

*City of Wood River, Illinois*

**The City News  
PIPELINE**

events  
projects  
dates  
meetings  
news

**We're Still 13th !**

A recent study (December, 1982) compared the average homeowner costs of City services in the City of Wood River, with these costs in the 15 other Madison County cities with populations over 1,000. Living here is a bargain! When comparing user fees (water, sewer, refuse collection) and city taxes (property, utility, wheel), Wood River ranked among the least expensive places to live. Cities were ranked from one (most expensive) to sixteen (least expensive). Wood River was 13th in total yearly costs for City services - 12 cities were more expensive!

Let's look at user fees:

Refuse Fees

Highest cost: Maryville & Troy - \$65  
Average Wood River homeowner paid \$29 per year

Sewer Fees

Highest cost: Collinsville - \$125  
Average Wood River homeowner paid \$48 per year.

Water Fees

Highest cost: Alton - \$156  
Average Wood River homeowner paid \$85 per year

Combined User Fees

Highest cost: Maryville - \$289  
Average Wood River homeowner paid \$162 per year

**continued on page 2**



Our new bus will look like this one, used by smiling seniors in Granite City

**Seniors' Services:  
Mini-Bus Rolling Along**

In February, Wood River Township discussed suspending operation of the 11-passenger mini-bus service for the handicapped and seniors over 60. The Board felt that Federal funds which helped support the service would be cut off this coming October. The Madison County Metro-East Transit District approached the City of Wood River with a proposal to take over operation of the service - and the City agreed!

**continued on page 7**

## We're Still 13th !

continued from page 1

In fact, the average homeowner in Wood River PAID LESS for annual user fees than the citizens of Edwardsville, Venice, Madison, Granite City, Highland, Alton, South Roxana, Troy, Bethalto, and - of course - Collinsville, Glen Carbon, and Maryville. We're 13th in user fees - and that's great!

Let's look at taxes, too.

### Wheel Tax

Highest cost:

Granite City - \$20

Wood River homeowners  
paid "NO Tax"

### Utility Tax

Highest cost:

Alton - \$66

Wood River homeowners  
paid "NO tax"

### Property Tax

Highest cost:

Venice - \$231

Average Wood River homeowner  
paid \$112 per year

### Combined Taxes

Highest cost:

Venice - \$276

Average Wood River homeowner  
paid \$112 per year

In fact, Wood River citizens PAID LESS in total annual city taxes than the citizens of East Alton, Roxana, Bethalto, Hartford, Collinsville, Highland, South Roxana, Edwardsville, Maryville, Madison, and - of course - Granite City, Alton and Venice. We're 14th in total annual taxes - and that's great too!

The study concludes that, for these 16 Madison County cities, "Total yearly costs ranged from \$475 down to \$210, with 12 communities being more expensive than Wood River. Wood River is almost 50%, or \$200, less costly than the most expensive community. . . Although Edwardsville and Wood River are almost identical in population and tax base, it would cost the average resident 25% (\$70) more for City services in Edwardsville than Wood River."

Clearly, when you pay for City services, your dollar goes farther in Wood River.

WOOD RIVER, WE'RE #13 & WE'RE PROUD!



Groundbreaking ceremony in Glendale Gardens. Soon, 99% of the City will have sewer service.

## Glendale Gardens Sanitary Sewers

Glendale Gardens residents will soon have access to new sewer lines being built for the City. The low bid accepted by City Council was \$177,000 - 26% below the engineer's estimate (a savings of \$28,000). And the Madison County Community Development Office will finance 70% of the project, while the City will pay the remainder.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project were held on March 12 at the corner of Greenview and Old Alton-Edwardsville Road. The lines should be all in by June. When completed, about 110 homes will be served.

Property owners served by the project will have the responsibility of getting a sewer tap permit from City Hall. The permit includes specific requirements for construction of sewer connections, and an inspection at the time of connection to the sewer line in the street. Fees from permits will be used to pay for part of the project.

One hundred percent grants and low-interest loans are available to eligible homeowners to pay for construction of sewer line connections and sewer tap-on fees. Interested homeowners should call the Madison County Community Development Office at 1-692-4386 before making arrangements with a contractor or purchasing any sewer pipe.

