

City of Wood River, Illinois

The City News
PIPELINE

events
projects
dates
meetings
news

The Year That Was-
The Year That Is

1982 saw many important projects accomplished and problems resolved. And 1983 looks just as good for the City of Wood River and its citizens.

Key Events in 1982

1. Opened new highway overpass on Madison Avenue.
2. Completed new sanitary sewer system for the 190 homes in the Lincoln area.
3. Began construction of stormwater control channel east of 9th Street to prevent flooding and protect 200 families.
4. Approved 24-year sewer treatment plant agreement with Amoco; saved \$650,000 construction costs; 20% reduction in future sewer fees.
5. Received \$520,000 in Federal grants for Glendale Gardens area sanitary sewers & storm sewers, and downtown rehabilitation loans.
6. Purchased new fire truck, street sweeper and key water treatment plant equipment.
7. Continued Police Department improvements and results/see "Police Scorecard" on p. 2).
8. Reduced City budget 20%; reduced full-time employee positions 15%; City Council increase policy to reduce expenses, increase revenues/taxes.

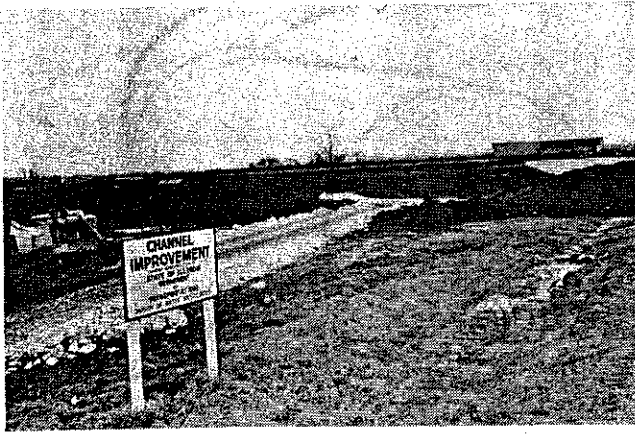
Key Plans for 1983

1. Construct Glendale Gardens sanitary sewers - serve 110 homes.
2. Begin construction of \$3 million wastewater treatment plant.
3. Begin construction of new fire station near 6th Street & Edwardsville Road.
4. Complete stormwater control channel east of 9th Street.
5. Complete plans for Glendale Gardens area stormwater control system.
6. Reconstruct Wood River Avenue/Edwardsville Road intersection (highest accident intersection in City).
7. Receive delivery of new \$75,000 fire truck.
8. Receive recommendations from special 43-person Swim Pool Committee on what should be done with our 55-year old swimming pool.
9. Continue to monitor and hold down City operating expenses.

**Bargains Begin at Home-
Shop in Wood River**

What the Flood Channel Does

The East Storm Water/Control Channel is designed to run right across the northeastern boundary of Wood River, cutting off any flood water from storms or melting snow before it can cause any trouble. The channel will be about 80 feet wide, 8 to 10 feet deep, and 3,700 feet long. It will be big enough to catch all the water between the ridge and the airport. Then, the water will flow to the 6th Street Detention Pond; from there, it will be pumped up to Wood River creek in East Alton - and out of harm's way.



East Storm Water Channel- Under Construction!

The East Storm Water Channel Project is going again, with groundbreaking ceremonies held December 4 and work begun in mid-December.

Weather permitting, we hope to get as much work done as possible this winter to avoid the flooding problems suffered in the past by residents of northeast Wood River, especially citizens living in the Charles, Virginia, Lafayette Apartments, Brushey Grove, and Glendale Gardens area.

The Water Resources Division of the State Department of Transportation (IDOT) recognized that the City of Wood River had a problem with flooding in the northeastern part of the City. In 1975, the State and the City initiated a 7-year, \$600,000 flood control project. The State agreed to pay for construction; the City would just pay for the right-of-way. The project included the 6th Street Detention Basin, pumps and pumping station, and the East Storm Water Channel.

Five Stages Completed - Then Stopped

The City acquired the right-of-way for the sixth stage, the East Storm Water Channel (east of 9th Street), at a cost of \$165,000, including legal fees. Community Development paid about \$10,000, and the State paid \$477,000; total project cost is about \$650,000.

The project was ready to go to bid by February of last year. Then, on February 9, 1982, two days before bidding was to begin, Governor Thompson froze the funding for the project. Wood River fought the freeze. Finally, on September 3, 1982, the funds were unfrozen, and the project could go ahead.

