



City of
**WOOD
RIVER**

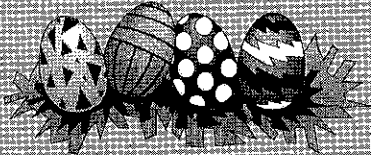
PIPELINE

February, 1996

Upcoming Events:

March 30: Easter Egg Hunt

Wood River children under the age of 12 will want to come to Belk Park at 10 a.m., March 30. The Easter Bunny will be there to pass out candy and give special prizes to children finding special eggs.



April 17: Animal Inoculations

Dr. Brakeville will be at the City Garage on Wednesday, April 17 to administer rabies vaccinations for a fee of \$12. Dogs will be cared for from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. and cats from 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. Other shots will be available if requested. Residents can also purchase their dog or cat license at this time. Licenses may also be purchased at City Hall any time between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.



April 26: Night at Fairmount

A bus full of horse racing enthusiasts will be leaving Wood River and traveling to Collinsville for a night filled with excitement. Call the Recreation Department for tickets.

HARD WORK PAYS OFF

Great news was received January 22, that the City has achieved a Class 4 ISO fire rating, up from a Class 5 which was earned in 1977.

What does this new rate mean for Wood River?

Insurance rates are based on many factors including: type of policy, construction type of building, occupancy use, and fire protection rating. By achieving a Class 4 ISO fire rating, many citizens and especially businesses will be able to reduce their insurance costs. Check with your insurance company to see if you are eligible for a premium reduction.

What is the ISO?

The Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rates most cities in the nation as to how good their fire protection is. Many different factors are taken into account when they come to perform their evaluation. This is done approximately every 15 years. They survey three major city departments: communications, water and fire. Wood River did well in all three categories.

How was this rating achieved?

We did not obtain this rating overnight. Our main objective was to keep our Class 5 rating. A lot of work was involved and not without expense in every category.

First, in our dispatch center, we imple-

mented an Enhanced 911 system, along with the rest of the county. This included a separate fire frequency, a back up radio console, and additional training for the dispatchers.

Next, in the Water Department, we added several strategic water main inter-connections and dozens of newly-placed fire hydrants, which was an important factor. Many of these improvements were funded by TIF funds and Community Development grant funds. These and other improvements demonstrate the City Council's commitment to improving infrastructure as funds become available.

Finally, the fire department worked

hard to improve its overall efficiency. Preplan drawings made during business inspections, fire prevention programs, equipment testing and maintenance records, all considered in our rating. In-house training classes and State certifica-

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tions were well documented for the ISO review. A training trailer, recently built in cooperation with several other departments, brought us credit during the final stages of the review. Under emergency operations, our response times and mutual aid plan were more than adequate.

Nevertheless, the final outcome of the survey was far better than we had hoped. For a city our size to achieve a Class 5 is a success story. For us to improve to a Class 4 is a genuine achievement. It proves that **hard work pays off.**

Library News

The Wood River Public Library is the recipient of a third Library of America grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This grant will add the next ten volumes of the series, the only definitive collection of America's greatest writers as they are published. The additional volumes will supplement the 70 Library of America volumes received from the Mellon Foundation in 1988 and 1992.

Preschool Program Set

Preschool programs the third Saturday of the month, February 17, March 16, and April 20, will begin at 10:30 a.m. and last approximately 45 minutes. Children will make a craft to take home with them, see a film, read some stories and maybe have a surprise or two. All programs are free of charge and open to the public. For more information call the Library at 254-4832.

The Friends of the Library pledged \$150 to help the Library meet grant requirements. If you are interested in joining the "Friends of the Library," please call Membership Chairman Betty Lackey at 258-1911.

Meet The City Boards & Commissions

City commissions and boards play a vital part in our city government. Many of our citizens volunteer their time to serve on the various boards, such as the Traffic Commission, Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Library Board, Stormwater Commission, and Fire & Police Commission.

In upcoming issues of the Pipeline, we'll introduce you to the various boards/commissions and describe their duties.