For further information about the project, call City Hall at 254-0123. Almost 99% of our City homes will now have sanitary sewers!

## WOOD RIVER SERVICES DIRECTORY

Abandoned Cars (on streets)	254-8923	License Plates (non-dealer sales) (State)	258-0600
Abandoned Cars (private prop.)	254-0123	Liquor Licenses	254-0123
Agency for Aging (State)	1-800-642-9859	Litter & Debris complaints	254-0123
Alley Maintenance	254-5822	Low-Income Housing (State)	259-2366
Animal Control	254-4303	Maps & Plats (County)	1-692-4586
Assessor's Office (Township)	259-1532	Marriage Licenses	254-6768
Belk Park Golf Course	254-9054	Mayor (City Hall)	254-0123
Birth Certificates (County)	1-692-4482	Meals-on-Wheels	259-2106
Birth/Death Records (County)	1-692-4482	MEDCO (Ambulance)	254-9411
Brush/Limbs Pick-up	254-5822	Mini-Bus (Senior Citizens)	254-1744
Building Inspections	254-4302	Parks	254-5521
Building Permits	254-0123	Permits (Bldg., elec., plbg., demolition, signs)	254-0123
City Clerk	254-0123	Personnel (City)	254-0123
City Hall	254-0123	Picnic Shelter (Belk Park)	254-0123
City Manager	254-0123	Plumbing Permits	254-0123
County Clerk	1-692-4482	Police Emergency	254-4303
Court Office (County) small claims, traffic	254-4018	Police Records	254-0558
Demolition Permits	254-0123	Property Taxes (Township)	259-1532
Dog Catcher	254-4303	Public Defender's Office	1-692-4418
Dog Licenses	254-0131	Recorder of Deeds (County)	1-692-4474
Driver's License (State)	258-0600	Recreation Programs	254-5521
Electric Bill (IL Power)	254-0133	Refuse Collection, bills & services	254-0131
Electrical Permits	254-0123	Roundhouse Recreation Ctr.	254-5521
Employment Office (State)	466-8110	Senior Citizen Gov't. Programs	1-800-642-3859
Energy Assistance (State)	258-1231	Sewers, bills & service	254-0131
Energy Audit, home (IL Power)	1-876-1280	Sidewalk Repairs	254-0123
Fence Permits	254-0123	Sign Permits	254-0123
Fire Emergency	254-4301	Small Claims (County Court)	254-4018
Fire Home Safety Survey	254-4302	Smoke Detector Installation	254-4302
Fire Inspection	254-4302	Snow Removal	254-0123
Food, Emergency (Township)	259-2366	Social Security Office (Fed.)	463-6565
Food Stamps (State)	465-4430	Social Services, referrals	259-2366
Gas Bill (IL Power)	254-0133	Streets (repairs, sweeping lights, etc.)	254-5822
General Welfare Assistance (Township)	259-2366	Tax Assessor (Township)	259-1532
Golf Course (Belk Park)	254-9065	Traffic Court/Tickets (County)	254-4018
Heat Assistance, Emergency (State)	258-1231	Treasurer (City)	254-0131
Hospital (WR Township) Emergency & Business Patient	254-3821 254-4311	Township Clerk	259-7260
Housing Assistance & General Welfare (Township)	259-2366	Unemployment Office (State)	466-8221
Inspections, Bldg & fire	254-4302	Vacation Check (WR Police)	254-8923
Inspections, property	254-0123	Voter Registration	254-0123
Junk Cars	254-0123	Water, Bills & Service	254-0131
Large Item Refuse Disposal	254-5822	Weed Complaints	254-0123
Legal Assistance, low-income persons (Federal)	462-0029	Welfare (State - Social Services)	465-4430
Library (Wood River Public)	254-4832	Zoning Variances (City)	254-0123



## Library Happenings

Wednesday 10:30 a.m.  
3 - 6 grades

### April Activities

1. Vote for Wood River's Favorite Book. Balloting is at the Library from now until 8:00 p.m., April 12.

Wood River's 10 favorites will be announced during National Library Week, April 17-23.

