

City of Wood River, Illinois

The City News
PIPELINE

events
projects
dates
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news

HELP WANTED
Inside!

March, 1985

\$We Are Continuing to Save You Money\$

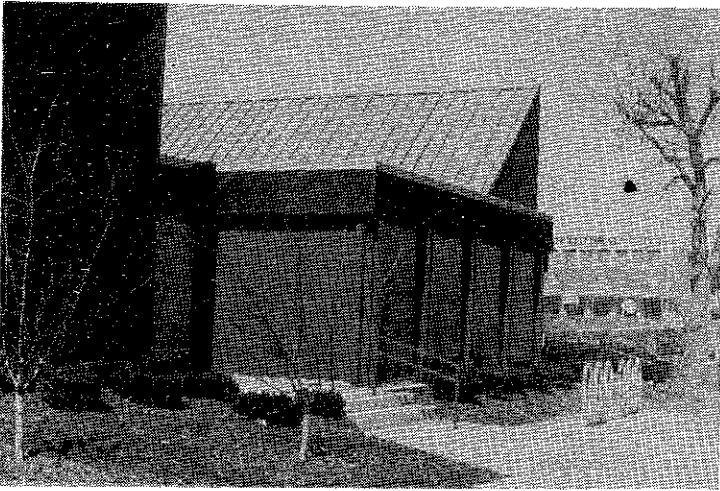
WOOD RIVER COST LESS FOR CITY SERVICES THAN MOST COMMUNITIES IN MADISON COUNTY

Once again Wood River residents pay less for city services than residents in most communities in Madison County. This is the conclusion of the Annual Comparison of Homeowner Expenses for City Services Survey. The most recent survey was done in December, 1984, and was based on a market basket of taxes, fees and utility costs for a "typical" resident. The significant conclusions of the survey were that:

- 1) Eight municipalities pay more in property taxes than Wood River.
- 2) Six communities in Madison County collect a utility tax and Wood River does not.
- 3) Eleven of the 16 municipalities levy a wheel tax and Wood River does not.
- 4) Ten of the 16 municipalities collect higher total taxes than Wood River.
- 5) Two municipalities charge a sales tax and Wood River does not.
- 6) Twelve municipalities pay higher water fees than Wood River residents.
- 7) Ten municipalities pay higher sewer fees than Wood River (however the 3 cities which do not collect sewer fees also have the largest property tax bases).
- 8) Eleven of the 16 municipalities pay higher total fees than Wood River residents.
- 9) Eleven municipalities pay higher total annual costs for city services than Wood River. Wood River is 52% or \$321 lower in cost for city services than the most expensive municipality (Granite City).
- 10) The 3 municipalities with the lowest total yearly cost are the 3 with highest property tax bases (Hartford, Roxana and East Alton).
- 11) Although Edwardsville and Wood River are very similar in population and tax base, it would cost the average resident 30% more to live in Edwardsville compared to Wood River for the same city services.
- 12) Ten of the municipalities in Madison County have populations over 5,000. Of these ten, Wood River ranks the 9th lowest in total costs.

We're committed to hold the line on taxes and fees. My personal philosophy is the way to get more money for city services is not to raise taxes, but bring in new business and industry to increase the tax base!

Bill Watkins



AQUATIC CENTER GRAND OPENING JUNE 15, 1985

Manager's Message

Hello again! A lot of projects are going on at City Hall since our last edition of the Pipeline. I thought I'd take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on some of them.

- 1) Comprehensive Plan - In our last edition of the Pipeline, a lot of space was devoted to our Planning Commission's efforts to revise and update our Comprehensive Plan. After the Commission's public hearing and a presentation to City Council, the Commission is currently in the process of making some revisions to their proposals. These revisions are strictly a result of public and Council's input. The folks that attended the public hearings did have a significant impact. The Commission should have its second draft ready for inclusion in the next issue of the Pipeline.
- 2) Budget - This time of the year, City spends much of its time reviewing the annual budget. Our budget is like your household's budget, you can only spend what you take in. With the Federal government's cutback in funding for cities, this year the budget was pretty rough. However, we have proposed for Council a balanced budget and included a few new items such as making the Roundhouse handicapped accessible (we think it will be a big help for some of our senior citizens as well), an increased sidewalk maintenance program, and full local funding for a number of capital improvement projects. The City Manager's

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proposed budget is available for public review at both the City Clerk's office and the Public Library. We'd suggest you take a minute to review it and of course if you've got any questions, give me a buzz. City Council will be holding a public hearing on the proposed budget on March 18 at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Plan on attending.

