

## A Word About The Pipeline

Welcome to the first issue of *The City News Pipeline!* *The Pipeline* is a quarterly informational newsletter which will be distributed to all City residents' homes. Its main purpose is to tell citizens of available City services and how best to utilize what your tax dollars provide.

*The Pipeline* will also tell residents of major improvement projects, plans for future development, and other important activities of your City government.

City officials encourage input from City residents, in hopes of improving programs and policies which can best serve the community. If you have any questions or problems, please contact City Hall at 254-0123. Also, we ask you to share with us your comments concerning this newsletter. We hope you 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

## Water & Sewer Rate Increases A Necessity

Inflation affects the cost of City operations just as it does the individual homeowner. For the past several years the costs of chemicals, maintenance and labor have been rising 15-20% annually, which has had a similar impact on the operating costs of the City's water supply and sewer system.

In 1975, the cost for treating water was 47¢ per 1,000 gallons. Today, that cost is 85¢ per 1,000 gallons - an increase of 80%. In 1975, the cost of treating sewage was 35¢ per 1,000 gallons. Today, that cost is 64¢ per 1,000 gallons - an increase of 82%.

While all these costs were skyrocketing, up until December, 1980, the City had not raised sewer rates since 1968, and water hadn't been increased since 1975. Therefore, the City has been selling water and sewage treatment to community users at rates below actual costs.

### Residents pay their fair share

Three events occurred in 1980 and 1981 which resulted in water and sewer rate increases in December, 1980 and again in July, 1981.

1. The water and sewer reserve funds, which were paying the difference between actual costs and user fees, went "dry".

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## Rate Increases

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2. Due to other fiscal needs, it was no longer possible to subsidize the water and sewer operations with general tax dollars.
3. The closing of the Amoco refinery - the largest single source of water user fees.

Besides inflation, two other factors will cause further adjustments to water and sewer rates during the next year:

1. Federal regulations require the City of Wood River to "clean up" all wastewater discharges from our sewer plant to the Mississippi. This requires the City to build a new sewage treatment plant, with construction scheduled to begin in the next several months. Although 75% of the cost will come from State government, 25% must be paid by the City which means higher rates for sewer users.
2. Federal regulations make it mandatory for the City to charge the same user fee for each thousand gallons of sewage. Under the old system, users paid a decreasing fee as the volume increased. Rates for high volume sewer users will, therefore, increase much greater than rates for minimal sewer/water users.

### Rates still a good deal

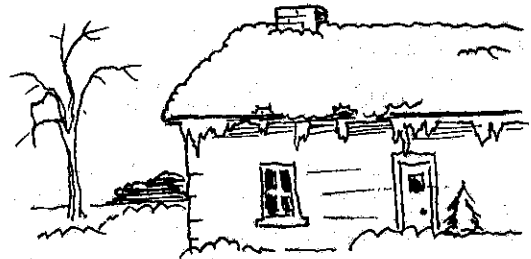
In spite of recent water rate increases, the average residential user in Wood River pays less for water than surrounding communities. In fact, Wood River water rates are still lower than those of neighboring communities, by up to 50%!

Plans are in process to allow households and commercial users to budget their water and sewer expenses more easily. The City will be switching from a quarterly billing to a monthly or bi-monthly billing system. This should begin within the next six months.

Water conservation will reduce your water and sewer costs, and save valuable resources for future use. The Public Works Department suggests several water conservation tips for our water customers:

1. Repair all leaking faucets, pipes and toilets.
2. Reduce water level in toilet tanks.
3. Reduce shower time.
4. Purchase flow restrictors for faucets and shower heads.

\*Call 254-0131 for more information.\*



## Reduce Heating Costs Through Audit

Energy Conservation becomes more important with the approach of winter and the home heating season. The Illinois Power Company is offering a comprehensive Home Energy Audit to its customers at a cost of \$15 per home. An energy auditor will come to your home and evaluate your energy and heating systems. You will be informed as to where your home is losing the greatest amount of heat and energy.