A drawing will be held April 18th. Persons who voted for the #1 book will have a chance to win his/her own copy of the #1 book (if it's still in print).

2. Preschool Story Hour, Saturday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.
3. The library will be closed April 25-30, to lay new tile and carpeting. Sorry for any inconvenience. April 25-30 will also be Free Fine Week, so return any overdue books in drop box. No charge!

### May Activities

1. Starting May 2, Read & Share Program. Patrons who wish to participate can read a book and write a mini-review to share their impressions with other readers.

Mini-review sheets will be available at the library. Ask the Library staff for help.

2. After school movies every Wednesday in May, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
3. Library 25th Anniversary Celebration Open House, Sunday, Mat 15th, 1-3 pm.
  - A. Meet your Library Board
  - B. Local Entertainment
  - C. Book Sale
  - D. Stories and Activities for Children
  - E. Free Gifts
4. Preschool Story Hour, Saturday, May 21, 10:20 a.m.

### June Activities

1. Reading Rainbows - Summer Reading Program: June 20-July 31  
2 Sessions: Tuesday 10:30 a.m.  
1 - 2 grades

2. The Preschool Story House will continue through June, July, August on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

NEEDED - Donations of paperback books to the library; don't throw away your old paperbacks, let the library circulate them to others. If we can't use the paperbacks in our collection, we can sell them at our Book Sale.

WANTED TO BORROW - old photographs of Benbow City & Wood River for a Wood River History display at the Library. Photos needed by April 30. For more information, call Susan at 254-4832



Volunteers plant trees on Lorena Avenue

## Trees Maketh the City Beautiful

On Saturday, March 19, as part of the City's on-going beautification program, the City planted more than 100 trees between the curbs and sidewalks on both sides of Lorena and Acton Avenues between Wood River Avenue and 6th Street. Forty-five red sunset maples and 60 river birch were planted. The City street crew dug the holes, and members of the Lions' Club and Rotary Club planted the trees. (Thanks guys.)

The Rotary Club also donated \$50 toward the cost of the trees.

Almost 250 trees have now been planted along city streets in the past two years in order to help "dress up" our community.

## Auction Action (Bikes, Cars, TV's, etc.)

### Do You Know the Difference? (Township-Hospital-City)

Wood River Township, Wood River Township Hospital, and the City of Wood River all share the name "Wood River". But are they different!

#### WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP

Basically the Township provides services to persons in the unincorporated areas of the Township, but not within the City limits of Wood River - with two exceptions:

1. General welfare assistance
2. Property tax assessments

The Township is operated by an elected four-member Board of Trustees, Supervisor, Assessor, Clerk, and Highway Commissioner. The Township has about 20 full-time employees, and has separate property taxes.

#### WOOD RIVER TOWNSHIP HOSPITAL

The hospital is located on Edwardsville Road within the City limits of Wood River. It has about 400 full-time employees, 143 hospital beds, and other major hospital services. The Township Hospital is operated by a five-member Board of Trustees, who are appointed by the Wood River Township Board of Trustees. The Hospital sets its own property taxes.

#### CITY OF WOOD RIVER

The City provides municipal services within the Wood River City limits - an area of about 4-1/2 square miles and 12,500 residents. Basic services include police & fire protection, streets maintenance, water & sewer service, refuse collection, parks & recreation activities (like swim pool & 6th St. Park), Belk Park Golf Course, and zoning/building permits. The City is operated by an elected City Council composed of the Mayor and four Councilmen, who appoint a trained City Manager. The City has 67 full-time employees, and sets its own property taxes for City services.

The Wood River Police Department will hold an auction beginning at 9:00 A.M. on May 7 at the No. 1 Fire Station at Madison & Wood River Avenue.

The City will be selling four used police cars, one pickup, and a Pinto. Property items recovered by the Police Department will also be sold, including bicycles (lots of them), lawn mowers, television sets, and other items.

Need anything? You might find it cheap on May 7. For more information, please call the Police Department at 254-8923.