Introducing: The Traffic Commission



The Traffic Commission is composed of 9 citizens, who are appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Their duties are to study problems referred to them by the City Council. The Council depends on their positive input to help make their decisions. Traffic members meet with concerned citizens on various issues to recommend solutions to the City Council. They review all proposed changes to the traffic regulations and rules of the City before being adopted by the City Council. Their major concern is the safety of our residents in maintaining and improving orderly traffic patterns in the City.

Members are: Chairman Frank Akers, Parthenia Puckett, David Mallory, Deborah Huff, John Logan, Helen Crause, Jim Clutts, Charles Burk and Joe Freeman. Police Chief Chuck Nunn serves as their staff representative.

The Traffic Commission plays a very important roll in city government. We appreciate the many hours these members spend away from their families as volunteers to serve the City.

Congratulations on 75th Anniversary



The Seibold Family has been preparing tasty treats for 75 years. This family business started in 1920 by Reinhold and Minnie Seibold in Granite City. In 1947, they opened the Wood River Store and later a store in East Alton and Edwardsville. Their four stores are now run by a third generation of the Seibold family.

Seibolds Bakery is famous for their cookies, cakes, doughnuts and danish delights. Each day they offer various specials which are irresistible.

We're fortunate to have this delicious bake shop in our city and we wish the Seibold Family many, many more years of success.

We also congratulate the staff at the Wood River store pictured above: (from left) Manager Linda Dupatz, Marsha Copeland, Patti Dively and Sheila Thompson (not pictured.)

Store Is Missed

Charlie Zumwalt has seen a lot of kids grow up in the 23 years he owned and operated the 7-ELEVEN store located at 632 N. Wood River Avenue. The store was officially closed on November 15, 1995. We wish Charlie much happiness in his retirement. The store and Charlie will be missed by all.

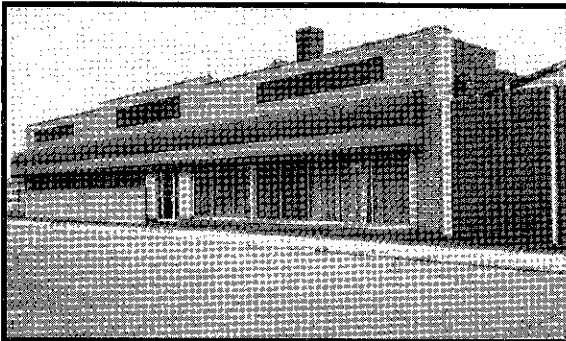
Businesses Happenings

NEW



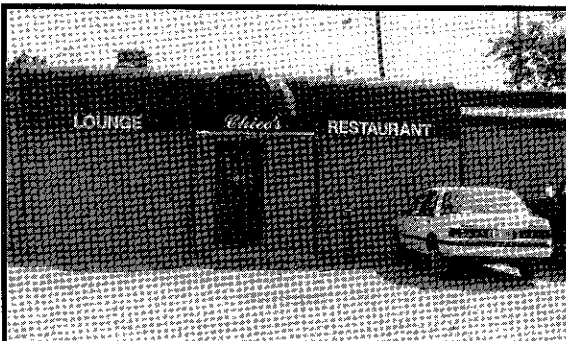
You'll find a new business with a new look at 302 S. Main. **The Marquee** owned by William Blazes and managed by Marjorie Bligh, serves up menu items such as fish, rib eyes and salads from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Stop by or call for a carry-out at 254-7186.

