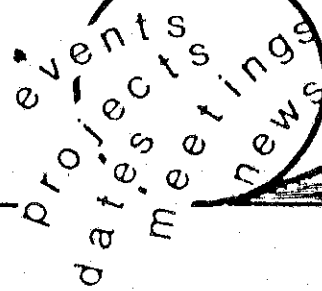


City of Wood River, Illinois

July, 1986

The City News
PIPELINE



events
projects
dates
meetings
news

\$\$\$ Saving You Money Is Our Goal \$\$\$

The recent "Annual Comparison of Homeowner Expenses for City Services Survey", done in June, 1986, concludes that once again Wood River residents pay less for City services than residents in 15 other Madison County communities. Each of the 16 communities in the survey has a population greater than 1,000. The survey was based on the taxes and fees paid by a "typical" family. The significant conclusions of the survey were that:

TAXES

1. Property taxes range from \$284 down to \$62 with nine municipalities paying more in property taxes than Wood River. The average Wood River homeowner paid \$135 per year.
2. All six municipalities collecting utility taxes rank in the highest seven total taxes -- Wood River does not levy any utility taxes.
3. Eleven of the 16 municipalities levy wheel taxes -- Wood River does not levy a wheel tax.
4. Eleven of the 16 municipalities collect higher total taxes than Wood River. The highest total tax was \$419 in Granite City. The average Wood River homeowner paid only \$135.

5. The 2 municipalities which charge a sales tax have the highest total taxes.

USER FEES

6. Annual water fees range from \$165 down to \$73 with eleven municipalities paying higher water fees than Wood River. The average Wood River homeowner paid \$85 per year.
7. Annual sewer fees range from \$112 down to \$43 with 6 municipalities paying higher sewer fees than Wood River. The average Wood River homeowner paid \$81 per year. (However, the 3 municipalities which do not collect sewer fees have the largest property tax bases.)
8. Annual refuse fees range from \$73 down to \$17 with 6 municipalities paying a higher fee than Wood River. Seven of the municipalities pay for refuse collection entirely with taxes.
9. Eleven of the municipalities pay higher total fees than Wood River. The highest total fees are charged by Maryville, \$296. The average Wood River homeowner paid \$198 per year.

Continued on page 6

Manager's Message

FY 1986-87 BUDGET

The "Manager's Message" for this issue is a continuation of the budget plans for each department discussed in our last issue. As was previously mentioned, much time and preparation goes into the budget which is used as a planning tool by each department.

The Parks and Recreation Department will be very busy this year. Early this spring, a packet of over 350 saplings was received and planted. The Department hopes to replace some of the furnishings at the Roundhouse Rec Center, such as folding tables and chairs. Painting of the exterior of the building will continue. A handicap ramp should be installed some time this year.

The Department plans to develop "Helmkamp Acres" just off of Ninth Street and to the rear of Harris and Sandbach property. Plans have also been made to add one or two shelters to East End Park in order to add to the family leisure atmosphere of the park.

Lighting Benbow Field for soccer play would be very helpful to the local high school and Quad City Soccer Programs.

The Fire Department plans to continue to upgrade the application and technology of its fire prevention. This includes public education programs on CPR and increased training of Fire Department employees in the emergency medical areas.

The major event to occur during FY 86-87 involves the construction of a new fire station near the intersection of Edwardsville Road and Sixth Street. This centrally located site will allow achievement of the long-term goal of consolidating two fire stations into one station for improved efficiency and response to alarms.

The Public Works Department, which includes the functions of street, water plant, water distribution and sewer, plans to develop an asset inventory with condition ratings and to continue the development of a computerized preventive maintenance program.

In addition to street and alley resurfacing, as described in the last issue of the Pipeline, the Public Works Department will be initiating 3 new programs. These new programs are expected to reduce current and future maintenance costs.

1. The first program is to accomplish daily street sweeping with a private contractor. The contractor will be required to meet the same sweeping schedule that the City has maintained for many years.
2. The second program will involve replacing all crosswalks that are currently painted each year with a plastic marking. These markings will normally be effective for 8 to 20 years with very little annual maintenance cost.
3. The third program involves the replacement of approximately 700 street signs. The purpose of this program is to evaluate all existing traffic control signs, and replace those signs that do not meet state standards.