### Over \$24 Million!

Since 1978 the City of Wood River has received or been committed to over \$24,000,000 in Federal & State grants and projects. Many of these projects have been completed, like the Madison Avenue highway overpass. Other projects have been committed, but not yet done, like the widening of Madison Avenue to 5 lanes between Edwardsville Road and Old St. Louis Road. Major areas of improvements and projects include:

*Road & Traffic (Overpass, Old St. Louis Road, curb & gutters, etc)	\$12,100,000
*Storm Water Flood Control (6th St. basin, East Storm Water Channel, etc)	\$ 7,700,000
*Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$ 2,800,000
*Sanitary Sewer Extensions (Lincoln, Glendale Gardens areas)	\$ 670,000
*New Central Fire Station	\$ 1,100,000
*6th St. Park Rehab	\$ 200,000
*Housing & Downtown Rehab Loans	\$ 110,000
Total	\$24,680,000

These projects take many years, and are the result of hard work by many City Councils and trained & experienced City staff members. These are tax dollars returning to Wood River for our projects - instead of using your local tax dollars.

# Adventure through Recreation

## SQUARE DANCING

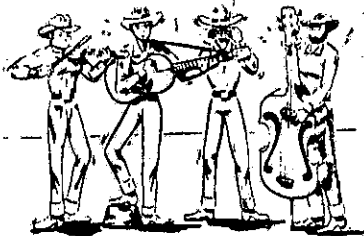
The Hoedowners Square Dance Club sponsors dances on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Dancing from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM at the Roundhouse Rec Center. Local, stage and national callers.



Special square dance with national caller Bob Newman on May 14 at 7:30 PM. This gala affair that attracts 25 or 30 squares will be held at Lewis-Clark Junior High Gym on Acton Avenue in Wood River to provide the additional space. Come dance with us.

## COUNTRY-WESTERN SHOW

A country musical variety show is currently being held at the Roundhouse Rec Center on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Show time is 8:00 PM. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Great family entertainment.



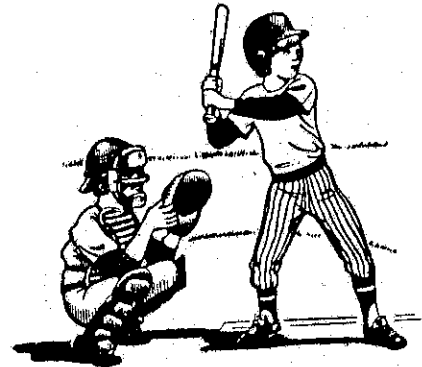
## YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Morning clinics for 7, 8, and 9 year old boys and girls. Clinics will run from June 6 thru July 15.

League play for boys and girls 10 years thru 16 years. (9 year olds that have participated in the clinic for 2 years are eligible for league play.)

REGISTER: April 4 - 9, from 2 to 5 PM at the Roundhouse.  
Fee - \$8.00

Players registering after April 9 will be placed on a waiting list.



Wood River Youth League Annual Parade is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, at 6:00 PM. League games scheduled following parade and opening nite ceremonies at Jaycee Field.

## UPCOMING SUMMER ACTIVITIES

- Cheerleading Clinic
- Gymnastics Classes
- Soccer Clinic
- Tennis Clinic
- Aerobic Dance Classes
- "Jane Fonda" Exercise Class

Registration dates, fees, and schedule of classes will be announced at a later time this spring.

"WORTHY USE OF LEISURE TIME" is a good reason to get active and stay healthy.

## Mini-Bus Rolling Along

continued from page 1

Under the proposal, the Madison County Metro-East Transit District will buy a new vehicle to replace the current vehicle, which is in great need of repair, and provide operating funds up to \$12,000 for a six-month trial period beginning April 1. The City will be responsible for managing the service, which will be under the supervision of the Chief of Police. Also, the City will try to put together a group of all the local units of government in the Township to jointly operate the service on a continuing basis beginning October 1, 1983. The Township will continue to fund the dispatcher.

The ride service is projected to serve about 4,000 riders during the six-month trial period.

