

# WOOD RIVER CENTRAL PARK AQUATIC CENTER

LOCATION: Wood River Central Park - Between Wood River Avenue and Whitelaw Avenue;  
Between East Alton/Wood River High School & Roundhouse Recreation Center.

Elevated Observation Deck

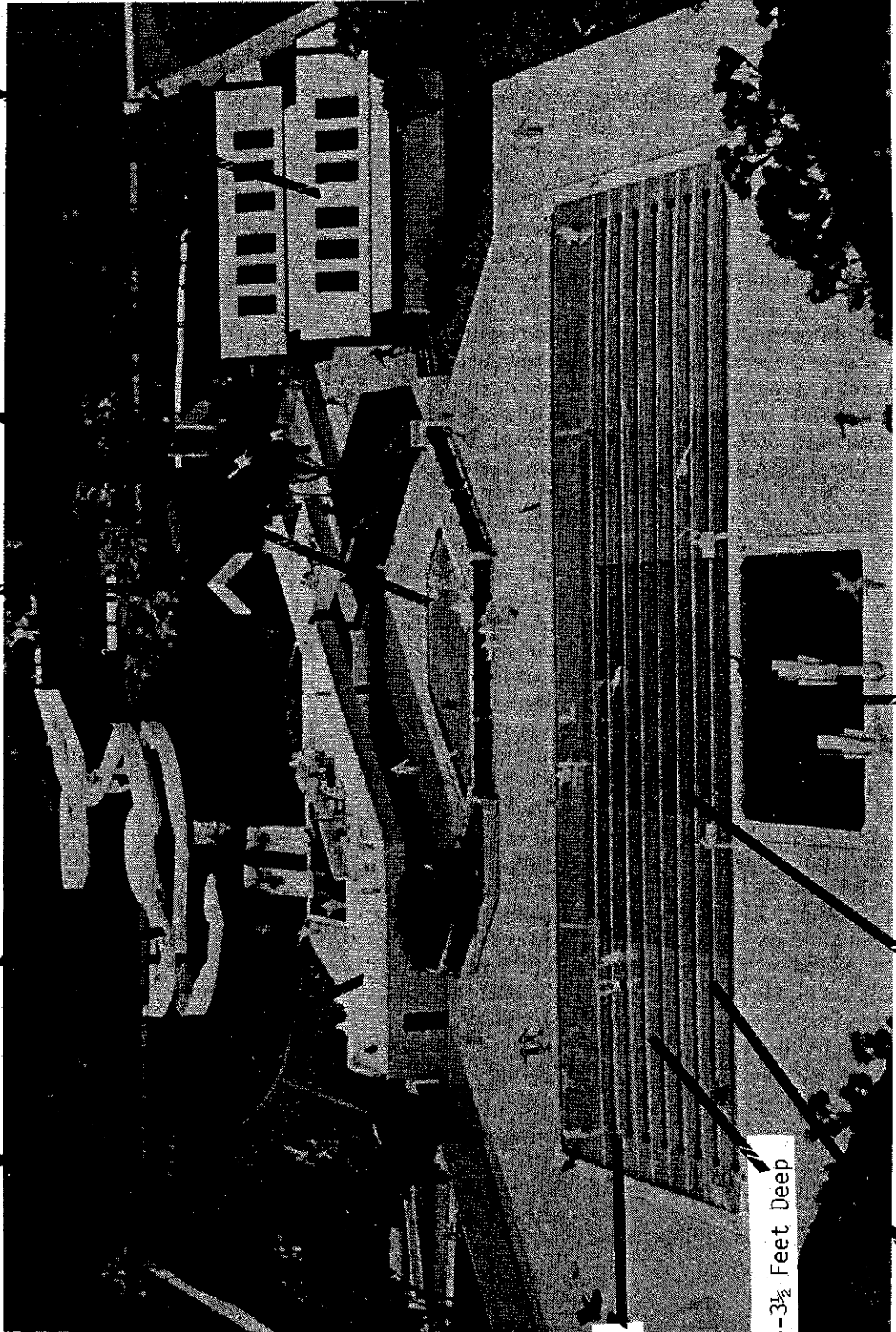
Water Slide and Plunge Pool

Cabana for Water Slide

Children's Wading Pool

Bathhouse/Concession

Building



Main Pool

6 Lanes -- 3 1/2 Feet Deep

\*50 Meters Long

Deepest Point = 5 Feet

Diving Well

Photo by Gary Bohn of the  
St. Louis Post Dispatch

City of Wood River, Illinois

Special Issue

The City News  
PIPELINE

JULY 1984

\*\*\*\*\*WATER SLIDE\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*COUPON INSIDE\*\*\*\*\*

# SLIDING INTO SUMMER FUN

History is in the making in the City of Wood River! The first phase of the Central Park Aquatic Center is now in operation. The "Rainbow Bend" Water Slide opened June 9th. Construction continues according to schedule on the remainder of the aquatic center.

Here are some answers to questions frequently asked about the aquatic center.

1. What were the problems associated with the old pool? There is a misconception that the old swimming pool operated on a break-even basis. In fact, the old pool required over \$200,000 in property tax subsidies since 1970. The subsidies averaged nearly \$15,000 per season, or almost \$200 per day of each swim season. The old pool used an enormous amount of water. This situation was complicated by the deterioration and obsolescence of the pool. The average lifespan of a public swimming pool is just over 20 years. Our pool lasted nearly three times that long, with only one major renovation.

2. Who was involved in the decision to build a new Aquatic Center? In an effort to find a long-term solution to the swimming pool issues, the City Council appointed a 43-member Blue Ribbon Citizens Swimming Pool Advisory Committee. The committee began work in December, 1982. The citizens on the Advisory Committee represented a good cross-section of the community, and a variety of viewpoints on the future of swimming facilities. A majority of the committee, in the beginning of the independent study, believed the old pool could be salvaged. During the study, including architectural consultations, the vast majority of committee members concluded it would not be feasible to renovate the old pool. The construction cost for renovating the old pool would have been over \$780,000 more than the