- 3) Aquatic Center - The Aquatic Center is fast approaching completion. We've scheduled the official Grand Opening for June 15, but probably will have the center open on a limited basis, weather permitting, some time in mid-May. There is also an article in this edition of the Pipeline concerning employment opportunities. While we'll only be hiring qualified people (check to make sure your life saving certification is current) we will be giving preference to Wood River residents. Also this year, we are looking at offering a family season pass. Further information on pool times, lessons, special events, and other programs will be available in the next edition of the Pipeline.
- 4) Fire Station - We've finally been able to spring loose the Central Fire Station. Our discussions with the State Department of Transportation and other interested parties, is that we'll be looking to start construction this year. I personally feel that any time the State wants to build us a million dollar facility, I say absolutely great!
- 5) Glendale Gardens Flood Project - We've also, late last Fall, sprung loose from the State, a commitment to go ahead with the Glendale Gardens storm project, along with the last reservoir. We feel that the project will substantially alleviate a lot of the flooding that still occurs in the north western portion of Wood River. The Governor has included this project as part of his Build Illinois Program. The City's costs are to acquire the necessary property for the project. We've just about completed negotiations with the main property owner and again look for construction to start this year.

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I'd strongly encourage everyone to get involved with the City of Wood River. Your opinion does count, but only if you make it heard. I've heard a lot of people say you can't fight City Hall. Well I don't believe you should have to! If you have a question or a comment on any thing the City does or should be doing, please don't hesitate to call me personally. My phone number is 254-0123. I'd be glad to talk to you on the phone or set up an appointment either in my office, or wherever to talk to you about your concerns. I'd also feel it a privilege to talk to any group having questions. I hope to hear from you real soon.

Sincerely,



Bill Watkins
City Manager

5* FIVE NEW BUSINESSES TO OPEN IN WOOD RIVER

Five new businesses have announced plans to spend more than \$7 million in new construction and remodeling here in Wood River. VIP Manor has obtained approval from the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 96-unit senior citizen complex. This project is expected to cost over \$6 million and will be located next to the existing VIP Nursing Home. The first phase of construction is expected to begin this summer, with the second phase to begin perhaps as early as next year, depending upon market demand. City Council has preliminarily approved the issuance of \$6.5 million in industrial revenue bonds to help make this project happen. These bonds are not a city obligation.

Also, Walgreens has been issued a building permit for almost \$500,000 for major remodeling of the building at the corner of Edwardsville Road & Wood River Avenue (formerly the Music Room & Wood River Pharmacy). This new store will occupy more than 13,000 square feet and will be a full-service Walgreen's facility. They plan to be open for business on April 15.

Also, in conjunction with the Walgreen's remodeling, Little Caesar's Pizza, a well known chain, is remodeling the corner building of that complex and plans to open a carryout pizza business the latter part of this month.

Auto Shack, a national chain of auto parts stores, will be constructed in the 300 block of Edwardsville Road. Site preparation, including demolishing several old structures, was completed last Fall; and, weather permitting, this 5,400 sq. ft. building will begin this month. Estimated construction costs of this new retail building is \$130,000.

And lastly, Rigsbey Towing Service has constructed a new garage at 6th & Longefellow to operate a towing service. Rigsbey expects to open their business later this month.

If you would be interested in expanding or opening a business in Wood River, City Manager's Office has information concerning a number of governmental loan programs which can help new businesses get started and existing businesses expand. The City Manager's Office is also compiling a list of available buildings and sites. If you need help finding a location, call us at 254-0123 for more information. Wood River is a great place to do business!



NEW COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE

The City's Planning Commission and City staff are continuing their work on the update of the City Plan and Zoning Code. A public meeting was held on November 29 at City Hall to hear citizen comments on the proposed land use map. This map will now be the criteria for establishing the zoning districts. The Planning Commission has been discussing the various concerns expressed by citizens at the public hearing and are studying the overall plan in an attempt to satisfy these concerns where ever possible.

A date for a public information meeting on zoning districts will be set the latter part of April.

Are you interested in looking at the maps? Preliminary maps, in draft form, are available at the City Clerk's office.

NOTE:

Please cross out the number for Low-Income Housing (259-2366) on your Wood River Services Telephone List. This number no longer applies.

Parks and Recreation Programs

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GYMNASTICS--Registration for the Spring Session of GYMNASTICS will be taken March 18-22, 3:00-5:00P.M. at the Roundhouse.

PRESCHOOL classes(ages 4 & 5) will be held Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-5:30P.M. The fee for the 8 week session is \$10.