The Water Distribution Department will continue the development of a valve locating and exercising program. A fully equipped one-ton utility truck will be purchased. Both water towers will be repaired and painted. Plans will be developed to obtain additional water storage facilities.

The Public Works Department will be buying out the Police Department's share of the Fortune Computer System. The increased computer capacity will help make the department even more efficient.

A safety program with emphasis upon chlorine related hazards will be implemented at the Water Plant. A study will be done to determine the effectiveness of the continued use of the spiractor process. Additional repairs will be made at the plant to improve its operation.

SUMMER AQUATIC CENTER SPECIALS



AQUATIC CENTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| July 22nd | Hydrorobics 2 Begin |
| July 25th | Dip-N-Dance "Apathy" |
| July 28th | Swimming Lessons 3 Begin |
| August 8th | T-Shirt Day |
| August 16th | Wood River Triathlon |
| August 22nd | Dip-N-Dance "Hot Pursuit" |
| September 1 | Come Relax with Us! |
| September 5 | T-Shirt Day |

On T-Shirt Day, anyone wearing an Aquatic Center t-shirt saves \$.50 off the admission price of the pool or water slide.

EVENING SPECIALS (6 to 8 p.m.)

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Mon - Pool Family Night | \$1.00/person |
| Tues - Pool & Slide Comb. | \$3.00/person |
| Wed - Seniors: Open | \$1.00/person |
| Thur - Slide Family Night | \$2.00/person |
| Fri - College & T-Shirt Night | |
| Show your college I.D. & get \$1.00 off. Wear your Aquatic Center Shirt \$.50 off | |

The City of Wood River will be hosting a Triathlon at the Aquatic Center and surrounding areas. Triathletes will:

- 1) Swim 450 meters
- 2) Bicycle 10 miles
- 3) Run 4 miles

Volunteers are needed to administer the race. All triathletes and volunteers will receive a FREE t-shirt and a FREE pass to enjoy the Aquatic Center for a day.

Triathletes and volunteers need to be at least 16 years old. You can contact the Aquatic Center at 254-0443 to register for the Triathlon or to volunteer. Many of the triathletes will be from out-of-town so let's show them our Wood River hospitality!

Due to the great demand, we are planning on starting another scuba class. If you would be interested in attending the scuba class, please contact the Aquatic Center as soon as possible at 254-0443.

REMINDER: THE WOOD RIVER AQUATIC CENTER WILL REMAIN OPEN DAILY THROUGH MID-SEPTEMBER, WEATHER PERMITTING.

Those Proud Men In Blue



Your Police Department is constantly changing to improve service to you.

Did you know that the Support Services Coordinator is responsible for the Communications/Records Division, evidence custodian and has the primary responsibility of processing all major crime scenes for evidence?

One of the best equipped crime scene units in the State was purchased for use by the Support Services Coordinator last year. The Chevrolet Mini-Van is equipped with nearly \$7,000 worth of crime scene equipment. This includes almost any type of equipment needed to process a crime scene.

We can all be proud that this new unit is used at Police displays and to assist other area police departments, when needed.

One of the main objectives of your Police Department is the continued training and education of all officers. To help keep the officers up-to-date, Patrolman Terry Crawford was appointed the department's Training Officer. He constantly monitors the training needs of officers to determine who attends the various schools available, especially those sponsored by the Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission. Officer Crawford is also the Range Training Officer.

Thanks to the Wood River Lion's Club, the police officers will soon be doing their firearms training on their very own training range! As a community project, the Lion's Club solicited donations for material and labor to construct a block storage building at the range.

The estimate to construct this building was in the area of \$22,000. Thanks to the Lion's Club, the cost to the City was under \$3,000! In order to make the firearms' training program more realistic, the department hopes to purchase an electronic control "quick swing target system". This system will help our officers make quick decisions and improve their reflex firing.

The Police Department computerized its records about 18 months ago. The system they are using was a joint purchase with the Public Works, Golf Course and Administration Department. Using the computer has been so beneficial to the department that they recently purchased an IBM 34 computer which has been installed. New programs and files are currently being written and the computer should be in operation by the end of July. This equipment is going to provide more storage space and faster access to stored information. The potential uses are unlimited and going to make for an exciting, new and progressive future for the department.

There are several services available to you FREE from the Police Department:

- guest speakers, fingerprinting,
- home vacation security checks,
- demonstrations for kindergarten - 9th grade classes and other programs.

If you would be interested in any of these programs, please call 254-8923.