cost of the new aquatic center. The estimated operating cost for a renovated pool would have been 60% higher, \$16,000 per year more than for the new pool.

3. How did the Committee reach its decision? The committee commissioned a study of what similar communities had decided when considering either renovation or a new swimming pool. Committee members toured public and private swimming pools in Belleville, Highland, Centralia, Urbana and Champaign. The committee members asked questions and took notes about the good points and mistakes in these projects.

4. What did the committee recommend to the City Council? Upon completion of the study, the committee voted unanimously to recommend construction of the Central Park Aquatic Center. This aquatic center will include a swimming pool and deck area with a design capacity to serve more than 1,300 people. The deck area may be used for a variety of community activities. The center includes a wading pool for small children. Facilities will be available for the swimming of laps, competitive swimming and diving.

5. What did our City Council think about the citizen committee's recommendation? The City Council held two public hearings to gather more information about the aquatic center. The Council, following careful consideration of the financial prospects, approved the citizens committee recommendation.

6. How will the Central Park Aquatic Center be financed? The \$2,539,000 aquatic center will not require a tax increase. The financing package includes a grant of \$200,000 from the Illinois Department of Conservation and a \$250,000 grant from the Madison County Community Development Agency. The major component of financing is a \$2.1 million lease/purchase agreement with the First National Bank of Wood River. This 10-year agreement calls for City annual payments ranging from \$345,000 in the first year to \$207,000 in the tenth year.

7. How will the City meet this annual financial obligation? The water slide is the primary source for payback. The water slide is projected to generate a profit of more than \$100,000 per year.

----COUPON----

RAINBOW BEND "For Wood River Residents" WATER SLIDE

\*\*1/2 Off a 3-Ride Pass\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

FUN! Address \_\_\_\_\_ FUN!