BEGINNER classes(ages 6 & older) will be held on:

Tuesday from 4:30-5:30P.M.--Wednesday 5:00-6:00P.M.--and Saturday from 10:00-11:00A.M. Fee for 8 weeks is \$12.

INTERMEDIATE classes will be held on:

Tuesday from 5:30-6:30P.M. & Saturday from 11:00-12:00 Noon. Fee for the 8 week session is \$12. You can attend both days =\$25.

AEROBICS--- The Spring Session begins March 25th. Classes will be held on Monday & Thursday evenings. One class will meet at 6:00P.M. and another will meet at 7:00P.M. Fee for 8 week session is \$15. Registration for the class will be held March 18-22, 3:00-5:00P.M. at the Roundhouse. Let's get in shape together!

YOUTH BASEBALL & SOFTBALL--Available for boys & girls age 7 thru 16(in 1985).

League Play is available for boys & girls age 10 & older (age 9 if you previously attended summer camp).

Camp is available for boys & girls age 7,8 & 9 to learn the basic fundamentals.

The Youth Baseball & Softball Program begins May 28th with a parade and opening night festivities.

Registration for these activities will be held March 23-30th, from 3:00-5:00P.M., M-F, and from 10:00-11:00A.M. on Saturdays at the Roundhouse. Fee for the program is \$8.

Wood River Public Library

All programs are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00P.M.

Gardens of Wood River; flowers you can successfully grow in Wood River, by Virginia Lowe of the Wood River Garden Club.

Tuesday, April 23 at 7:00P.M.

The Treehouse Wildlife Rehabilitation, by Adele Evans

National Library Week is April 14-20. All fines collected during this week will be donated towards the restoration of the Statue of Liberty.

May 7 Pet Care & First Aid
7:00P.M. Tuesday

Children's Programs

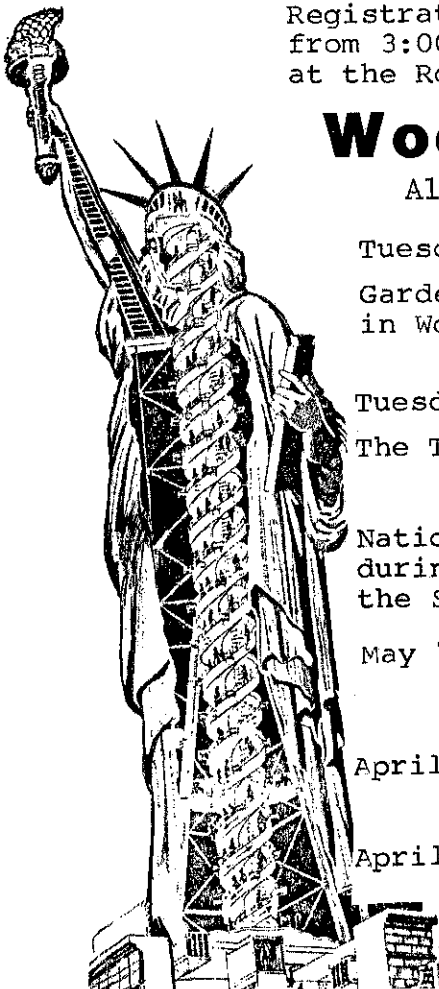
April 17 "HATS OFF TO KIDS" Program, grades 1st thru 6th
3:30P.M. Wednesday

April 20 Preschool Program for ages 3 thru 5
10:30A.M. Saturday

For more information

"Save the Lady"

call 254-4832



SMOKE BUSTERS!

The Wood River Fire Department wants to provide added safety for you by establishing Smoke Detector and Fire Prevention Programs. The smoke detectors can be purchased at the Finance Department in City Hall for \$10 each. A member of the Wood River Fire Department will install your detector FREE of charge upon request. The Wood River Fire Department will also provide a FREE in-home inspection and review a family safety plan for you, upon request.

Call the Wood River Fire Department at 254-4302 for a FREE in-home safety inspection, or if you have any questions about your smoke detector.



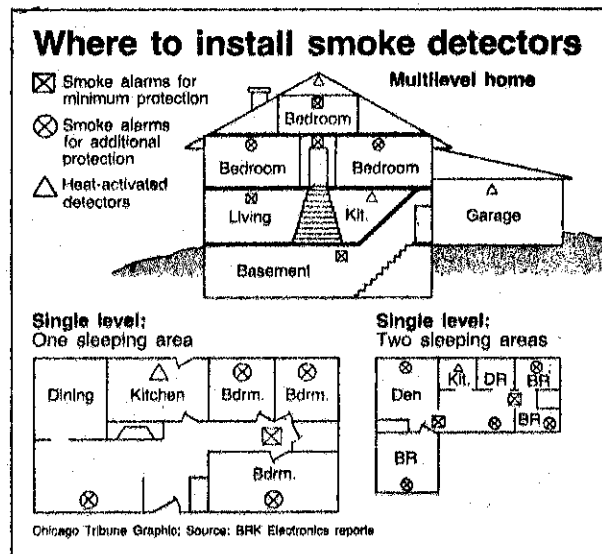
According to a recent study by the National Fire Prevention Association, more than 90% of the fire fatalities and more than 80% of fire injuries occur in homes that apparently had no smoke detectors.