Wood River Police: A Winning Scoreboard

In 1980 an intensive management effort began to improve the quality of Police services provided to our citizens. Improvements in such areas as traffic control, traffic accident investigation, and criminal investigations were targeted as priority concerns.

A 2-year traffic safety grant funded many changes in the Department. A new, team approach to provide police services resulted in significant improvements:

	1979	1982	%Change
Crimes Reported	597	453	DOWN 24%
Crimes Solved	107	151	UP 41%
Traffic Accidents	281	169	DOWN 40%
Overtime Hours	1,946	618	DOWN 68%

These figures represent the period July through December for the years indicated.

Results were due to:

1. Creation of the police management team.
2. Revised patrol schedule.
3. Upgraded training.
4. Increased job responsibility & accountability.
5. Purchase of new equipment.
6. A desire to change and improve.
7. Support by City Council & City Manager.

The Wood River Police Department -
doing better to improve police services
and your safety!

Utility Billing Change Saves You Money

The utility schedule has been changed from the old quarterly system (every months) to a bi-monthly system. This means that your bills for water, sewer and refuse pickups will come every two months. It will be easier for citizens of Wood River, especially those with fixed incomes, to pay a small bill. Six small checks per year are easier to pay than 4 larger checks, and it should be easier to manage your money if you are on a limited income.

Rate Decrease for New System

There has been a rate decrease with the new system. Residents of Wood River continue to pay a minimum charge, which is the same, whether they use one gallon or five thousand gallons during each pay period. The minimum charge is to cover the costs of reading the meters, billing and maintenance services. Up to December, the minimum charge for each three-month period was \$8.20. It has now been reduced to \$3.25 every 2 months.

Frequent Meter Checks Means Better Service

With the system Wood River had, it was possible for something to be wrong with your meter for up to 3 months. With the new, more frequent checks, problems such as broken or poorly-adjusted meters have been reduced. Also, if your house has leaks that you don't know about, these leaks will be detected after two months and not after 3 months.

New System Began in November

The new billing system began in November, 1982, starting with a few Wood River residences and continuing until everybody was changed over to the new system, in January, 1983.

To upgrade service, the City also bought a new computer to handle the new billing procedure. So, your utility bills are printed differently and with more information.

For further information, call the Water Office at 254-0131.

ASST!

Don't tell - but our water fees are very low! East Alton residents pay 33% more, and Alton residents 82% more than Wood River!



Wood River Rotary Club volunteers plant trees at Belk Park Golf Course.

More Trees Fore Golf

Belk Park Golf Course has planted about 280 trees as part of their on-going efforts to make the course more beautiful and challenging for golfers. The Golf Course maintenance staff dug the holes. Volunteers from the Wood River Rotary Club did the planting, staking, fertilizing, and mulching of 80 trees.

Many of the trees were purchased from local nurseries by the Golf Course fund at a cost of \$4,000. No tax dollars were used. Some trees were transplanted from the Golf Course's own nursery.

The trees were selected and planted with special purposes in mind. For example, Blue Spruces were planted as 150 yard markers. Bald Cypresses require a lot of water, so they grow well in wet spots, soaking up the water and keeping these spots dry. Some trees were planted along the back edge of greens to give depth of field - that is, providing a contrasting background to make it easier to judge the distance. Some trees were planted in the rough to separate fairways and to protect players against hooks and slices. (FORE!)

And when the frosts are gone around the end of February or beginning of March, the golfers at the Belk Park Golf Course will have new trees to make the greens easier to see, mark the distances in the fairways, and separate the fairways, protecting them from wild hooks and slices.

FORE!

For further information, please call the Golf Course at 254-9065.

Programs for Kids and Kids-at-Heart at the Public Library

The Wood River Public Library has programs for everybody, from toddlers wanting to hear a good story, to students doing research, to homeowners wanting information on solar heat and homemakers needing that special dessert recipe for Easter.

For pre-school children ages 3-5 the Library has an on-going program on 3rd Saturday of every month, from 10:30 to 11:00 A.M. Here are the dates for the rest of the series:

February 19th

March 19th

April 16th

May 21st

For Wood River residents who need more extensive services, the Public Library can draw upon resources far and wide. The Library belongs to the Lewis & Clark Library System, which combines the resources and facilities of the libraries in seven counties.

Separate Library Board

The operation of the Wood River Public Library is governed by the 9-member Library Board. The Board members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. The Board has independent responsibility for its budget, tax rate, and hiring its own employees.

There's a lot going on at the Wood River Public Library, isn't there? Regular library hours are:

Monday - Friday 10:00am to 8:00pm
Saturday 10:00am to 5:00pm

The Library's phone number is 254-4832 - information and fun is their business.