Customers may also participate in a State energy program entitled "Residential Conservation Service". After completion of the energy audit, the customer will receive a list of suppliers, installers, and financial institutions. If the customer contracts with any of the companies listed, the customer will receive:

1. Inspection of work performed.
2. 1-year written guarantee.
3. Inspection after 1 year of work performed.

These inspections are to insure that the work is done properly and operating correctly after one year.

Contact Norman Hall, Illinois Power Company, at 1-876-1280 if you are interested in a Home Energy Audit.

## Lincoln Area Sanitary Sewer Project

Construction of sanitary sewers in the Lincoln area is underway. The project will cost approximately \$600,000 and will provide sanitary sewers to the 185 homes in the Lincoln area located between Wilson, Jefferson, Summit/Hillview, and 6th Street. This cost will be paid by Madison County Community Development and the tapping fee payable by each home in the project area.

Property owners in the Lincoln area have some responsibilities concerning the project. Besides payment of a tapping fee, each property owner must arrange for connecting his home to the new sewer line in the adjacent street or alley. Property owners must also drain and make safe their old septic tank or cess pool.

With the completion of this sewer project, 97% of the homes in Wood River will be connected to the City's sanitary sewer system. Only 140 homes in scattered locations will be without sewers.

Questions concerning this project may be directed to City Hall at 254-0123.



A propane tank is small enough to fit in the trunk of this Wood River police car.

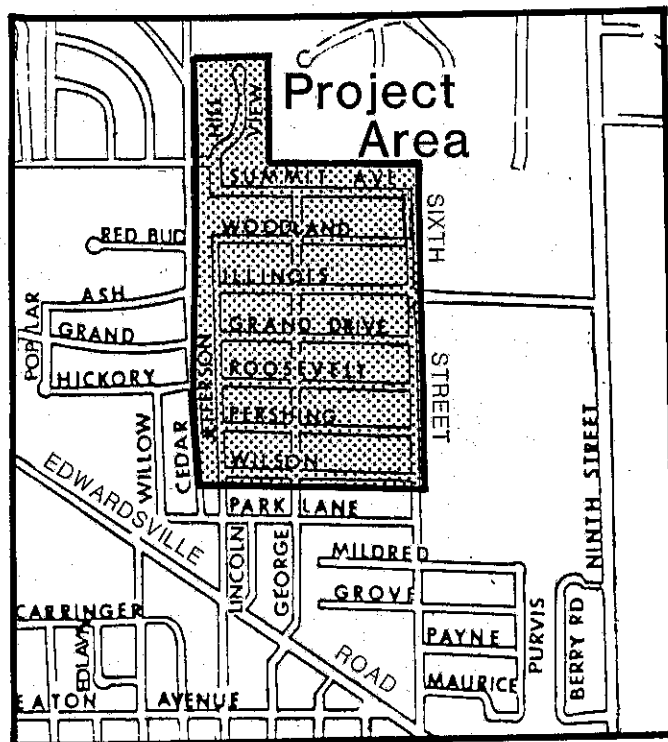
### Cost Cutters: "Propaned" City Vehicles

Last Spring, the City explored the advantages and disadvantages of converting City vehicles from gasoline to propane (LP gas) fuel in an effort to reduce costs. The use of propane for engine fuel is not a new idea. Some cities have been using propane for over 10 years. San Antonio, Texas presently has 1,000 city vehicles on propane fuel. Propane vehicles do have advantages over gasoline-fueled vehicles:

1. Propane is 40-50% less expensive than gasoline.
2. Propane is clean-burning and safer than gasoline.
3. Propane vehicles require less routine engine maintenance.

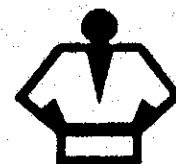
This summer, the City converted 5 vehicles of different types to propane fuel. While some problems have been encountered, we are still satisfied with the "test" at this point. If the test is successful, a total of 16 City vehicles will be converted to propane fuel. After payment of conversion costs, first year savings would be \$3,300, with nearly \$17,000 annual cost savings for each following year.

Through the use of propane equipment, the City hopes to reduce it's annual fuel bill.