One per customer--Valid through July 23, 1984.



# CADETS

at Your



# SERVICE



Prior to the opening of the "Rainbow Bend" Water Slide, many residents of Wood River and nearby towns had to travel 20 miles or more to ride water slides. Now, citizens of Wood River and nearby communities are coming to the "Rainbow Bend" Water Slide. Those who use the water slide are helping to pay for the aquatic center.

Other sources of funds involve a series of paybacks on loans made by the General Fund and the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund to various "business" funds in past years to assist in development of their facilities. The Golf Course, Water and Sewer Funds are now able to begin repayment of these loans without increasing user fees. Since long-term bonds are about to be repaid in each fund:

1. The long-term water revenue bond was completed earlier this year with a final payment of \$67,000.
2. The long-term sewer bond will be completed in two years with a final payment of \$51,000.
3. The long-term golf course bond will be repaid in two years with a final payment of \$42,000.

Remember, these bond issues were made possible through loans from the General Fund and the Federal Revenue Sharing Fund. Therefore, it makes sense to repay the General Fund in the future for these loans.

8. What does the new Aquatic Center mean to the citizens of Wood River? The old Wood River Municipal Swimming Pool had been a great landmark and a source for civic pride. Several generations of swimmers from Wood River and surrounding communities spent a lot of summer days at the pool. The old pool will always hold a special place in our hearts. We also look forward to completion of our new landmark. The Wood River Aquatic Center will be a place for family entertainment. The Aquatic Center will serve as the keystone of the Central Park Recreation Area for years to come.

On May 1st, Wood River's 2 new cadets reported for duty with the Wood River Police Department. The primary responsibilities of our 2 new cadets include:

1. Animal Control
2. Parking Enforcement
3. Vacation Checks
4. Abandoned Vehicles.

The cadets will provide 4 hours of coverage for these 4 services each day, including nights and weekends. They will be wearing uniforms and will spend most of their time on patrol in your City.

The intent of the Cadet Program is to increase service to YOU! It is also helping students enrolled in the Lewis & Clark Law Enforcement Program gain valuable experience. The Cadet Program will enable the Police Department to increase the daily coverage of the 4 service areas for you. While responding to complaints regarding stray animals, the cadets will also be enforcing parking rules, performing vacation checks for you and checking on abandoned cars to help clean up our City streets - all at no increase in cost to you.

**More Fun Is On the Way!**



Construction of the Rainbow Bend Water Slide



## Paving a Smoother Way for You

The City has many plans for street maintenance during this summer. If your street is going to be resurfaced, you will receive a notice from the City the day before asking you to move your car off the street. Your street will be blocked off for a short while until it is finished being resurfaced. The alley will be done first and then the street.

All of the following streets will be oiled and chipped, which includes being covered with fresh rock, graded, compacted and then sprayed with primer:

- \*Ladd from 14th St. to East End;
- \*Williams between 14th St. and Edwards;
- \*Edwards between Esther and Ladd;
- \*15th St. between Old Alton/Edwardsville Road to Dead end;
- \*Linton between Old Alton/Edwardsville Road and Harrison;
- \*Greenview between Old Alton/Edwardsville Road and Harrison;
- \*Bonita between Old Alton/Edwardsville Road and Harrison;
- \*Avalon between Old Alton/Edwardsville Road and Harrison;
- \*Miland between Linton and Avalon;
- \*Vista between Linton and Avalon;
- \*Belk Park Road between Rock Hill Road to North End;
- \*Magnolia between Rock Hill Road and Mimosa;
- \*Mimosa between Rock Hill Road to Dead End;
- \*Wilson between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*Pershing between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*Roosevelt St. between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*Grand Avenue between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*Illinois Avenue between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*Woodland Avenue between Sixth St. and Jefferson Avenue;
- \*all alleys north of Madison Avenue between Sixth St. and 14th St. south of Edwardsville.