RELOCATED

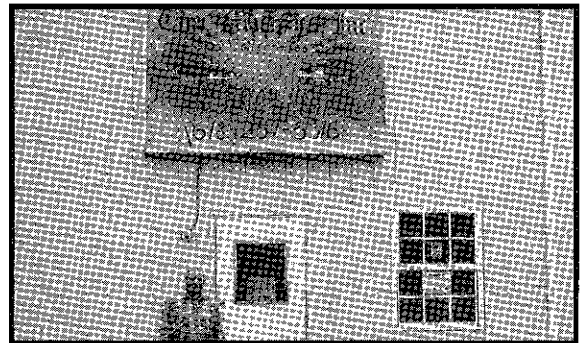


Operation Blessing has moved to 16 E. Lorena. Director Virginia Kirkpatrick is thrilled with all the new space. This all-volunteer agency, dedicated to caring for the under privileged, has over 75 volunteers and operates completely on donations. Hours are 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Watch for their open house to be announced soon.

REMODELED



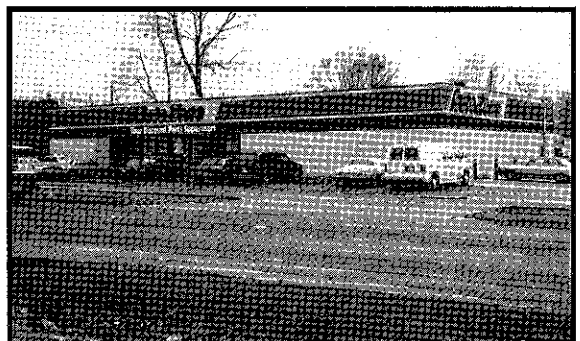
Cheers to **Chico's** at 576 S. Sixth Street, where the owners installed new siding, painted, erected an awning and new sign with landscaping. Chico's invites you to try their famous, award-winning hot wings and garlic wings served every Thursday starting at 8 p.m. They also offer a full menu for lunch and dinner. Stop by or call for a carry-out at 254-1310.



If you're looking for a special used car, visit Rick Ghent's **Time Machines, Inc.** located at 1 E. Penning. Classics and muscle cars ranging from \$3,500 to \$10,000 are his specialty. For more information, call 251-5316.



Have you been driving around with a LOUD muffler looking for **Pro-Exhaust**? Well, they didn't go far, just up the street to 1095 E. Edwardsville Road (behind Hardees). Owner Mike Baggett has doubled the service bays from two to four. The shop specializes in brakes, mufflers and shocks. Call 259-8300 for information.



It's always nice to see businesses grow and that's exactly what happened to **Auto Zone** located at 310 E. Edwardsville Road. An 18' x 60' addition was constructed to help with display and storage of merchandise. If you're a do-it-yourselfer, stop by Auto Zone Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Or call 254-0600.

Introducing Jennifer Wallace



High school student Jennifer Wallace has been hired through the I.C.E. Study Program as a part-time clerk in the Public Services Department. Jennifer is a junior at East Alton-Wood River Community High School and plans to pursue a career as a legal secretary. She lives with her parents, Randy and Sharon Wallace in Wood River.

The full-time position of Administrative Clerk in Public Services was not filled after the resignation of Kelly Perkins. In order to save on personnel costs, the position is being staffed part-time by Jennifer, and with Patty McReynolds dividing her time between the Police Department and Public Services.

We welcome Jennifer to the City.

Spring Is Just Around The Corner



Two Local Insurance Agents Retire After Long Careers in Wood River



Bob Elliott

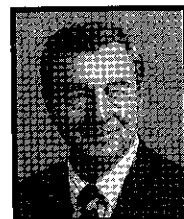
State Farm Agent Bob Elliott has retired after 38-1/2 years. In 1961, he purchased the property at 602 Wood River Avenue from Del Webb, and remained at that location throughout his career.

Bob was active in the community, having served as Chairman of the Wood River Planning Commission, a member of the executive board of the Chamber of Commerce, active in the Presbyterian Church and taught life insurance courses at Lewis & Clark Community College.

Co-workers and customers describe Bob as a delightful and optimistic man. His secretary, Nona Smith, was with him the past 17 years, and Melann Ray for 8 years. Bob has two children, Beth & Brian. He said he and his wife, Judy, plan to travel, but will remain in the area.

We wish Bob much happiness and thank him for his contributions to the community.