The ride service, which is free, is called a "demand response" service. It's called a "demand response" service because any senior or handicapped person can call the dispatcher and make a reservation for door-to-door service the next day. Transportation is provided for shopping, medical reasons and other errands. The bus has a radio so the dispatcher can make contact for special requests; the new bus will be equipped with a wheelchair lift.

The bus runs between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM daily except Saturdays, Sunday, and holidays. To make a ride reservation, call the dispatcher at 254-1744 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Remember that you should make your reservation one day before you wish to ride. So, call Friday for a Monday ride.

For more information, call City Hall at 254-0123.

## Notes From Our City Inspector: Refuse, Brush & Limbs

Let's all help make our City a nice place to live.

When we put our garbage and trash out in plastic bags, we are inviting dogs and other animals to make a mess. Also, it's easy for rats to feed from plastic bags. So, please use covered metal or rugged plastic containers with lids.

The City does not pick up tree limbs and brush on private property. There is a free dump on North Main (north of Ghent Water Treatment Facility) for tree limbs and brush only. Three other things you can do with your brush and limbs besides taking them to the dump yourself include:

- 1) Place brush and limbs out in front of your property and call the City's street crew for pick-up (254-5822). This service costs \$20 per load.
- 2) Cut brush and limbs into 2-3 foot lengths, tie in bundles not larger than 10-12 inches, and put these out for regular refuse pick-up.
- 3) Hire a private tree-trimming firm to cut and haul away your brush and limbs.

Furniture items and appliances may be taken to the City Garage at 14th Street and Madison Avenue for free disposal between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday.

For further information, call the City Inspector at 254-0123.

Also remember the annual Spring cleanup from June 6 - 16, 1983.

## Remember When?



Remember When? One year ago, Senator Sam cut the ribbon inaugurating the opening of the new overpass.

## A Word About the PIPELINE

Welcome to the sixth issue of *The City News Pipeline*. *The Pipeline* is an information newsletter which is distributed to all City residents' homes. It's main purpose is to tell citizens of available City services, and how to best utilize what your tax dollars provide.

City officials want to hear comments on, and suggestions for stories, from City residents. So please contact City Hall at 254-0123. We hope you find *The Pipeline* both informative and enjoyable.

Gary Webster, City Manager

on behalf of

### WOOD RIVER CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Lon Smith  
Councilwoman Dorothy Council  
Councilwoman Anna Culp  
Councilman Michael McClintock  
Councilman Robert Stocker

## Vote For.....?

On Tuesday, April 12, 1983, citizens of the City of Wood River will have a chance to elect two new City Councilmen.

Four councilmen sit on the City Council with the Mayor, each having an equal vote on all matters presented to the Council. All Councilmen are elected by the City at-large (the whole City), for four-year terms.

This year, the two incumbents decided not to run for re-election. Four candidates are competing for the two available seats.

There will also be a referendum measure on the ballot concerning retention of the council-manager form of government. Polls will be open from 6:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

It's your vote - don't waste it by not voting.

For more information, please call the City Clerk's Office at 254-0123.

## Coming Community Events

### 1) MUNICIPAL ELECTION

On Tuesday, April 12, all registered voters may vote in the City election between the hours of 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. Polling locations may be obtained from City Hall at 254-0123.

### 2) CITIZEN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Wood River residents who are interested in serving on various citizen committees, should contact Mayor Lon Smith before May 1. Please call the Mayor at 254-0123 or send brief resume to City Hall, 111 N. Wood River Avenue.

### 3) DOG VACCINATIONS

DATE: Saturday, April 23

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

PLACE: City Garage  
14th & Madison

FEE: \$7.00

### 4) LOYALTY DAY PARADE

DATE: Saturday, April 30

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

### 5) ANNUAL POLICE AUCTION

DATE: Saturday, May 7

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Fire House #1

### 6) KHOURY LEAGUE PARADE

DATE: Tuesday, May 31

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

### 7) SPRING CLEAN-UP

The annual Spring Clean-up will be held this year from June 6 - June 16.

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Kim Iannone  
Graphics & Layout: David Clelland  
Typing: Jan Sneed  
Jean Stanley