTION

The Department of Public Works collects bulk leaves curbside during a four-week period in the fall. Although we cannot guarantee that each and every leaf will be collected during this time, we do collect the majority of leaves.

Residents are asked to rake loose leaves to the parkway for collection but should NOT rake leaves into the street. Leaves that have been raked into the street can plug storm sewer intakes and cause unnecessary flooding during rain events. Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 26 and, *weather permitting*, will include the following schedule:

Monday, October 26 Leaves will be collected from all streets north of the railroad tracks during the week of October 26. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00AM on Monday, October 26.

Monday, Nov. 2 Leaves will be collected from all streets south of the railroad tracks during the week of November 2. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00AM on Monday, November 2.

Monday, Nov. 9 Weather permitting, the final collection from all streets north of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 9. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00AM on Monday, November 9.

Monday, Nov. 16 Weather permitting, the final collection from all streets south of the railroad tracks will be made during the week of November 16. Residents in this area must have their leaves raked to the parkway by 7:00AM on Monday, November 16.

If you would like the City to collect leaves at your property, it is very important that you have the leaves raked to the parkway on these specific dates. **No vehicles should be parked on the street within twenty (20) feet of any leaf pile.**

Residents who prefer to bag their leaves for collection may contact the Department of Public Works at 815-338-6118, or pwdept@woodstockil.gov to request pickup of bagged leaves. Leaves must be placed in paper bags only. The bulk collection of leaves along state highways can be dangerous for the leaf collection crews. Residents along IL Route 47 and IL Route 120 are encouraged to bag their leaves and contact Public Works to arrange for collection. This, however, is only a request and is not mandatory.



COMED'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

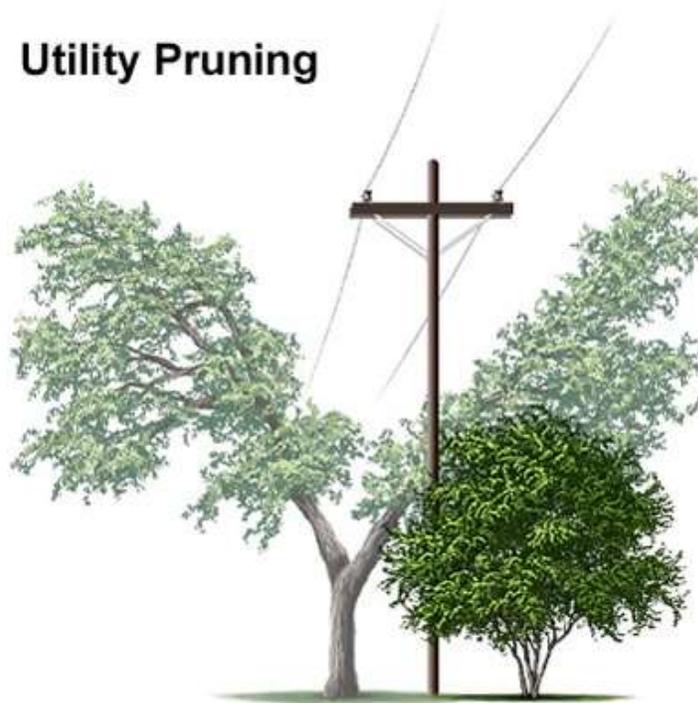
Within the next two months, ComEd will continue their mid-cycle vegetation management activities; trimming trees, branches and vines that interfere or have the potential to interfere with power lines. Tree-trimming is “a key component of ComEd’s maintenance program to ensure system electrical reliability”. According to ComEd, “trees and other vegetation cause about 20% of all electric service interruptions.” In some cases, tree removal may be required. The remaining tree stumps are treated with an approved herbicide to prevent future regrowth. Herbicide will be applied by state-licensed applicators. All work is performed by trained, qualified arborists.

ComEd has contacted all residents that may be affected by this fall’s tree-trimming activities; mainly along E. Kimball Avenue, IL Route 47, Wanda Lane, Southview Drive, and Edgewood Drive.

For further information about vegetation maintenance along power lines, and ComEd’s “Right Tree, Right Place” program, please visit their website: <https://www.comed.com/customer-service/service-request/trees-powerlines/pages/maintenance.aspx>

If you have any questions about these activities, call ComEd, 1-800-334-7661 and ask to speak with a Vegetation Management representative.

Utility Pruning



Right Tree Right Place

RECRUITMENT

Full-Time Executive Assistant – City Manager’s Office:

The City of Woodstock is accepting applications for a full-time Executive Assistant with our City Manager’s Office. The purpose of this position is to perform administrative support and confidential secretarial services to relieve the City Manager and Mayor of procedural and process detail; manage department office functions; serve as election official and Chief Deputy Clerk; represent City/coordinate events requiring City Services and maintain permanent records management. The work is performed under the direction of the City Manager. Salary Range: Salary Range: \$49,426.58 (minimum) - \$63,135.33 (midpoint) - \$76,844.09 (maximum) with placement within the range likely no higher than the first three quadrants based on qualifications and experience, with an excellent benefit package. **Application Deadline: Friday, October 30, 2015 at 5:00PM.**

Please refer to the City’s website at www.woodstockil.gov and click on the **Employment Opportunities** section for further details and the application process on the above opportunity. *The City of Woodstock is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

No Meetings Scheduled

FINANCE TRUMPS POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILI TROPHY!