For more information or if you have any questions, please call 254-5822.

## Living in Wood River

### \$\$ is a Bargain!\$\$

A recent study in December, 1988 compared the average homeowner costs of City services in the 16 Madison County cities having a population over 1,000. It turned out that living in Wood River is a bargain! Cities were ranked from 1 (most expensive) to 16 (least expensive). Wood River ranked 12th for user fees (water, sewer, refuse collection) and 11th for total taxes (property, utility, wheel). In total, 10 cities were more expensive places to live than Wood River.

#### Looking at user fees:

##### Refuse Collection:

Highest Cost -- Maryville & Troy at \$65.

\*The average Wood River homeowner paid \$32 per year, which is no increase over last year!

##### Sewer Fees:

Highest Cost -- Maryville at \$112.

\*The average Wood River homeowner paid \$48 per year, which is no increase over last year!

##### Water Fees:

Highest Cost -- Alton at \$156.

\*The average Wood River homeowner paid \$85 per year, which is no increase over last year!

##### Total User Fees:

Highest Cost -- Maryville at \$289.

\*The average Wood River homeowner paid \$165 per year, which is no increase over last year and \$124 cheaper than Maryville.

In fact, the average Wood River homeowner paid LESS for total annual user fees than homeowners in Maryville, Glen Carbon, Troy, Bethalto, Granite City, South Roxana, Alton, Highland, Madison, Venice and Edwardsville.

#### Looking at taxes:

##### Wheel Tax:

Highest cost -- Troy at \$14.

\*Wood River homeowners paid No tax!

##### Utility Tax:

Highest Cost -- South Roxana and Madison at \$82.

\*Wood River homeowners paid NO tax!

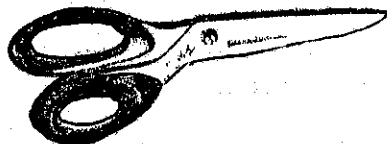
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# Volunteers Make a Difference

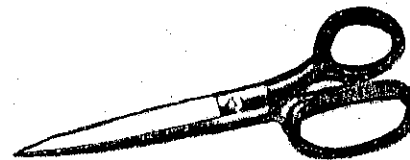


## Giving New Life to Our City

These fine Rotary members donated and planted 150 River Birch trees along Acton and Lorena Avenues as a beautification effort for our City. Thanks for making a difference!



## Cost-Cutters



The Ghent Water Treatment Facility in our City has been operated on a 24-hour, 365 day basis since it began treating the City's water supply in 1965. Last October, a study was done to see if the number of shifts at the plant could be reduced from 3 to 2. The study proved to be a success!

The daily treatment time of the water depends on how much water is used each day, but the normal treatment times are 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Much less water is used during the rest of the hours of the day so water needed can then be supplied by the water towers.

During the unstaffed periods, an alarm system now monitors the facility and storage conditions. The system alerts the Police Dispatcher if a problem arises at the facility. In the case of a fire during the unstaffed period, a water plant operator is called by the Police Dispatcher to go to the plant and resume pumping to maintain adequate water storage.

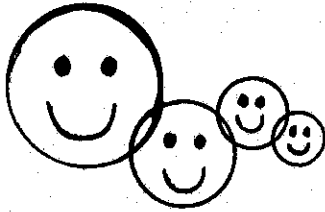
Reducing the water plant operation to 2 shifts also reduced the number of operators needed at the plant from 4 to 3. The extra operator has been transferred to the Water Distribution Division. This transfer will improve maintenance of the distribution system.

An added benefit to the shift reduction is that no scheduled overtime will be needed (except during periods of exceptionally high water usage). The overall savings to the Water Fund is estimated at \$15,000 per year as a result of changing from 3 to 2 shifts.



"What I like most about growing up in Wood River... is that it may be a small town, but it is terrific!"