Wood River Public Library - A fun place to visit.

Why Do Sewers Back Up?

(AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT)

The City of Wood River has a sewer system known as a "combined" system. means that ONE pipe handles BOTH storm-water (surface drainage) and sanitary sewage (what comes out of our house). Most older cities have "combined" sewer systems.

The Problem

With a combined sewage system such as Wood River has, there can be problems when there is a heavy storm. The down-pour puts a lot of water pressure on the sewer, especially where streets slope down at intersections. These down-sloping intersections act like catch basins, and so they flood. When they flood, water pressure pushes back up the sewer, up the flood drain, and - if you are unprepared - right up the basement drain and into your house.

Solutions to the Problem

There are several things that can be done to get rid of or control the sewer back-up problem here. The best solution would be to build a new sewer system, with separate pipes for storm-water and sanitary sewage. However, these new pipes for Wood River would cost millions and millions of dollars.

What Can the Homeowner Do?

One thing you could do is move to higher ground. But that seems like a lot of trouble to avoid a backed-up sewer. Here are some easier, less-expensive answers.

1) Remove the basement from the sewer line. Running your pipes up into your house, above the basement, instead of down into the basement, can prevent water running in during storms. But moving the pipes can be difficult. You may need to install a reverse-flush toilet, or maybe a sump pump, in your basement.

2) Install a Check Valve. A check valve in your basement will allow water to flow out of your basin, not in. When water tries to come back in, the valve is pushed shut, so no messy basement. The problem with check valves is that they may clog open.

continued on next page



Meals-On-Wheels starts here at Township Hospital kitchen.

Services for Seniors: Meals on Wheels

The Meals-On-Wheels Program has been going strong in the Wood River area for about 10 years. Meals-On-Wheels was originally intended to be a volunteer program to provide hot meals to shut-ins in the Wood River area. But like many good things, the program began to grow. Soon, Meals-On-Wheels was not only providing meals, but also taking people to the doctor, shopping, and generally providing the services and mobility that some people could not get on their own.

When the Bethalto Ministerial Alliance asked Meals-On-Wheels to bring a program to Bethalto, they did. Soon, there was a Meals-On-Wheels Program in East Alton, making three programs in all.

Community-wide Support

Meals-On-Wheels is now sponsored by 26 area churches. Sponsorship crosses City lines and religious affiliation. Each church takes the responsibility of service for one month at a time, supplying the volunteers. Two drivers are needed every week, between 8 and 10 drivers every month. But, still, it is not enough to get service to all who need it.

The people served by Meals-On-Wheels include senior citizens, the disabled, - generally those who have trouble getting around or taking care of their needs. Meals-On-Wheels participants include people who have had strokes, cataracts removed, heart attacks, cancer and people restricted to wheel chairs. Each participant pays \$8.75 per week. The meals are delivered to their homes every day, Monday through Friday. About 16 folks are now receiving this service in Wood River, and 40 in our total area.

Many are retirees. A few are young mothers. Some volunteers have been with the program from the beginning. Still, new volunteers are very welcome.

And what do these volunteers do? Everything. They do the driving in their own cars, they pay for the gas, and they do it on their own time. The whole Meals-On-Wheels Program is done without any grants, or outside funding - just dedication.

The volunteers even make the desert.

For more information, please call Lawanda Smith at 259-2106.

We Can't Find You Unless...

We'd like to remind our citizens of Wood River that there are times when the Fire Department or Police Department may want to find your house in a hurry. They may have a hard time finding you if you don't have your house clearly identified. Nice, big numbers, easily seen from the street, are a big help. We recommend that your numbers be at least 2½" high.

So, please do us a favor and do yourself a favor - make sure your house is clearly identified with your house number.

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3) Install a Hand Valve. A hand-valve can cut off the sewer pipe leading into the basement, and it can cut off the pipe leading to the first floor or above. The problem with a hand-valve is you have to know when a storm is coming - which might mean getting up some cold night or morning to turn the valve shut. And when the danger is over, you have to open the valve. And what if you go somewhere? Just close that valve, if there's any stormwarning.

Beating the sewer backup problem is not easy - it takes time and money, but moving your pipe or installing a valve can save you a lot of trouble later.

Call the City's Public Works Director at 254-0123 if you would like to further discuss these alternatives.