The competition for this year’s City of Woodstock Chili Cook-Off was **FIERCE!**

Attendees were treated to nine delicious chili entrees and yummy dessert treats.



The winner of the 7th Annual Chili Cook-off was Paul Christensen, Finance Director. We would like to thank Bob Hoadley, Nancy Hoadley and Doug Crane who took on the daunting task of judging this year’s event.

New this year for the Peoples’ Choice Award, attendees had the opportunity to give \$1.00 per vote with 100% of proceeds will go to **United Way of Greater McHenry County**. We are pleased to announce \$80.00 was raised from the event!

This year’s People’s Choice Award winner was Chief of Police Robert Lowen.

We would like to thank the COWPIES for planning the chili cook-off and the Woodstock Public Library for generously hosting the event.

Thank you to everyone for making this a fun time!

INDOOR SWIMMING LESSONS BEGIN

The fall session of the Recreation Department's Swimming Lessons began this past week. Seven classes of Levels I-VI are held on Saturdays and Mondays and taught by **American Red Cross Instructors Leslie Behrns, Alyssa Brewer, Melissa Canto and Leah Dechant**. All classes are being held at the Woodstock High School Pool.



ALL-STAR BASKETBALL DRIBBLING ALONG

The second session of the *All-Star Basketball* camp is underway with 35 kids participating in classes that meet on Monday afternoon/evening at the Rec Center. The camps, under the direction of **Recreation Department Director Dave Zinnen**, are designed to prepare young basketball players for the upcoming season by teaching fundamentals such as dribbling, passing, shooting, rebounding and defense, along with an introduction to the rules and scrimmaging.

The K-2nd grade program runs from 4:30 – 5:30PM followed by the 3rd – 6th grade program from 5:30 – 6:45PM at the Rec Center gym.

Registration is also available for the upcoming *Developmental Basketball Program* for boys and girls in grades first through sixth. The 4th-6th grade boys begin skills nights prior to the regular season and the 1st-3rd grade boys and 1st-6th grade girls start skills development sessions during holiday break prior to their regular season.

For more information regarding *the Developmental Basketball Program*, visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com.



Quotation

Big pay and little responsibility are circumstances seldom found together.

[Napoleon Hill](#)

HR NEWS

Service Awards Program Honors 23 Dedicated Employees:

The City was very pleased to publicly acknowledge at the **2015 Employee Service Awards**, during the October 20th City Council Meeting, the dedication and commitment of 23 employees whom who have chosen a life of public service. It is additionally a compliment and validation to the City of Woodstock that such longevity reflects our provision of a high-quality workplace where employees feel both appreciated and challenged. This year's noted employees include:

5-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Stephanie Palmer/Library. Not shown: Natalie Walker/Police.

Stephanie Palmer, Office Assistant (Library)

Natalie Walker, Telecommunicator (Police Department)

10-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Adam Garrison/Public Works, Anne George/Public Works, Chief of Police Robert Lowen, Jeremy Mortimer, Jr./Police, Brett Muehlfelt/Police. Not shown: John Bertram/Building & Zoning, Maria Yesenia Carreno/Police, Charles Vorderer/Police.

John Bertram, Building Inspector (Building & Zoning)

Maria Yesenia Carreno, Telecommunicator (Police Department)

Adam Garrison, Plant Operator II – Water Treatment (Public Works)

Anne George, Superintendent – Wastewater Treatment (Public Works)

Robert Lowen, Jr., Chief of Police (Police Department)

Jeremy Mortimer, School Resource Officer (Police Department)

Brett Muehlfelt, Patrol Officer (Police Department)

Charles Vorderer, Patrol Officer (Police Department)

15-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Barry Pierce/Public Works, Tamara Reed/ Police, City Manager Roscoe Stelford, III. Not shown: Patricia Eichinger/Police, Tad Lester/Public Works, Deputy Chief of Police John Lieb.

Patricia Eichinger, Telecommunicator (Police Department)

Tad Lester, Crew Leader – Parks (Public Works)

John Lieb, Deputy Chief of Police (Police Department)

Barry Pierce, Crew Leader – Street Maintenance (Public Works)

Tamara Reed, Office Manager (Police Department)

Roscoe Stelford, III, City Manager (City Manager’s Office)

20-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Mary Sugden/Library. Not shown: Rebecca Vidales/Recreation.

Mary Sugden, Desk Assistant (Library)
Rebecca Vidales, Recreation Coordinator (Recreation)

25-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Shawn Parker/Public Works, Carolyn O'Leary/Library. Not shown: Robin Karolewicz/Police.