Dave Winnett



Dave Winnett, after 37 years, has officially retired. In 1958, Dave's career with State Farm began in the basement of his home until 1965 when he rented a building from Tony Militello downtown. He then purchased 223 E. Ferguson in 1978 where his office remained until he retired last month.

His wife, Jackie Winnett, was his secretary until Carol Tarrant was hired in 1976. Carol has been with him until retirement.

Dave was active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Wood River Methodist Church, Toastmaster Club, and served on the Board of Operation Blessing. He and Jackie have three sons, David, Dan and Doug and five grandchildren. Hobbies include camping and traveling.

"Wood River has been good to me and I'll miss all my customers," said Dave. He plans to do a lot of traveling but will keep his home in Rosewood Heights. We wish Dave much happiness in his retirement years and thank him for his service to Wood River.

YWCA Women's Award Luncheon Scheduled

The Annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon will be held on April 25, 1996 at the River Bend Arena at Lewis & Clark Community College. Each year the YWCA selects 10 outstanding women through a community-wide nomination process for this award.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the YWCA office at 302 E. Third Street in Alton or at the Wood River City Hall. Completed nomination forms will be accepted until Friday, March 8, 1996.

This luncheon is the primary fundraiser for the YWCA. For more information, call 465-7774.

A New Lease On Life

What good is a retired 1958 fire truck that has not been in service for 13 years, and received no bids when put up for sale? It depends on your perspective. Recently members of the Wood River Fire Department's maintenance shift disconnected and removed the fire pump, made cut-outs in the casing and mounted it on a trailer for use as a training aid.

Several area fire departments have joined together to put this project together. Wood River provided the fire pump, Edwardsville purchased the trailer and provided a fire hydrant. Fire Safety Sales and Service of Wood River donated some old cut-away fire extinguishers, and the other communities made a monetary contribution to create a fund for normal upkeep. It is a win-win situation for all involved.

This piece of training equipment was one of the factors affecting our ISO rating. One of the primary criteria in the ISO rating is training for fire department members. For very little or no expense, all of the departments involved are able to claim full ISO credit for this training aid.

This is not the first time area departments have entered into an arrangement like this. A hose test and rescue mannequin are also shared. This keeps one department from having to bear the financial brunt of items needed by all, but only on an occasional basis.



Firefighters Jeff Norton and Brian Crawford

Fire Department Asks for Your Help

Any firefighter will tell you that the safest way to fight fires is to prevent them from occurring in the first place. To be successful in preventing fires, a Fire Prevention Program must be active year round. This was our goal for the past year and we succeeded. We finished 1995 with the lowest city-wide dollar loss (\$121,713) in nearly ten years. Through inspections, school presentations, local organization activities, literature, and public education classes, we kept the message of fire prevention fresh.

Certainly, we all realize accidental fires will happen. Things like electrical shorts, mechanical failures and lightening can all result in a fire. Still, the National Fire Protection Association says 65% of all fires are the result of human error or arson, and thus, preventable.

The members of the Wood River Fire Department need your assistance to make 1996 an even better year than last. We ask that you keep fire safety a "year round" thought and stop fires before they happen. At the same time, should a fire start, operable smoke alarms will give your family advanced warning in time to escape. Plan a family exit drill and practice it. Knowing how to use your home fire extinguisher may allow you to put out a small fire and reduce smoke damages. Dialing 911 early into a fire will give us extra time to control a blaze and reduce the loss.

Please contact the Fire Department for information on home surveys and fire prevention.

PUBLIC SAFETY INFO...

Police Department Offers Classes In Self-Defense

The Wood River Police Department recently offered a course in Public Awareness and Safety for Women. Pictured is Officer Otis Steward, the instructor, demonstrating self protection techniques with the help of two class participants. Officer Steward teaches simple self defense techniques and offers common sense guidelines to avoid becoming a victim.

Watch for additional classes to be offered in the future. For more information you may call 251-3113.