1st Place Essay Contest Winner,  
Leah Toombs, 5th Grade



## Please Permit Me...

Permits for repairs and/or construction are required to protect you and your neighbors. It is important to remember that new additions or alterations to your home generally require a permit from the City. Also, garage and yard sales, and fence construction, require permits.

Here are some basic rules to follow:

### Building Permits

1. Never assume anything! Before beginning a home improvement project, call City Hall and ask about required permits and fees for any repairs or work on buildings, plumbing, electrical, demolition, patios, and swim pools.
2. All permits must be posted at the site where work is being performed.
3. The construction of fences requires permits. Maximum heights of fences vary depending on: a) whether the property is in a residential or commercial district, and b) if the property is a corner lot.

### Garage & Yard Sales

1. Permits are acquired from the City Clerk and must be visible during sales.
2. Garage and yard sales can be conducted no more than two (2) times a year on a specific property.
3. A garage or yard sale cannot last for more than 72 hours.
4. Signs advertising garage sales are not allowed in public right-of-way, such as utility poles, etc.

\*Remember, when building additions or making alterations - do not assume anything!! Call City Hall at 254-0123 for more information regarding required permits; taking this precaution can save you time and money - resulting in a well-done job.

"Living in Wood River..." Continued from p. 4

### Property Tax:

Highest cost -- Venice at \$233.

\*The average Wood River homeowner paid \$137 per year for city services.

In fact, the average Wood River homeowner paid LESS for total annual taxes than homeowners in Granite City, Venice, Maryville, South Roxana, Alton, Madison, Edwardsville, Highland, Bethalto and Collinsville.

The study concludes that, for 16 Madison County cities, total yearly costs range from \$526 down to \$187, with 10 cities being more expensive to live in than Wood River. Wood River is 43% or \$224 LESS EXPENSIVE than the most expensive city to live in. Although Edwardsville and Wood River are very similar in population and tax base, it would cost an average homeowner 15% more, or \$46 for City services in Edwardsville compared to Wood River.

Wood River - Best Buy for your money!!

"What I like best about growing up in Wood River... is that the Library has a bunch of good books I like."

2nd Place Essay Contest Winner,  
Larry Lapinski, 4th Grade

## Wood River Public Library

Movies for children 1st-6th grade will be shown every Tuesday during the month of August at 2:00 p.m.

The Pre-school Program for the summer will be held July 21st and August 18th. The July 21st program will be on the topic of trains. Program time: 10:30 a.m.

\*On Saturday, September 8, 1984, a special folk music concert will be given by the "Hoffman Family" at 2:00 p.m. The "Hoffman Family" will be playing home-made instruments. This concert is for children and adults.

For more information call 254-4832.

# SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS



## What's Happening with the Diamonds?



WIN!

WIN!

WIN!



WIN!

WIN!

WIN!

The Wood River Division of the Twin Rivers Chamber of Commerce is giving away diamond rings in honor of Wood River's Diamond Jubilee. Register at your local merchants.

## Notes from Your City Inspector

Oh, Rats!

Now is a good time to stop rats from ever becoming a problem in our City. Here are a few tips on how to prevent rats:

- 1) Store trash and garbage in covered containers.
- 2) Keep grass and weeds cut.
- 3) Avoid letting junk accumulate in your yard.
- 4) Store pet food in closed containers and do not leave pet food out over night.
- 5) Cover all openings in buildings, even if they are as small as a quarter, using screen or metal. Once rats enter a building, they gnaw on insulation of wires which can cause a fire.

The best way to control rats is to eliminate their food and shelter. Let's do it together! Please call Woody or Denise at City Hall, 254-0123, if you ever see a rat.

July - A permanent display of historical items and memorabilia will open at the Wood River Library.

Certain areas in Wood River will be designated as Historical Sights. They will be marked with a sign and a map and brochure will be available to guide you to these historical sights. These will be available at City Hall and at the Wood River Library around July 15th.

"Diamond Ring Drawing" will be held July 27th.

August- "City-wide Dances" will be held during this month.