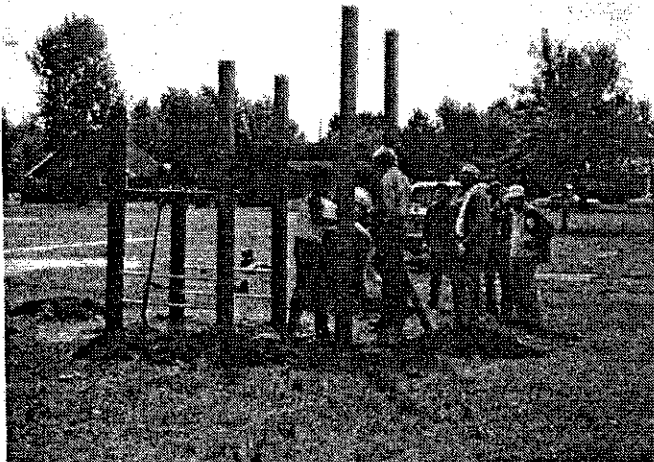
What's a Natureville?

The Wood River City Parks & Recreation Department is building a new playground by the Roundhouse in Central Park and the newest addition is a "Natureville" metal-and-wood "active" unit. (It's called "active" cause you don't just sit on it or look at it.)

This piece of equipment includes a climbing chain, climbing bar, wave slide, and a ten-foot spiral slide--all in one unit.

Equipment Changes, Kids Stay the Same

The Natureville equipment represents a changing trend in playground equipment. Traditionally, children's play areas had their equipment spread all over, so that children had to run from one piece of equipment to the other. Supposedly, with the new units, kids can stay (more-or-less) in one place. (Is it really possible for kids to stay in one place?) The equipment gets a lot more use this way, too.



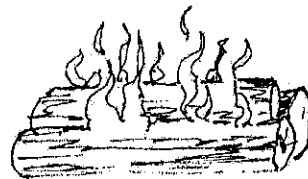
Going up! A new Natureville takes shape (see story).

The older equipment was made of metal, because metal "lasted longer". The Natureville is made of wood, metal and fiberglass. The wood is used because it looks nice.

The Parks & Recreation Department is also planning to add a swing, a tiny-tot swing, and benches for mothers to sit on. The playground will be surrounded by a fence made of railroad ties. Finally, the ground will be covered with wood chips for safety (nice and soft to fall down on) and to give it a natural look.

Volunteers Do It Again!

The Natureville cost \$4,764. It was built with the help of volunteers. A few strong backs from the Wood River Rotary Club donated their time (and sweat) to help put the Natureville together. Of the 176 hours required to assemble it, 66 of those hours were from Rotary volunteers. (Considering the cost of labor these days, that represents a pretty good savings.) But then, the Parks & Recreation Department has always gotten help from dedicated volunteers.



Be Cozy With Woodburners

No matter if you own a Franklin, a conical, a pot belly, or a fireplace, an open flame inside your home presents hazards. Follow a few simple rules, and you can be safe and save energy.

1. Examine your chimney and damper for deposits of soot and creosote. These bi-products of a wood fire, along with an occasional bird's nest, can ignite a roaring flue fire.

Closing down the air intakes and damper can make a few logs last hours. But this also reduces the flue temperature, allowing deposits to build up faster. Examine your chimney several times during a season.

2. Don't overload your fire box. Some woods burn very quickly and very hot; so a little can mean a lot.

3. If your firebox is lined with fire brick or another type of ceramic and it cracks or becomes damaged, replace it at once.

4. Keep your spark screens closed to hold in those popping embers. At night, keep the glass doors shut and keep the fire low.

5. Smoke and fumes contain carbon monoxide which can kill. Burn only what the manufacturer recommends; never burn treated wood, painted wood, or charcoal.

6. Keep combustibles, including fireplace accessories, away from the fire at a safe distance; they may melt or ignite from fireplace heat.

Call the Wood River Fire Department at 254-4302 if you have any questions. Follow these few rules and be fire safe.

Adventure through Recreation

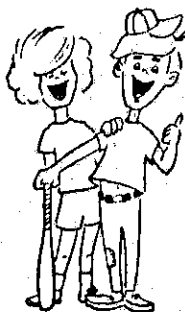
- YOUTH ACTIVITIES -

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AGES</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>REGISTER</u>
Gymnastics Pre-School	boys & girls 4 & 5 yrs	Wed 4:00PM Sat 10:00AM	\$10/8 wks	Mar 2, 3, & 4 1 to 5PM
Beginners	6 and older	Wed 4:30PM Sat 9:00AM	\$12/8 wks	at the Roundhouse Rec Center
Intermediates	6 and older	Wed 5:30-7PM	\$18/8 wks	(All classes begin week of March 14.)
Baton Lessons	girls, 6 & older	Sat 1:00PM	\$12/8 wks	

YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM

League play for boys and girls from age 6 thru 13.
Spring session to begin March 26.
Games on Saturdays beginning at 10AM and continuing
thru 2PM.