# Adventure through Recreation

ACTIVITY	AGES	TIME	FEE
<u>YOUTH ACTIVITIES</u>			
Gymnastics		Register Jan 4 & 5	
Beginners	boys-girls, 6+	W & Th, 4:00-5:30pm Sat 9:30am-11:00am	\$18/8 wks
Intermediates	boys-girls, 6+	T & Th, 5:00-7:00pm Sat 10:30am-12:30pm	\$21/8 wks
Pre-School	boys-girls, 4 & 5	W 10:30 and 11:30am	\$10/8 wks
Dance-Tap & Ballet	girls, 5+	M 4:00, 5:00, 6:00pm Register Dec. 7	\$10/month
Baton Lessons	girls, 5+	Sat 1:30pm Register Jan 4 & 5	\$12/10 wks
Soccer	boys & girls 6 - 13 years	Registration Jan 22 thru Jan 26, 1981	\$6.00
Bi-City Bruins Wrestling Team	boys, 5th thru 8th grade	Register Nov.16-18, 1981	\$5.00



## ADULT ACTIVITIES

Slim Talk	men & women	M 10:00 am	\$10 membership \$3 weekly dues
Senior Citizens Ladies Exercise	men & women women	2nd & 4th Th, 10am-3pm T 1-2pm, F 9:30-10:30am Register Jan 4 & 5	\$3 yearly dues \$12/8 wks
Aerobic Dance	women	M & Th, 7:10-8:00pm Register Jan 4 & 5	\$15/8 wks
Square Dance Lessons	men & women	T 7:30-9:30pm	\$3/couple per lesson
Square Dances	men & women	2nd & 4th Sat, 7:30-11pm	\$3/couple



## WINTER LEAGUES

3-Man Basketball	men	M evening	Begins mid-Nov.
Teen Basketball	boys not on school teams	W - Th evenings	Begins mid-Nov.
Women's Volleyball	women	M evening	Begins mid-Nov.
Co-Ed Volleyball	men & women	T evening	Begins mid-Nov.



Winter leagues held at Lewis-Clark  
Jr High Gym.

Other activities held at Roundhouse  
Rec Center



\* \* \* \* \* " CALLS FROM SANTA " \* \* \* \* \*

Sponsored by

City of Wood River Parks & Recreation Department

&

Wood River Township Jaycees

For youngsters 3 thru 6 years only. Calls to be made by Santa Claus on December 14, 15 and 16, 1981. Application forms may be picked up after December 1, 1981, at Wood River City Hall, Roundhouse Rec Center or the 1st National Bank in Wood River. Applications must be turned in no later than December 11.

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

## Acton Avenue Housing Project Takes Shape

Morrissey Sisters Construction Company of Godfrey is presently taking applications from prospective tenants for the new housing project, Golden Oak, located at 111 West Acton Avenue, west of Haller. Residents began moving into Golden Oak on October 19th.

The project is subsidized by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.) under the Section 8 Housing Program. Tenants will pay one-quarter of their income for rent, and H.U.D. will pay the remainder of the rental price.

In order to qualify for this program, tenants must:

- 1) be at least 62 years old or handicapped or disabled; and
- 2) meet certain income guidelines.

### Project design

The project consists of 36 one-bedroom units and 4 two-bedroom units. The three-story building has an elevator, and 4 of the units are handicapped equipped. Maximum security is insured for the residents by inside locked doors as well as an intercom system for admission of visitors.

Tenants will share a coin-operated laundry and a large community room. The Morrissey Sisters hope tenants will plan activities for themselves and eventually organize a tenant association. They are presently looking for the donation of a piano to be used in the community room.

Although most of the units are now occupied, there are some which are still available for rental. Persons who are interested in making Golden Oak their home are encouraged to contact Barbara Morrissey at 466-3112.

### Services for Seniors:

#### Meals-on-Wheels

Today, Americans are living longer than ever before. The average life span in the United States today is 72 years, with women out-living men by 5 years.



Meals-on-Wheels volunteers deliver hot lunch to an appreciative participant.

As we grow older, we often experience some difficulty in performing tasks which previously came easy. However, several services are available to Senior Citizens of Wood River, which can help make this transition a smooth one.