Shawn Parker, Superintendent – Sewer & Water Maintenance (Public Works)
Carolyn O'Leary, Desk Assistant (Library)
Robin Karolewicz, Telecommunicator (Police Department)

30-Year



Left to Right: Mayor Sager, HR Director Deb Schober, Jeffrey Burgess/Public Works, Mark Greenleaf/Opera House.

Jeffrey Burgess, Crew Leader – Street Maintenance (Public Works)

Mark Greenleaf, Building Manager (Opera House)



We are grateful for the opportunity to thank you for all you do on behalf of the City of Woodstock. Each and every day, we have the pleasure of witnessing firsthand your contributions and achievements as a public sector employee. Your hard work does not go unnoticed.

Thank you!



FALL ACTIVITIES FOR FITNESS AND FUN

Combine fitness, family fun, and outdoor excursions in these fall activities.

Don't let the end of summer mean the end of outdoor play! Plan some fun fall activities now. Autumn brings new opportunities for family fitness and outdoor excursions. Get out and get moving in the crisp cool air with these fall activities for families.



Hit the Trails

With the weather not too hot and not too cold, fall is the perfect time to explore parks, trails, and other local scenery. Use a trail finder to find detailed information, including surface types, access points, locations, distances, and available services, for trails in your area.

The National Park Service has an online directory, too—search parks by name, location, activity, or topic (such as fossils, caves, or American presidents): www.nps.gov/findapark. Once you've found a fun destination, there are lots of fall activities to try! Walk, bike, in-line skate, or even ride a horse. Haul littler kids in a jogging stroller or frame backpack.

Bring a camera and let kids snap their own shots. Gather fallen leaves to display or craft with at home. Try geocaching to add a cool treasure-hunting element to your outing. Don't forget the water bottles and gorp!

Rake and Jump

Closer to home, turn fall yard work into family fun. Everyone knows that the best reward for raking leaves is jumping in the piles, and the bonus is that both the raking and the jumping get hearts pumping. If you have a preschooler, supply him or her with a child-sized rake so he or she can help just like the bigger kids. It's also fun to make mazes and trails in your leaves before you bundle them all into piles. Use a lawnmower or a rake to cut a path. Then have kids walk, run, or bike the course.

Enlist kids to help with other seasonal yard work too. Give them some gardening gloves and have them yank out summer annuals. Demolition is so satisfying! (Just make sure they're clear on which plants are okay to pull out and which aren't!) The cooler months are a good time to plant evergreens, bulbs, and fall annuals like mums, so hand out shovels and let kids help dig some holes.

Harvest a Hearty Crop

Pick your own healthy treats with one of the most traditional fall activities: Visit an apple orchard! Apples are in season now and there are hundreds of home-grown varieties to choose from. Aside from the walking, picking, hauling, and leaf-peeping you might expect, apple orchards and pumpkin patches often offer all kinds of "agri-tainment." You might find a petting zoo, hayride, corn maze, or stack of hay bales to climb. Make a day of visiting a farm near you. There will be plenty to do, plenty to eat, and plenty to bring home too.

Play Like the Pros

Fall activities also include football! Take a cue from the gridiron gods and get outside for a game of touch football, or just play catch (equip little kids with a miniature or foam football). If European football (aka soccer) is your kids' fave, get out your net for a family game. No net? Pick two trees to approximate a goal, or improvise with cardboard boxes, traffic cones, or two-liter soda bottles. You can also adapt all kinds of outdoor games to include a football or soccer ball. Play the basketball classic HORSE using a soccer ball and net, or try kick the can with a football. Get creative, and get moving!

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Want to Start to Get Healthy with an Exercise Program?

City of Woodstock employees receive an employee discount at the **Woodstock Recreation Center. The initiation fee is waived! Executive membership is \$35 per month. Full membership is \$25 per month.** Try a week for free! For more information, contact Mary Lynn Lisk or Renee Torrez at 815-338-4363 or visit www.woodstockrecreationdepartment.com for more information.



and
Ahoj Productions

Invite you to a FREE screening

Chester Gould: An American Original

the life and times of one of Woodstock's most cherished citizens,
creator of that world-famous crime-fighting detective

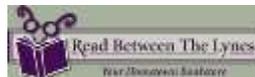
Dick Tracy



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015
1:00PM

Immediately followed by

“Meet the Filmmakers”
Discussion and DVD signing



111 Van Buren Street

*With deep gratitude to Classic Cinemas/Woodstock Theatre for their generous support
And to the City of Woodstock and Read Between the Lines for their assistance*

Woodstock Walk for Hunger

October 25, 2015

Sign-In: 1:00pm • Walk: 1:15pm

5k walk through Emricson Park starting at Grace Lutheran Church

Funds raised by the walk support people in need in Woodstock & Wonder Lake.

In 2014, WACM provided:

- \$25,000 in food
- \$10,000 in clothing
- \$11,000 for other needs
- Assistance for 120 children & 111 adults per month



For more information or to register visit www.wacmgroup.org



Scan to Register