Recreational Leagues

Adult Softball Leagues—Register now for the 1996 Summer Softball Leagues. Teams can sign up for men's, women's and co-ed leagues. Fourteen games will be played on an eight team schedule. All participants must be 18 years of age except church and peanut leagues where the age requirement is 16.

Instructional League—for girls and boys, ages 6 & 7. This program, to include tee ball, will meet one hour every morning for two weeks in June and two weeks in July.

Tri-City Youth League—Registration will begin on March 18 through April 20 for Youth League baseball and softball programs. Leagues will be formed in May and play will begin in June. The cost is \$15 with a \$5 late charge. The Tri-City includes teams from Wood River, Roxana, and East Alton and is offered to boys and girls ages 10-17.

Bi-City Youth League—Rookie League is offered for boys ages 8 & 9. (pitching machine will be used). Ponytail League is for girls ages 8 & 9 (the tee will be used).

1996 Pre-Season Softball—Tournaments: April 19, 20, 21. The Wood River Recreation Department is sponsoring two pre-season tournaments. There will be both an upper and lower division, using a double-elimination format. This tournament is designed to prepare each team for regular season play.

Other Recreational Programs

Aerobics—Offered Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. A six week session is \$20 and runs from September thru May. Join any Monday or Wednesday five minutes before class. Instructor Teresa Mize starts with 20 minutes of stretching and toning, then moves into 20 minutes of step aerobics and finishes with 20 minutes of dancercise.

Ladies Exercise—Instructor Merrell Fromme holds class Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9-10 a.m. at the Roundhouse. Classes are \$27 for a five week session which consists of a lower impact workout that involves stretching, toning and calisthenics performed to modern music.

Rules of the Road—Offered the second Tuesday of every other month from 9-11 a.m., free of charge. 1996 classes scheduled are February 13, April 10 and June 11.

Country Line Dance—Offered on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in six week sessions. The fee is \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.

Youth Jazz, Tap & Ballet—offered Monday and Wednesday evening.

Saturday Matinees—Watch for matinees to be offered on Saturday afternoons for students in 1st thru 5th grade.

Call 251-3130 for more information on these programs.

There Is Still Time to Purchase Your Season Pass At Incredible Savings

A season pass to the Aquatic Center can be purchased from the Parks & Recreation Department at the Roundhouse during regular business hours. (Monday through Friday, 8-Noon and 1-5 p.m.)

These pre-season prices will save a great deal of money on a child, adult or family pass.

	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non Resident</u>
Child	\$35.00	\$45.00
Adult	45.00	55.00
Senior (60 & older)	30.00	30.00
Family: (3 immediate family members)	99.00	120.00
Each additional member is \$15.00.		

Take advantage of these special rates before the pool opens.

Belk Park Pro Shop

Come see our 1996 selection of fine golf attire and clubs: Footjoy, Nike, Ashworth, Titliest and Ping. Call for great prices—251-3115

Reserving Belk Park Facilities

Looking for a place to have a company party, a family reunion, or a bridal shower? The Belk Park Multi-Purpose room is a beautiful setting for such events. This facility is available to any citizen, business or organization for the following rates:

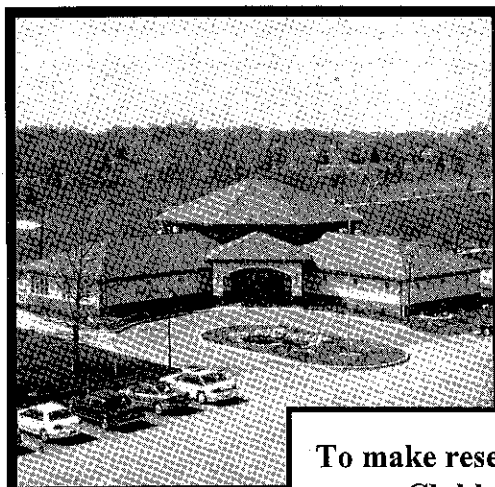
- Large groups (75 person minimum) \$225 room rental or \$100 room rental when catered by Belk Park vendors.
- Small groups such as: Business meetings, parties, wedding showers: (75 person minimum) - \$65
- A full catering menu is available
- A \$200 security deposit will be charged if alcoholic beverages are served.