"Meals-on-Wheels" is a totally volunteer-staffed program, which brings hot meals into eligible persons homes daily. You are eligible for this service, if you are presently unable to prepare your own meals.

Twenty-six churches participate in the program, and the responsibility of staffing rotates monthly. Church members deliver meals, and prepare desserts for the program's participants. There are four meal routes throughout the Wood River Area, and forty persons are serviced daily.

The Meals-on-Wheels Program delivers one hot meal a day to participants, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 11:00a.m. and noon. Meals are prepared at Wood River Township Hospital and special diets are accommodated. Each participant pays only food costs, which are \$8.75 per week.

If you are presently unable to prepare your own meals, and would like hot meals delivered to your home, please call LaWanda Smith, Meals-on-Wheels Coordinator at 259-2106.

## Railroad Overpass Nearing Completion

Construction is underway on the Phoebe Goldberg Overpass, which rises above the railroad tracks on Ferguson Avenue. The overpass will connect Route 3 with Madison Avenue at old St. Louis Road. 37 properties were purchased by the State in order to construct this overpass.

The total cost of the overpass project is \$5.5 million dollars. These costs include: design, land acquisition, utility and railroad relocation, construction and construction inspection. Approximately two-thirds will be paid by the Federal Highway Administration, and one-third by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

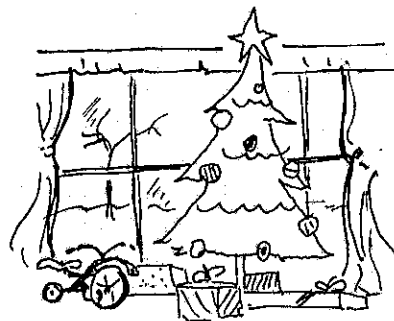
The overpass is Phase I of a larger construction project, which will entail the relocation of Route 143. Phase II will go through Wood River out Madison Avenue to Edwardsville Road, and continue eastward to link up with the already existing SIUE exits.

Completion of Phase II of the project is dependent upon State and Federal funding. It is not expected to be started for several years, unless additional State transportation funds are made available.

The Phoebe Goldberg Overpass should be in operation by Christmas, next month. Once both phases are completed, residents of Alton and towns north and west of Wood River will have direct access to the SIUE campus. The new Route 143 will provide both convenience and economical savings to persons in the area - and no waiting for trains!



The Phoebe Goldberg Overpass will eventually be part of the new Route 143.



## A Fire-Safe Holiday

The Holiday Season will soon be here, and with it comes serious home fire hazards. The Wood River Fire Department wants to remind you about Holiday Season Do's and Don'ts.

### DO

1. DO equip your fireplace with a fire screen.
2. DO keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
3. DO unplug tree lights before you go to bed or leave the house.
4. DO cut off one-inch from tree trunk, and keep tree in a solution of water and baking soda. Keep tree away from sources of heat.

### DON'T

1. DON'T buy highly combustible toys or ones that use flammable liquids.
2. DON'T overload outlets. Keep electrical chords out in the open.
3. DON'T hang lights on a metallic tree.
4. DON'T smoke near the tree or decorations.
5. DON'T buy a tree with shedding needles

Check your home carefully for fire hazards and.....don't let fire turn your holiday fun into tragedy. Keep your holiday merry! Call the Fire Department at 254-4302 for a home safety check.

## Burglary Prevention

### A Smart Idea

Safeguarding your home against burglary can best be done by using some basic common sense. No home will ever be burglar-proof, but there are ways to discourage burglary. The main thought to keep in mind is that burglars prefer to work in the dark and shy away from: lights, noise and non-easily accessible entry points.

The Wood River Police Department offers the following home-safeguarding rules:

1. Install and use exterior lights, even when you are at home.
2. Install and use solid locks on doors and windows. A one-inch deadbolt is an excellent deterrent when used with a standard knob lock. Also, lock garage doors.
3. Leave interior lights on a timer, and a radio playing when you are not at home.
4. Don't leave keys in obvious places, such as mailboxes or under welcome mats
5. Stop newspaper and mail deliveries, if you are gone for extended periods of time.