National Fire Protection Association statistics also have shown that most fires originate in the kitchen and living room area's and that over half of the fatalities in home fires occur while occupants are sleeping. The occupants are overcome by smoke and toxic gases long before the actual fire reaches them. For that reason, we recommend installing your smoke detector on a ceiling of the hallway leading to the bedrooms of your home. If additional bedrooms are located on another level of your home, another smoke detector should be placed at the entrance to that sleeping area.

Added protection would include a smoke detector on each level of your home, excluding unheated attics and crawl spaces, and including a detector in the family or living room.

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Gorman and Kass published a chart on smoke detector installation, which is reprinted here, with their permission.



Finally, we must emphasize that detectors are only part of the answer to the fire safety problem. The following is an example of a good family safety plan.

1) Hold family fire drills on a regular basis. Use the test button to familiarize family members with the sound of the alarm.

2) Draw a floor plan of your home, apartment, showing at least two escape routes for each room. Familiarize each family member with that layout.

3) Practice escaping. Each family member should know at least two escape routes from each room in the house. Children will have to be taught how to escape. (don't wait until an actual emergency to teach them.)

4) Establish a prearranged meeting place outside the home.

5) Identify children's rooms with "tot stickers" placed in upper left corner of the window. Firemen are trained to look for such stickers.

6) Minimize fire hazards in your home. Repair faulty wiring. Store oil, rags, and flammable materials in well-ventilated areas. Never smoke in bed. Be sure all ashes are extinguished before emptying ash trays.

Tot stickers are available at the Fire Department. Make your family safety plan today!

If your organization would like to include any news items in the next issue of

the PIPELINE, please call #254-0123.

FREE Weatherization Assistance Available

Wood River has just been declared eligible for assistance for income eligible people to make their homes and apartments more energy efficient. This is done to conserve fuel and save money. The weatherization work is done by crews from local community-based organizations. There is no charge for the weatherization service as it's being funded by the Federal Government.

Weatherization includes some or all of the following kinds of repairs:

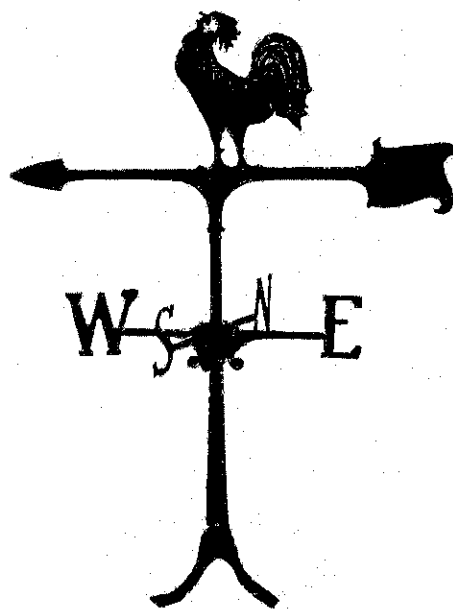
- 1) Weatherstripping & caulking around doors and windows.
- 2) Repairing or replacing broken windows or doors.
- 3) Adding insulation
- 4) Repairing or replacing storm windows
- 5) Repairing or replacing storm doors
- 6) Cleaning and/or minor repairing of heating systems.

Again, there is no charge for these services.

The Weatherization Program has five steps:

- 1) An individual applies to the Madison County Community Development Office (618-692-6200). The agency determines whether or not the applicant is eligible.
- 2) If the applicant is eligible, the home or apartment is inspected to determine what kinds of weatherization work is needed.
- 3) The work is scheduled and the applicant is notified of the date that the work will begin.
- 4) The work is completed by trained and experienced skilled personnel from the building trades. Materials are purchased from reputable dealers and must meet Federal quality standards.
- 5) Work is inspected to make sure it was completed up to standards by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

Eligibility is determined based on family size and income level. For example, a family of 6 needs to have an annual income of less than \$17,100 to be eligible. Renters can also be assisted under this program provided they meet



income guidelines and the landlord complies with other program requirements. When applying for the program, the applicant must show proof of the households' income and if he is the property owner, proof of homeownership is also required.