Attention All Picnic Goers

Get your reservations in now for a picnic shelter at Belk Park. The park offers three shelters at the following rates.

Resident Fee:	\$20.00
Golf Outings	20.00
Non-resident fee	50.00

A deposit will be required for alcohol. Call for more information at 251-3130.



To make reservations call Belk Park Clubhouse at 251-3115.

Public Service Department Clears the Way

Understanding what the job entails can help residents set realistic expectations during the winter. When snow begins to fall, crews go to work to ensure safe passage on the streets. Salt is spread which melts the snow if temperatures remain above 20 degrees. Below that, calcium chloride is added to the salt to help the melting process. Vehicular traffic (wheel friction) helps salt work. Roads are plowed usually when two inches of snow has fallen and this is done in an established order. Snow routes, which are marked with signs, are plowed first. These are roads that connect residential areas to main arteries or highways. Clearing them first helps to move traffic more quickly. Vehicles that are parked on snow routes will be towed if they are not moved before plows come through the area. If you live on a snow route and snow is forecasted, it is a good idea to park your vehicle off the street at night. Once snow routes are plowed, crews work on secondary streets and then on residential streets that are less traveled. Of course, the amount of snow received, the time it starts snowing, and the speed which the snow falls all affect how plowing is accomplished.

Crews often work long hours, often throughout the night, to ensure clear streets when it is time

to go to school and work. Safety and timeliness are always given top consideration. A heavy and lengthy snowfall may require that plows continue traveling snow routes and secondary streets to keep them clear. Residential streets may have to wait until the storm slows and plows can leave the snow routes. The best you can do as a resident is to know that road crews work very hard and try to do the best they can to clear the streets.

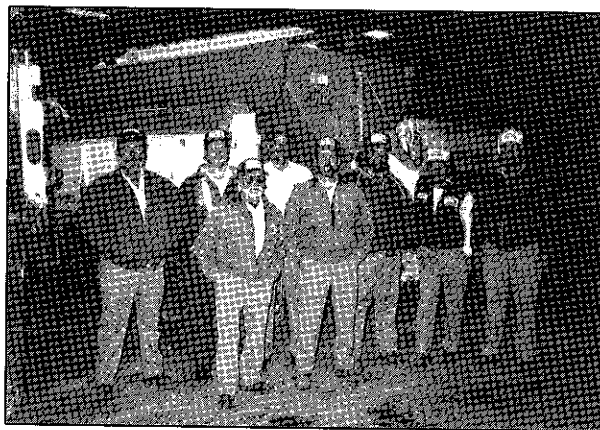
Residents can take a few steps to make snow removal less stressful. We recommend you not shovel the end of the driveway or sidewalk until the city has "plowed back" or has plowed from "curb-to-curb." You can also make driveway clearing easier by

piling the snow you shovel on the "down" side of the driveway. In other words, visualize the plow coming down the street. Don't shovel your snow into a pile at the "up street" edge where the plow will catch the pile and dump it back across the front of your driveway.

A safety tip for those who live adjacent to a fire hydrant. Please make sure it is cleared of any snow. Should there be a major fire, the Fire Department will save time by easily locating the hydrant.

Within Wood River there are also State Highways which the State of Illinois crews are responsible for clearing. The City is fortunate to have crews who are considerate and work hard to clear the streets and keep them clear. If you have any questions concerning snow removal, please call the Public Services Department at 251-3122.

HALL OF FAME



*Pictured from left:
Kevin Hutchinson
Bobby Karlas
George Sconce
Kevin Jackson
Steve Butkovich
Bobby Miller
Leonard Proffer
Mike Hendricks*

This issue of the Pipeline pays tribute to the City's snow removal crew. These gentlemen give up their cozy warm beds during the cold, cold winter nights to plow the city streets so they will be clear for your travel in the morning. When the snow falls fast and heavy, it is necessary for the crew to work many hours. We're proud of the job they do.