Ralph Skinner
Chief of Police

Learn Not To Burn

Bring on the hot dogs and hamburgers! Get out the grills! Summertime is here! Follow these tips for outdoor fire safety.

When cooking outdoors, do not use flammable liquids near live coals. An explosion or flash fire could be the result. The safest fire starters are chemicals in cake form or a charcoal electric igniter (labeled by a testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.).

When finished cooking, soak the coals with water. Make sure they're "out" before you leave. Smoldering coals that appear to be "dead" can re-ignite as much as a day later.

If you're using a propane gas grill, always have a match lighted and in position before turning on the gas. Never try to fix a malfunctioning propane grill; have an experienced professional check it.

Do your cooking on portable grills - charcoal or gas - outdoors, away from the house. Never cook on a grill indoors or on a porch.

Clean out all storage areas and throw out any trash, especially combustibles like old newspapers and magazines, boxes, and old wrapping paper.

Make sure the workshop and garage are clean. Throw out old rags and those scraps of wood that will never be used.

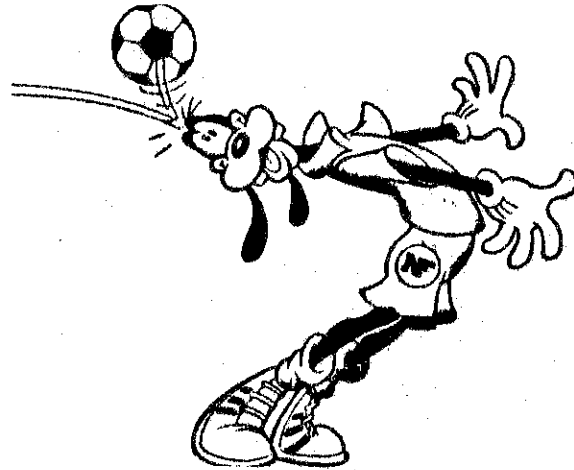
Never smoke when fueling gas-powered lawn mowers or chain saws. Gasoline vapors can travel along the ground and be ignited by a nearby flame.

Always fuel outdoors, not in the garage. Move ten feet from the fueling spot and then start the motor.

Store gasoline in a special safety can designed for gasoline storage. Keep the stored gas away from children, sparks, or a flame source and in a ventilated area.

We have all heard the expression - win or lose, be a good sport. When you suffer from a fire in your home, you always lose because fire is never a good sport. Check your home carefully for fire hazards and stamp out all fire hazards today.

Tom Whalen
Acting Fire Chief



Library Happenings

Your Wood River Public Library offers several special programs throughout the summer, including:

August 19 - Tuesday 2:00 PM
"An Afternoon of Puppy Dog Films"

ALL AGES WELCOME

"Puppy Saves the Circus"
"Puppy Who Wanted a Boy"
"Puppy's Amazing Request"
"Puppy's Great Adventure"
"Pups is Pups"

August 26 - Tuesday 2:00 PM
"Vacation Party"

Ages 6 to 12 are welcome. Bring your souvenirs and share your vacation memories with us. Film "Visit to Epcot Center" will be shown and refreshments served.

All programs are free of charge and open to the public. More information may be obtained by calling 254-4832.

Anticipated plans for Belk Park Golf Course include the continued operation of the golf course without taxpayer subsidies. Expanded instruction for beginning golfers is planned. The course will be improved by: elimination of weeds on fairways; rebuilding of trees; water lines will be extended to 2 golf course nurseries; additional tees will be added to certain holes; low spots which retain water will be eliminated; 20 new golf cars will be replaced and new score cards will be printed.

A scenic bridge will be built at Belk Park between the G.O. DeAtley's -Lions' Club shelter and the north restrooms. A new comfort station will be constructed on the course to service golfers from either the front or back nine holes. The condition of several shelters will be improved.

The Aquatic Center plans to expand the programs offered, including the Triathlon, lap swimming opportunities, a water volleyball league and an inner-tube polo league or tournament. The Department plans to help other organizations with a swim or slide-a-thon for leukemia or the arthritis foundation.

An official copy of the budget is available at the City Clerk's office and Wood River Public Library for your review. We are making things happen for you!!