This is a great opportunity. It is not the Federal Housing Rehabilitation Program which has received such bad publicity in the past. If you're interested in more information or would like to apply, please call Madison County Community Development Office at 692-6200. If the City can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the City Manager. Funds are limited, so please apply early!

Did You Know...?

- 1) The Library has a photo copy machine available for your use. The cost for each page is 10
- 2) The City Council will be holding several work sessions reviewing the proposed budget during April. They would appreciate hearing your comments and concerns.
- 3) The number to call for an Easter Vacation check (or any vacation) by the Wood River Police is 254-8923.

HELP ⁷ WANTED

WOOD RIVER CENTRAL PARK AQUATIC CENTER

Now accepting applications for summer employment.
Must be age 16 or older. Wood River residents are preferred.

Positions available include:

- Assistant Manager
- *Lifeguard
- Cashier
- Concession Workers
- Maintenance &
- Locker Room Workers.

*Lifeguards must hold a current Advanced Life Saving Certificate from the American Red Cross.

In addition, applications for instructors in the following areas are being taken:

- Swimming
- Water Exercise
- Scuba Diving &
- Canoeing.

WOOD RIVER PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Now accepting applications for summer employment.
Must be age 16 or older. Wood River residents preferred.
The positions available include:

- Park Maintenance Worker
- Day Camp Supervisor
- Day Camp Supervisor Assistant
- Tennis Instructor
- Gymnastic Instructor
- Cheerleading Instructor

*Applications for all of the above positions are available at the Roundhouse from 8:00A.M.-12:00NOON and from 1:00-5:00P.M., Monday thru Friday. Applications must be returned by April 12th.

R.S.V.P.

Please take a minute to give us your thoughts on the form below, and drop it off at the City Clerk's Office or include it with your water bill. We'll tabulate your responses and report back to you in the next issue of the Pipeline.

CITY SUGGESTION BOX

I. I think the biggest problem facing Wood River today is _____

II. The thing that would make living in Wood River even better is _____

III. My pet peeve about the City of Wood River is _____

IV. A project that really needs some attention is _____

Thanks for taking the time to give us your opinion!

You Might Be Eligible for Handicap Parking



Here's Some Trashy News...

The State of Illinois has passed a new law regarding the issuance of handicap parking cards by municipalities. There will be two types of parking cards issued to qualified applicants. A bright orange card will be issued for a two-year period to applicants who qualify as having a permanent disability and a bright green card will be issued for a one-year period to applicants who have a disability that is temporary in nature but has a duration of at least 12 months. The blue cards will all expire on July 1, 1985.

Therefore all cardholders who live in Wood River and are currently using the blue handicap parking card must re-apply before July 1, 1985. There is a new form that must be completed by the applicant and his/her physician. You may obtain a form from the Wood River City Clerk's Office.

The new law defines a handicapped person as: "Every natural person who is unable to walk 200 feet or more unassisted by another person or without the aid of a walker, crutches, braces, prosthetic device or a wheelchair or without great difficulty or discomfort due to the following impairments: neurologic, orthopedic, respiratory, cardiac, arthritic disorder, blindness, or the loss of function or absence of a limb or limbs." This new legislation makes restricted parking spaces available to more people and provides more flexibility in the issuance of handicapped licenses or cards.

If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at 254-0123.

Policy of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of HANDICAP Status

The City of Wood River, Illinois does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The City Manager, at Wood River City Hall, has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in section 51.55 of the revenue sharing regulations.

Seventy-four residents completed the garbage survey. Here is what they had to say (rounded off to the nearest percentage):

1. 59% rated our garbage pick up as excellent
32% good
8% fair
2. 61% felt that twice-a-week pick up is very important
35% nice to have
4% unnecessary
3. 74% did NOT have trouble disposing of large items within the last 6 months
26% did have trouble
4. 73% did NOT have trouble disposing of large tree limbs and brush within the last 6 months
5. 41% said they would never use a regular weekly collection of large bulky items
30% said they would be willing to pay 50¢ for this service
26% would NOT be willing to pay for this service
3% would be willing to pay \$1.50 for this service
6. 58% said they would NOT want the garbage company to provide a container.
25% would like a container provided if it was free
18% would pay a slight additional fee for a container to be provided
7. 62% said they would like to have City clean-up of large items both Spring & Fall
22% Spring only
10% weekly
6% Fall

Thank you for answering our survey. When you give us your opinion, it helps us evaluate our services to Better Serve YOU!

If you have any questions or problems with your refuse collection or bill, call 254-0131.

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