Council Corner

"The only thing that separates successful people from the ones that aren't is the willingness to work very, very hard."

Helen Gourley Brown

I'm not sure exactly when it happened. I suppose sometime between the birth of my first and second son, I started watching educational children's shows and cartoons on Channel 9 and Nickelodeon.

Nickelodeon was promoting something that they were referring to as "Big Help Day." Whoopi Goldberg and a host of other celebrities are encouraging young people to find something in their communities that need cleaned up or fixed up and then do it.

In one of the spots, Whoopi is listing all the things that she would/could do during the day. She went on to say that it didn't have to change the world, just make a difference in your own town, and if everyone did just one thing a month, we would live in a much better place.

In David Dunn's book, "Try Giving Yourself Away," he points out that we permit too many opportunities for happiness to slip by us because we labor under the delusion that we'll be happy WHEN:

- we can be with a certain person or in a certain place
- we finish our schooling
- we get a better job and/or arrive at a certain income
- we get married and/or have a child
- our bills are paid
- we own a new car or move into a new home

You can create your own list for happiness. If your list includes a better place to live, it is you and I, the citizens, that must step up to be a "Big Help," willing to make a difference. It need not be every day or every week or even every month, but we need to do something to make OUR hometown a better place to live, work and become educated.

Success isn't shaped by what happens to you; it is the result of what you **DO** with what happens to you.

Councilman Scott Levan

City Manager's Comments:

First of all I want to commend the Police Radio Operators, the Water Department and the Fire Department for their hard work in helping the City achieve a Class 4 ISO fire rating.

This is a major benefit to all of us, as it reduces insurance premium on residential and business property. We should all be proud of this achievement.

Secondly, I'd like to discuss the budget preparation process. This is the time of year, the City Manager prepares the annual budget and submits it to the City Council for approval. The City Council thoroughly reviews the proposed budget and discuss requests with the various department heads. A public hearing will be held March 18th to receive comments from the citizens on the budget. The City Council then makes revisions, as they feel necessary.

With the reduction of Amoco's property tax assessment from 70 million to 30 million, we have been busy studying cost reduction ideas in order to operate with less revenue. This is not easy with the steady increase of utilities, and operating and maintenance supplies. With a loss of \$175,000 from Amoco alone, you can understand why it is necessary to bite the bullet and become very frugal in our spending. This year's budget will be very lean.

The City Council has reduced the amount received from the tax levy by \$100,000. The City's tax rate will increase slightly due to Amoco reassessment but the City will be absorbing the majority of the loss.

Many things look promising in the future with the development of the business park, development along the connector road and the new Wal-Mart complex. Even though I am very optimistic that these possibilities will become reality, we must exercise caution at this time.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help with the Polsky project. Please call me if you have any questions or comments

Joey J. Tolbert

Notes From Planning & Zoning

Building Department: With the construction season soon beginning, the Building Department would like to remind everyone making improvements to their property to obtain the necessary permits from the City before work begins. Permits are needed for all new construction and almost all repair work, including electrical and plumbing improvements. By having the contractor obtain the required permits, the Building Department staff can explain to the contractor the need for inspections of the work and when these inspections are required. The inspections are to assure the owner that the work being done meets the required codes and does not pose a hazard to anyone. If you have any questions about these inspections, or would like to know if a permit is needed for the improvements you have planned, please contact the Building Department at 251-3100.

Planning Department: The city is nearing completion of the first draft of the revised Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance is being revised to make it easier to use and to remove requirements that discourage growth and development in Wood River. Included in the revision of the zoning ordinance is an updating of the City's Sign Ordinance. The City will be holding the public hearings for these new ordinances in the upcoming months. Persons interested in commenting on or reviewing these ordinances are encouraged to attend the public hearings. Questions or concerns regarding the revision of these ordinances can be directed to Keith Riesberg at 251-3100.