"Diamond Ring Drawing" will be held August 31st.

Sept. "Amoco Refinery Tour" and "Pioneer Days" at our local schools will be the main events sponsored by the Committee.

"Diamond Ring Drawing" will be held September 28th.

A Diamond Jubilee Fund has been established at the First National Bank of Wood River. You can donate to this fund to help make Wood River's Diamond Jubilee an even greater success by making a check payable to the "Diamond Jubilee Committee". Mr. Tom Macias is taking donations at the Bank.

Old pictures, memorabilia and oral stories are also needed to enrich the historical display and the oral history of Wood River.

The Chairpersons of the Diamond Jubilee Committee are:

Nancy Goff  
Loretta Dawdy  
John Nicoloff  
Lawanda Smith

If you would like to become a member of this interesting and fun committee, please call Lawanda at 259-5621.

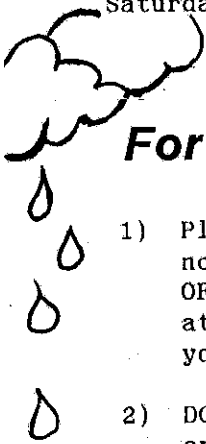
HELP WOOD RIVER CELEBRATE ITS 75TH YEAR!



## Enjoy Your Championship Golf Course

Terrific weather is finally here so it is time to go golfing at your championship Belk Park Golf Course! As a resident of Wood River, you can obtain a permanent resident card from the golf course for a \$5 handling fee. This resident card entitles the card holder to reduced resident rates, as follows:

Monday thru Friday	\$3.25 for 9 holes
	\$4.75 for 18 holes
Saturday and Sunday	\$4.25 for 9 holes
	\$6.75 for 18 holes



### For Our Water Customers

- 1) Please give the City a 1 day advance notice if you want your water turned OFF or ON (for non-emergency situations - so our schedule can meet your schedule.
- 2) DO NOT tamper with your water meter or shut-off valves in the street. Court action will be taken as this is considered vandalism to City property. Always call the Water Office at 254-0131 if you need your water turned ON or OFF.

### Pay for What You Use--

Did you know that 1 drop of water per second from a leaky faucet can add up to as much as four gallons per day? One leaky faucet can waste as much as 5,000 gallons of water a year or \$6.50. And if it is a hot water faucet that is leaking, you are also wasting the energy it takes to heat the water and your money to pay for that energy.

Toilets that do not stop running are a major problem. Constantly running toilets can use 100,000 gallons of water in 12 months! That is a waste of precious water as well as your \$65 each month.

It pays to stop leaks!

### Not What You Lose!!

Reservations are accepted after Mondays for the following weekend. A four-some is needed to make a reservation. To make a reservation or for more information, call 254-9065.

Golf lessons for groups of 10 or less are being offered by the Belk Park Golf Course. The first meeting for the group lessons will be held July 9th, 6:30 p.m., at the practice range on the golf course. There is a \$30.00 charge for the eight golf lessons, payable at the July 9th meeting. At the July 9th meeting, you will receive a lesson booklet and discuss further details about the group lessons. For further information, call 254-9065.

Come on out and enjoy your championship golf course!

## Keep Wood River Beautiful

The City has hired an additional part-time inspector in an attempt to place special attention on the enforcement of laws pertaining to the upkeep of private property. This will help keep our City beautiful.

Our new inspector is Denise Gimmy who will be assisting Woody Haley in this capacity. In order to prevent receiving a citation from the General Inspectors, you could make sure you have none of the following violations:

- Weeds/grass must not grow in excess of 8 inches.
- Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles are not allowed on private property more than 10 days (must be valid license).
- Property must be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary manner, free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.
- Brush must not remain on property.
- Major overhaul of vehicles must not be done in residential area.
- All structures must be maintained structurally sound.
- All wood should be stacked 18 inches above ground.

These are a few of the things the Inspectors will be looking for in all sections of the City. Your help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.