REGISTER: February 23 - 26, 1 to 5PM at the
Roundhouse Rec Center. Fee \$6.
Fee covers spring and fall sessions.



YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Morning clinics for 7, 8, and 9 yr old boys and girls.
Clinics will begin June 6 thru July 15, 1983.

League play for boys 10 thru 17 yrs and for girls 10
thru 15 yrs. (9 yr olds that participated in clinic
for 2 yrs are eligible for league play.)

REGISTER: April 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, from 1 to 5PM
at the Roundhouse Rec Center. Fee \$8.

Youth League Coaches Annual Meeting and Banquet scheduled for Monday, March 7,
beginning with dinner at 6:00PM, followed by short business meeting and program.

Annual Opening Night and Parade scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 1983. League
play begins May 31, immediately following parade and opening night ceremonies
at Jaycee Field, Sixth Street Park.

- ADULT ACTIVITIES -

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>AGES</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>FEE</u>	<u>REGISTER</u>
Aerobic Dance	Women	Mon-Th 7PM & 8PM Tues-Th 6PM	\$15/8 wks	Mar 2, 3, & 4 1 to 5 PM
Ladies Exercise	Women	Wed-Fri 9:30AM	\$16/8 wks	
Senior Citizens	Men & Women over 55 yrs	2nd & 4th Thurs 11AM to 3PM	\$5/yr dues	
Square Dances	Men & Women	2nd & 4th Sat 7:30PM	\$3/couple	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL THE ROUNDHOUSE REC CENTER, 254-5521 or 254-7008

Welcome to the fifth issue of *The City News Pipeline*. *The Pipeline* is an information newsletter which is distributed to all City residents' homes. It's main purpose is to tell citizens of available City services, and how to best utilize what your tax dollars provide.

City officials want to hear comments on, and suggestions for stories, from City residents. So please contact City Hall at 254-0123. We hope you continue to find *The Pipeline* both informative and enjoyable.

Gary Webster, City Manager

on behalf of

WOOD RIVER CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Lon Smith
Councilwoman Dorothy Council
Councilwoman Anna Culp
Councilman Michael McClintock
Councilman Robert Stocker

Belk Park Golf Course Wants You

Regular fees for Wood River residents have been discounted 50¢ for 9 holes and \$1.00 for 18 holes played at Belk Park Golf Course.

Dollar Days

Play for a buck a round during "Dollar Days" was approved by the City Council to establish a special price for a round of golf for City of Wood River residents.

Weather permitting, Dollar Days for Wood River residents would be as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
March 15	Tuesday	All Day
March 19	Saturday	12:30pm - 3:00pm
March 27	Sunday	12:30pm - 3:00pm

In case of bad weather in March, "Dollar Days" would be postponed until April. The raindate schedule would be as follows:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
April 12	Tuesday	All Day
April 16	Saturday	12:30pm - 3:00pm
April 24	Sunday	12:30pm - 3:00pm

Residents must make reservations and be 12 years of age or older. Proof of residency must be presented to cash and the fee of \$1.00 will be charged for nine or more holes.

For further information, please call the Golf Course at 254-9065.

New Stray Policy Saves \$6,000

The way stray or abandoned dogs are handled by the City has been changed to save Wood River citizens some money.

Under the old policy, any dog found here by the Wood River Police or the Animal Control Officer, was sent to a private kennel. The City paid \$4-5 a day for the feeding and housing of animals held there.

Under the new policy, strays are held in the City's temporary kennel at the 14th Street Public Works area. If the animal is unclaimed after one day, it will be transferred to the Madison County kennel 6 miles east of Edwardsville.

Your tax dollars already support the County kennel. The new policy will save taxpayers about \$6,000 a year.

Dog Owner Responsibilities

If a dog is still here at the temporary kennel, the owner must pay a \$15 release fee to get it out, which covers feed and housing costs. If the dog has already been transferred, then the owner will have to pay the \$15 fee, get a receipt, and go to the County and pay the County fee (which may run as high as \$30-50). And, if a dog is unlicensed and/or without the proper shots, then the owner must pay for that, too, before a dog will be released.

So, the expense is on the owner where it belongs.

For further information about stray animals, please call the Wood River Police Department at 254-8923.

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