COST SUMMARY -- TAXES + USER FEES

10. Total annual costs (fees plus taxes) range from \$648 down to \$192 with 10 municipalities having a higher total annual cost than Wood River. Wood River is \$315 lower or 49% in total cost than the most expensive municipality.
11. The 3 municipalities with the lowest total annual costs are the 3 with the highest property tax bases.
12. Although Edwardsville and Wood River are comparable in population and tax base, it would cost the average resident \$61 or 18% more to live in Edwardsville.
13. Ten of the 16 municipalities have populations over 5,000 persons. Of these ten, Wood River ranks eighth lowest in total costs.

This survey proves that, when you pay for City services, your dollar is worth much more in Wood River!

- Editor: Karen Gilbert
- Typists: Jan Sneed & Jean Stanley

More Fun On The the Way!

In 1983, Byron Farrell and Jack Helmkamp donated 3.5 acres of land to the City of Wood River for use by the Park and Recreation Department. The acreage is located East of Jaycee Field and the soccer field at Sixth Street Park and extends East to the rear of four homes on Ninth Street.

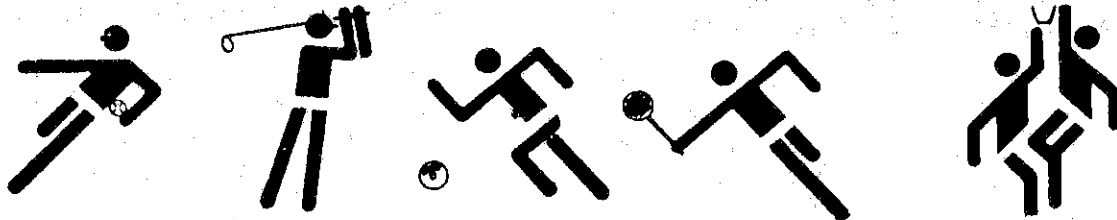
Brush, trees and weeds were cleared at the site to make way for landscaping, leveling, seeding and feeding. Chain-link fencing has been installed around part of the property to provide security and protection to the nursery being developed in that area. Additional picket fencing will be used to house the nursery.

Four hundred trees have been purchased from the Illinois Conservation Department and are to be used in park areas for conservation and wildlife. One hundred each of Pin Oak, Black-Cherry, Silkey Dogwood and White Pine have been set in the ground. After six weeks in the ground, none of the new seedlings have been lost!

Future plans at the "Helmkamp Acres" could include: water lines, electrical outlets, and a storage building of equipment and vehicles to be used at the Sixth Street Park complex. We hope to have several new recreational opportunities available to you in the near future at Helmkamp Acres!

Leroy Emerick, Director
Parks & Recreation

7 Wood River Recreation Programs



* YOUTH ACTIVITIES *

GYMNASTICS

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Pre-School | boys and girls 3,4, and 5 yrs old | Tues 4:00-4:30PM | \$10/8 wks |
| Beginners | boys and girls 6 yrs and older | Mon 5:00-6:00PM Sat 9:00-10:00AM | \$18/8 wks |
| Adv Beginners | boys and girls 6 yrs and older | Tues 4:30-6:00PM | \$21/8 wks |
| Intermediates | boys and girls 6 yrs and older | Weds 5:00-7:00PM Sat 10:00-12:00PM | \$26/8 wks |

DANCE CLASS

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------|
| Tap, Ballet & Jazz | boys and girls 5 yrs and older | Mon 4:00 & 5:00PM Thurs 4:00 & 5:00PM | \$10/month |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------|

REGISTER FOR ABOVE PROGRAMS ON SEPTEMBER 9,10,11 & 12 FROM 2-5PM AT ROUNDHOUSE REC CENTER. ALL PROGRAMS WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15.

* ADULT ACTIVITIES *

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| SQUARE DANCE LESSONS | men and women (beginners) | Tues 7:00-9:00PM | \$4/couple |
| DANCERCISE | women | Mon-Tues-Thurs 6:00-7:00PM | \$20/8 wks |
| LADIES EXERCISE CLASS | WOMEN (babysitter avail) | Wed-Fri 9:30-10:30AM Mon-Wed-Fri 9:30-10:30AM | \$15/5 wks \$23/5 wks |
| SENIOR CITIZENS | men and women | 2nd Thurs 10:00-3:00PM | \$5/yrly dues |
| BALLROOM DANCE CLASSES | men and women | Mon 7:15-8:45PM | \$50/couple 10 wks |

REGISTER FOR DANCERCISE AND EXERCISE ON SEPT. 9,10,11 and 12 FROM 2-5PM AT THE ROUNDHOUSE REC CENTER. CLASSES BEGIN WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15.