#### "To catch a thief"

Perhaps the most useful safeguard of all is knowing your neighbors. When you are away from home, your neighbors will be most helpful when it comes to looking out for suspicious persons. The best way to protect yourself from burglary is to have neighbors "watch out". A neighborhood and its individual homes are better protected when everyone is "watching out" for one another.

Residents are asked to call the police immediately if they see or hear anything suspicious. Your descriptions of suspects, their cars and their actions will determine the chances of apprehension. Call the Police at 254-4303 with this information--Don't Hesitate, CALL!!

The Wood River Police Department also offers a "vacation check" for residents who will be out of town for several days or more, as well as a home burglary prevention audit. If you are interested in these services, please call the Police Department at 254-8923 and remember, the precautions you take may prevent you from being a burglary victim.



#### Did you know that.....

- (1) The Wood River Water Treatment Plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and distributes an average of 128 gallons of water per day to each resident.
- (2) The City of Wood River does not maintain a record of vital statistics. Information on births and deaths may be obtained at the County Courthouse in Edwardsville (692-4400).
- (3) Between 1910 and 1920, the City of Wood River experienced a 4,000 percent increase in population. In 1920, the Census Bureau declared Wood River "the fastest growing City in the United States".
- (4) Wood River's 1980 Census population was 12,449---a decrease of 5.6% from that in 1970. However, the number of residential dwellings increased by 7.9% in 1980, to 5,045 housing units.
- (5) Tax information:
  - a. 33% of your State taxes are invested in education.
  - b. In 1980, Illinoisians got back only 73¢ for every dollar we sent to Washington, D.C.

# City of Wood River Monthly Meeting Dates at City Hall

City Council - 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30 PM  
Traffic Commission - 3rd Tuesday 7:30 PM  
Fire & Police Comm.- 1st Wednesday 7:00 PM

\*Wood River residents are encouraged to participate in the above meetings.  
Your ideas and views are always welcomed!

Call 254-0123 in advance to confirm times and dates, if you plan to attend meetings.

### Important Telephone Numbers

To report a fire.....254-4301  
To call the police.....254-4303  
City Hall.....254-0123  
Water/Sewer Bill.....254-0131  
"Meals-on-Wheels".....259-2106  
Brush & Limbs Pick-up.....254-5822  
Police Vacation Check.....254-8923  
Home Energy Audit info.....1-876-1280



### Smoke Detector Program

Thousands of people are killed by fire in their homes each year. Many of these deaths would never have occurred had there been a smoke detector in the home. Smoke detectors are extremely sensitive to smoke, and warn you of a fire almost immediately.

The Wood River Fire Department is selling smoke detectors to area residents for \$10.00 each; they will install them for you at no charge and they will do a free home fire safety check. With this assistance available, there is no reason why each of us shouldn't take advantage of this offer.

Call the Fire Department at 254-4302, or come down to the station at 34 South Wood River Avenue. Don't hesitate! Get your smoke detector today protect your life!



### "Beware of the Snow Man"

The following streets are designated "Snow Routes" in the City Traffic Code. No person shall park a vehicle or allow a vehicle to remain parked, upon any of these streets following a snow-storm of 2 inches accumulation or more until they have been cleared of snow.

Old St. Louis Road	From Picker to Ferguson Avenue
Ferguson Ave.	From Route 3 to Route 143
Old Alton-Edws. Road	From Route 143 to Rockhill Rd.
Rockhill Road	From Old Alton-Edws.Road to East City limits
Holly Drive	From Rockhill Rd. to Eastern City Limits
Magnolia Avenue	From Rockhill Rd. to Mimosa Drive
Mimosa Drive	From Rockhill Rd. to Southern City Limits
Ninth Street	From Tennyson Ave. to Northern City Limits
Sixth Street	From Tennyson Ave. to Woodland Dr.
Lorena Ave.	From Ninth St. to Wood River Ave.
Acton Avenue	From Wood River Ave. to 6th St.
Wood River Ave.	From Madison Ave. to Route 143

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