The Hoedowners Square Dance Club dances on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month. Dancing from 7:00 to 10:00PM at the Roundhouse Rec Center. Local, State and National Callers.

FALL & WINTER PROGRAMS INCLUDE -

- * Men's Fall Softball
- * Co-Ed Volleyball

Youth Soccer teams were organized in the spring and league play begins September 13. (Boys and Girls 6 thru 13) Youths who failed to register in the spring should call the Roundhouse for information on possible openings for fall play. Office 254-5521/254-7008.



Keith Eddinger has been a Square Dance Instructor for a number of years at the Roundhouse Rec Center and thoroughly enjoys teaching synchronized dancing to the sound of Country Music.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
ROUNDHOUSE REC CENTER
254-5521
254-7008



Notes From Your City Inspectors

MOTOR VEHICLES

The City of Wood River enforces many ordinances which help keep Wood River a great place to live. We have a new City Ordinance (85-4) regarding motor vehicles, as follows:

City Code states that "no person shall park, store, leave, or permit the parking, or leaving of any motor vehicle of any kind which is an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, rusted, junked, unlicensed, partially dismantled, or parts thereof, on any public or private property in excess of 72 hours, except in an enclosed garage or building."

Non-compliance with the above ordinance may result in court action leading to fines, penalties, or removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense. We would appreciate your cooperation.

WEEDS
With the warm weather, the weeds are growing like - well, growing like weeds. So let's keep an eye on them and keep them cut from the curb to the alley.

Let's Meet!

A total of 9 different citizen boards or commissions are an important part of Wood River's government, ranging from the Planning Commission to the various employee pension boards. Members are appointed by the mayor, with concurrence of the City Council, to serve staggered terms of office on various citizen groups, listed below:

Fire & Police Comm-1st Wednesday 7:00 PM
Parks & Recreation
Commission - 2nd Thursday 7:30 PM
Plan Commission - 3rd Thursday 7:30 PM
Board of Zoning
Appeals - 1st Thursday 7:30 PM
Traffic Commission- 3rd Tuesday 7:00 PM
Library Board (meet at Library)
Last Thursday 7:00 PM
Community Development Com. as needed
Fire Pension Board quarterly
Police Pension Board quarterly

Welcome New Businesses

We are happy to welcome several new businesses which have moved into our City in the past two months:

Smitty's Video, located at 520A Wood River Avenue, repairs VCRs and sells used VCR equipment. This business moved from a location in Alton.

Foxes Grove Retirement Center has opened an office at 386 E. Edwardsville Road. They have constructed a model apartment at this location.

New Beginnings, a beauty shop owned by Larry Reinhart, has opened at 25 E. Ferguson Avenue.

Hair Affair, a beauty shop owned by Sandra Prater and Marla Milazzo, now occupies 601 E. Edwardsville Road (formerly Pa Pa K's Restaurant).

The Variety Shoppe is now open at 35 W. Ferguson. This store is owned by Mrs. Phillips who is with Wood River Electronics.

Losch's Farm Market now occupies 606 Edwardsville Road (formerly Erixons)

Reliable Oxygen Co, owned by Richard Chambers, sells and tests inert gases at 210 Old St. Louis Road

Michael Cleary is the new owner of the Medicine Shop located at 601 E. Edwardsville Road.

Danny Maisuria is the new owner of the Bel-Air Motel on W. Madison Avenue.

We're Proud!

Wood River is a City to be proud of. One way that the City fosters this spirit is by giving out "PRIDE AWARDS" to residents. The following is a check list used for the home beautification award:

- ___ EXTERIOR OF HOUSE WELL MAINTAINED
- ___ GARAGE DOOR CLOSED
- ___ LAWN MOWED
- ___ NO DEBRIS ON LAWN
- ___ NO DEBRIS ON DRIVEWAY
- ___ SHRUBS TRIMMED
- ___ TREES SHAPELY AND ALIVE
- ___ SIDEWALKS SWEEPED
- ___ CURBS CLEAN
- ___ GUTTERS CLEAN

If your house and yard meet the listed standards, you will be considered for a "PRIDE AWARD". For more information, call the PRIDE Office at 465-3525 or your City Inspector at 254-0123.